



**SOC 4453: Environmental Inequality**  
**Online Course**  
**Fall 2025**  
**August 18 – December 5**

**Zoom Link**  
**(For Office Hours):**

<https://okstate-edu.zoom.us/j/9132256752?pwd=TEs1SmR5L0hyM3ZkS0lta2wwZ0NCZz09>  
**Passcode: 044104**

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**Required Text:** *Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction (3rd Edition)* by Paul Robbins, John G. Hintz, and Sarah A. Moore. Wiley-Blackwell, ISBN: 9781119408246.

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**Overview:**

Welcome to SOC 4453 Environmental Inequality. Throughout this course, we will explore the complex dynamics between society and the environment, focusing on the social, cultural, economic, and political aspects that shape our understanding of environmental issues as well as multiple forms of environmental inequality. Through critical analysis of case studies, theoretical frameworks, and empirical research, we will examine the complex interplay between human activities and the natural world and how these interactions cause and perpetuate inequalities in society. By delving into the material, ideological, and practical dimensions of environmental problems, we aim to develop a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with environmental justice in the contemporary world.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Gain a comprehensive understanding of the key concepts, theories, and perspectives related to environmental inequality.
2. Explore the social, cultural, economic, and political factors that influence our understanding of environmental inequalities and their consequences.
3. Critically analyze case studies and empirical research to assess the complexities and challenges associated with environmental justice.
4. Examine the role of ideologies and belief systems in shaping environmental attitudes and behaviors that affect environmental justice and injustice.
5. Evaluate practical strategies and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental justice.

6. Foster critical thinking skills to analyze and address social and environmental dynamics from a sociological perspective.
7. Reflect on personal roles and responsibilities as agents of change in promoting a more sustainable and environmentally just society.

\*\* To ensure a rich learning experience, this course includes **weekly virtual office hours** on Thursdays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am where you can join the Zoom link above for Q&As. Outside this time, you can always email me and/or the course's TA (contact information available on Canvas) with any questions or concerns and we will get back to you **within 48 hours**. Moreover, I will provide feedback on your assignments **within one week from submission** \*\*

### **Course Policies:**

- The Department of Sociology at Oklahoma State University expects all assignments, including all drafts, final versions, and all other submissions, to be written by the student and to be **their own original product**. The OSU Academic Integrity Policy is clear that students must "present their own work for evaluation by their instructors" (Policy 1.03) and are prohibited from "copying or paraphrasing material from an internet or written source without proper citation" (Policy 6.01). Submitting work that is not your own, **including using generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Bard, Bing AI, Quillbot)**, will be treated as an academic integrity violation unless explicitly allowed by the instructor. Violations will be addressed through the university's academic integrity procedures.
- All lectures and assignments are **online and through Canvas**. So, please make sure that you have a reliable access to the internet for the tests and lectures.
- Lectures are pre-recorded and will be released **weekly**.
- Each week we have a short **online Quiz on Friday**.
- If you have any questions, you can send me an email at any time, and I will be back with you in less than 48 hours. Moreover, we can always schedule one-on-one Zoom meetings to talk in case you have a question or concern regarding the course and its materials, assignments, etc. All you need to do is to send me an email and we will be in touch.
- It is your **responsibility** to be aware of assignments and **deadlines**.
- While this syllabus is an informal agreement between us for the semester, I will reserve the **right to do revisions** due to unforeseeable events (e.g., inclement weather).

## **Course Requirements:**

### **Exams (40%)**

There will be **four** exams in this course. Exams are each worth 30 points (total of 120 points). Exams are all online. You will be given a window of 24 hours to take the test at your own convenience. You will have only one attempt to take each test. So, before starting the online tests, please make sure that your laptop or any other device that you are using is fully charged and that you have reliable access to the internet. Each exam covers **chapters** from the textbook **as well as the materials (e.g., case studies, videos, etc.) provided for discussions.**

### **Weekly Quizzes (20%)**

During the course, you will be taking **12 online weekly quizzes** (total of 60 points). These are very short quizzes (**only 5 true/false questions**) designed to keep you engaged with important concepts and materials discussed in chapters and lectures.

### **Writing Assignments (30%)**

#### **Assignment #1 - Article Review Paper**

For the first writing assignment, I am asking you to write a **review of 7 articles**. I want you to read these articles carefully and then write **your own understanding** of each article (**\*please do not just summarize articles**) and try to relate them to one another in cohesive paper that has an introduction, main body, and conclusion.

The review paper needs to be 3 (minimum) – 4 (maximum) pages long, in 12 pts Times New Roman, double-spaced, with margins of 1 inch and no extra space between the paragraphs.

All articles that you need to read, and review will be posted on Canvas in PDF format.

#### **Assignment #2 – Final Paper**

Your second writing assignment is to write a short **7-page paper** to be submitted by the end of the semester. Detailed instructions and the rubric for this assignment can be found on Canvas. In this paper, you will choose a particular case of environmental inequality/injustice in relation to other social institutions (e.g., gender, race, etc.) and will write a review of relevant literature on that topic using **\*ONLY ACADEMIC, PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES or BOOKS\***. You should start working on this project as early in the semester as you can. We will break down this assignment into three steps:

- 1) Submitting a 1-page introduction to the topic.
- 2) Submitting a list of **at least 8 references** (academic articles or books) that you are going to review, put together in accordance with the **American Sociological Association (ASA) Citation Style** (you can find detailed instructions on how to use the ASA Style in the same instruction and rubric document on Canvas).
- 3) Submitting the final paper **in accordance with the format discussed in the instruction and rubric file on Canvas.**

The sooner you start working on your papers, the more time you will have to ask any questions you might face during the process, and you will be able to submit a better paper at the end.

