

Syllabus for SMGT 460 Environment and Society

Course Description

Prerequisite: SMGT 115

Drawing from the disciplines of environmental sociology and human geography, the course examines how humans individually, and collectively as societies, interact with the environment. Includes human beliefs and views about the environment as well as human behaviors and actions that positively or negatively impact the environment and its natural resources.

Several topics studied in other SMGT courses, like climate change, biodiversity, water resources, population issues, and energy resources, are covered in this course as well, but from the perspectives of environmental sociology and human geography.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Cultural understanding – you will be able to explain how race, religion, gender, socio-economic position, and other cultural aspects impact issues of sustainability.
- Cultural application – you will be able to apply cultural understanding to real-life organizational issues.
- Global dynamics – you will be able to describe world geography emphasizing global differences and connections between cultures, societies, politics, economics, and environments.
- Information acumen – you will be able to evaluate the source, generation, reliability, and accuracy of information.
- Information interpretation – you will be able to apply qualitative and quantitative analysis to guide decision-making processes.
- Ecological economics – you will be able to explain the fundamental elements of economic, social, and ecological interdependence and the policy and economic implications of these relationships.

Course Materials

Information on course materials can be found in the [textbook section](#) of the SMGT website.

Course Requirements

Discussions

Your participation needs to include one substantial initial post that answers the question(s). This initial post is due before the responses are due and before the lesson closes.

At least two responses to the posts of others in the class are required. Posts may draw on the readings, relevant data, your own knowledge and experiences, etc. Posts should be interesting and thought-provoking; they should foster interaction and discussion within the learning community of the class.

Book Review

Select a book that examines a topic or issue related to environment and society. The book has to examine a topic or issue that is global in scope and/or uses international examples. A book that only discusses an American concern or example is not acceptable. Make sure the book interests you and is one that you have not read before. Your book has to be approved by the instructor. If you cannot decide on a book, contact the instructor for suggestions and ideas.

Survey Project

This project requires you to write a questionnaire on an environmental issue/topic, obtain responses to your questionnaire, examine the resulting data to make conclusions, and write a report that explains all that you did and discovered.

Grading Policy

Course letter grades will be determined on a total point basis.

Weekly Work (9)	160 points
Discussions (6)	60
Exam 1	60
Exam 2	75
Exam 3	60
Book Review	60
Survey Project	125
Total points possible	600

552 points = A/B cutoff

495 points = B/C cutoff

438 points = C/D cutoff

381 points = D/F cutoff

For example, this means that someone who earned 549 points would have a B+.

No extra credit will be offered.

Late work will be penalized, but should be submitted for partial credit.