

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**SOC 4170: Environmental Sociology**  
**Spring, 2025, T/TR 3:30-4:50, Business Building, Room 050**

**Dale E. Yeatts, Ph.D.**  
**Office Hours: T/TR 2:00-3:10**  
**And by appointment**

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### **I. Learning Objectives**

- A. to identify factors that have contributed to current global environmental problems
- B. to gain knowledge of the current environmental issues facing the U.S. and world
- C. to understand social causes of environmental injustice
- D. to understand the influences that shape people's viewpoints regarding the environment
- E. to identify potential solutions to the global environmental problems

### **II. Learning Components**

- A. Readings: To help meet the objectives, the following books are required reading (available on Amazon.com and at UNT bookstore):

Stuart, Diana (2021). What is Environmental Sociology? Medford MA: Polity Press.

Hannigan, John (2022 or 2014). Environmental Sociology (4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition). New York: Routledge.

- B. Class time: will be focused on the objectives through class lectures, discussions, videos, and when it can be arranged professionals speaking to the class

### **III. Course Policies**

Class Attendance: regular and punctual class attendance is expected. It will be difficult to master all the material if class is missed. While students will not usually be penalized for missing class they will be penalized for coming to class late or leaving class early since these disrupt the class. If you will need to come late or leave early, please let me know. **Students can gain extra credit points by attending and paying attention in class (i.e., not using phone or laptop for other things).** Students who miss a lot of class (i.e., 75% of classes) will be given NO leeway in grading and may lose points while students who miss no or only a few classes will be given MUCH leeway in grading and may gain points. For example, a recent student missed more than half the classes, had a test grade average of 69, and wanted one point added to their final grade in order to receive a "C". The student got a "D". Another student missed only a few classes had an average grade of 88 and was given two extra points to receive an "A".

- B. Academic integrity: as the student guidebook points out, academic integrity is required. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failure and a report to the Dean. This includes the use of AI for course assignments turned in.
- C. Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior (including continual texting during class) will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>
- D. Mental Health and Special Needs: UNT's counseling center provides free career and personal counseling to UNT students (up to 8 sessions per year). Appointments can be made by calling 940-565-2741. For our class, appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. See me and/or call 817-565-2456 (TDD access 1-800-735-2989).
- E. Cell Phones and texting: you should know that many professors and instructors find it insulting when a student is constantly texting or otherwise using their phones during class. Consequently, if the time comes that the student could use some "leeway" in her/his grade, and the student has constantly used his/her phone during class, no leeway will be given and points could be removed.
- F. Laptops: if you use a laptop in class, please refrain from using it for anything other than our class.
- G. Office Hours: I enjoy meeting with students. I learn a lot and I hope they do as well. Please email me (yeatts@unt.edu) so we can find a day/time that works for both of us. I will be happy to discuss the course material, your progress in the class, your plans for the future, personal issues, need for a letter of recommendation, or anything else of interest/importance to you. Some students will meet with me just to introduce themselves and share a bit about their activities and progress at UNT and I enjoy these meetings as well.
- H. **PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT**: If unexpected problems develop for you during the semester (e.g., health, emotional issues, breakups, family disruptions, death or illness in family), please contact me as soon as these become apparent. I can then work with you to develop a plan that will assist you. Students, who approach their instructors/professors when problems develop, are much more likely to receive help and consideration. Don't wait until the end of the semester to inform the professor of problems because it will be too late to find a solution. This is a good rule-of-thumb for any class you take.

I. Grading: final grades will be based on the following:

1. Four (4) tests will be given worth 25% each—your four test grades will be averaged together to obtain your final grade. The fourth test will be given on the UNT assigned exam day but it will not be cumulative. The format is expected to be four or five essay questions. Grades will be posted on Dr. Yeatts' web page under the code number you provide on the student information sheet that you turn in the first day of class. (to get to our class webpage, go to: [www.yeatts.us](http://www.yeatts.us), click on 4170, then click on Grades).