#### **Discussion and Participation (10%)**

There will be a discussion question posted on Canvas every other week. When a question is released, you will be expected to answer them in a timely manner using the knowledge you have acquired through reading the chapters and attending the online lectures. Remember that discussion boards will automatically close after the deadline and if you miss it, then you will miss the points for that discussion activity.

## **Grading System**

Requirements and possible points you can earn by completing them are summarized in the following table:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>
(40%) Exams	
1 <sup>st</sup> Exam	30
2 <sup>nd</sup> Exam	30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Exam	30
4 <sup>th</sup> Exam (final)	30
(20%) Weekley Quizzes	60
(10%) Discussion and Participation	30
(30%) Writing Assignments	
# 1 – Article Review Paper	30
# 2 – Final Paper	
• 1- page introduction	10
• Reference list	20
• Final paper	30
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>300</b>

Letter grades are given according to a traditional grading scale. Grades are assigned as follows:

<b>Final Letter Grades</b>	<b>Percentage Range</b>	<b>Points Range</b>
<b>A</b>	90-100%	270 – 300
<b>B</b>	80-89.99%	240 – 269
<b>C</b>	70-79.99%	210 – 239
<b>D</b>	60-69.99%	180 – 209
<b>F</b>	0-59.99%	0 – 179

**Course Outline:**

<b><i>Weeks</i></b>	<b><i>Dates</i></b>	<b><i>Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Assignment(s)</i></b>
1	8/18-8/22	<i>Ch.1. Introduction: The View from a Human-Made Wild</i> <i>Ch.2. Population and Scarcity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read the Chapters</li><li>- Online Quiz 1 due on Friday at midnight.</li></ul>
2	8/25-8/29	<i>Ch.3. Markets and Commodities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read the Chapters</li><li>- Online Quiz 2 due on Friday at midnight</li></ul>
3	9/1-9/5	<i>Ch. 4. Institutions and “The Commons”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read the Chapters</li><li>- Online Quiz 3 due on Friday at midnight.</li></ul>
4	<b>9/8-9/12</b>	<b>**Exam Week**</b>	<b>- Exam 1 due on Friday (9/12) at midnight.</b>
5	9/15-9/19	<i>Ch 5. Environmental Ethics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read the Chapters</li><li>- Online Quiz 4 due on Friday at midnight.</li><li>- <b>Writing Assignment #1 – Review Paper due on Sunday (9/21) at midnight.</b></li></ul>
6	9/22-9/26	<i>Ch 6. Risks and Technology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read the Chapter</li><li>- Online Quiz 5 due on Friday at midnight.</li></ul>
7	9/29-10/3	<i>Ch 7. Political Economy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read the Chapter</li><li>Online Quiz 6 due on Friday at midnight</li><li><b>Writing Assignment #2 – Final Paper Introduction part (one page) due on Sunday (10/5) at midnight.</b></li></ul>
8	<b>10/6-10/10</b>	<b>**Exam Week**</b>	<b>Exam 2 due on Friday (10/10) at midnight.</b>
9	10/13-10/17	<i>Ch. 8. Social Construction of Nature</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read the Chapters</li><li>Online Quiz 7 due on Friday at midnight</li></ul>
10	10/20-10/24	<i>Ch. 9. Feminism and the Environment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read the Chapter</li><li>- Online Quiz 8 due on Friday at midnight.</li></ul>
11	10/27-10/31	<i>Ch. 10. Racialized Environments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read Chapters</li><li>- Online Quiz 9 due on Friday at midnight.</li><li>- <b>List of References due on Sunday (11/2) at midnight.</b></li></ul>

<b>12</b>	<b><i>11/3-11/7</i></b>	<b>**Exam Week**</b>	<b>Exam 3 due on Friday (11/7) at midnight.</b>
13	<i>11/10-11/14</i>	<i>Part 2. Objects of Concern: Ch. 11. Carbon Dioxide</i>	- Read Chapters. Online Quiz 10 due on Friday at midnight.
14	<i>11/17-11/21</i>	<i>Part 2. Objects of Concern: Ch. 12. Trees Ch. 17. Bottled Water</i>	- Read Chapters - Online Quiz 11 due on Friday at midnight - <b>Final paper due on Sunday (11/23) at midnight.</b>
<b>15</b>	<b><i>11/24-11/28</i></b>	<b>***Fall Break***</b>	<b>No assignment, Enjoy the Break</b>
16	<i>12/1-12/5</i>	<i>Part 2. Objects of Concern: Ch. 18. French Fries Ch. 19. E-Waste</i>	- Online Quiz 12 due on Friday at midnight
<b>Finals Week</b>	<b><i>12/8-12/12</i></b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam due on Friday (12/12) at midnight.</b>