**You are responsible for using the restroom prior to the beginning of a test** so do not ask to use the restroom in the middle of a test (unfortunately a few of us would use this as an opportunity to review our notes in the middle of taking the test).

2. Test Dates:

Feb. (Tuesday)	Test 1	25%
March (Thursday)	Test 2	25%
April (Tuesday)	Test 3	25%
UNT assigned day/time	Test 4	25%

3. Make-up Tests: may be allowed within one week from the original exam day. The test score will be reduced by one letter grade unless there is documentation or other means of verifying an illness, personal issue, or other serious situation. On the other hand, if you have **not missed any or very few classes** and you oversleep and miss the test (or some other less serious situation), this may be excused or very few points deducted.
4. Class Participation: Those who contribute meaningful, thoughtful, and knowledgeable comments/ideas will receive extra points added to their final grade if their final grade is close to the next higher grade and they **have not missed a lot** of classes. For example, an 88 could be raised to a 90. Similarly, those who attend and pay attention in all (or almost all) classes will receive extra points.
5. Extra Credit Opportunity: Please see “**Opportunity for Extra Credit**” below for details.

#### IV. Schedule of Class Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1 (January 14 and 16):

- A. Overview of class
- B. Introduction: What is Environmental Sociology
- C. Stuart C1

Week 2 (January 21 and 23):

- A. Stuart C1
- B. Yeatts chapter “The Sociology of Sustainable Development: A Focus on Communities” (continued)

Week 3 (January 28 and January 30):

- A. Yeatts Chapter “The Sociology of Sustainable Development: A Focus on Communities” (continued)

Week 4 (February 4)

- A. Yeatts Chapter (continued)

**Test 1, February 6 (Thursday), covers: Introduction, Stuart Chapter 1, Yeatts Chapter, PowerPoint slides**

Week 5 (February 11 and 13)

- A. Stuart, C2: Identifying solutions
- B. Hannigan C3

Week 6 (February 18 and 20):

- A. Hannigan C3 continued

Week 7 (February 25 and 27):

- A. Stuart, C3

Week 8 (March 4)

- A. Stuart, C3

**Test 2, March 6 (Thursday), covers Stuart Chapters 2 and 3; Hannigan Chapter 3 along with the powerpoint slides**

**Week 9: SPRING BREAK (March 10 – 14)**

Week 10 (March 18 and 20)

- A. Stuart C4

Week 11 (March 25 and 27)

- A. Stuart C5

Week 12 (April 1 and 3):

- Hannigan, C5: Media

**Test 3, April 8 Tuesday, covers Stuart, Chapters 4 and 5 and Hannigan, Chapter 5**

Week 13 (April 10 and 15)

Hannigan, Chapter 7: Risk Construction

Week 14 (April 17 and 22)

Hannigan, Chapter 8: Biodiversity

Week 15 (April 24 and 29)

Hannigan, Chapter 9: Fear of Fracking

Case Studies on PowerPoint of Great Lakes and Wisconsin Basin

**Test 4 on exam day assigned by UNT, covers Hannigan Chapters 7, 8, and 9 (and case study if we have time to review it)**

### **Opportunity for Extra Credit**

Students will obtain one extra credit point for each class period that they attend and participate in class (**assuming they do not come to class late or leave early**). Participation might include watching a film in class, a small group activity, or contributing to the class discussion. The extra points accumulated from class attendance will be added to the student's next test grade. Students who come to class late will not get an extra point unless they have notified me that they would be late. Similarly, students who leave class early will not be eligible for these extra points unless notifying me prior to class. A student who does not miss class will typically accumulate 6 points to be added to their next test grade. So, if you get an 85 on the test but have six points accumulated, you would receive a 91 for that test.

**\*\*\*If our class is moved on line (as what happened at the beginning of the pandemic), we will keep everything as it is currently planned but have our classes through zoom. I will email the class with further instructions at that time.**