Spring 2022
ECOLOGICAL SOCIOLOGY / ECOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
SOCI 3300, CRN 25120
ANTH 3303, CRN 25130

Mode of delivery: **Hybrid, Tue and Thu, 12.00 to 1.20 p.m.**
Tue: In person, 201 Cotton Memorial
Thu: Online synchronous, via Blackboard Collaborate

Instructor: **Pratyusha Basu**
Associate Professor of Geography
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and Director, Asian Studies Program
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Office Hours: Online, via Blackboard Collaborate
Thu, 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m., 3.00 to 4.00 p.m.;
and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: **Paulina Porras**
B.A. Sociology, Psychology minor student
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environmental issues have increasingly become an arena for disagreements over the proper relationship between human and non-human natures, and conflicts with business interests seeking unfettered access to natural resources. In all this, the environment becomes not a coherent object which can either be protected or exploited, but a contested collection of meanings which reflects differences within society. Thus, to dwell on the environment is to engage with the production of boundaries, both the insistent desire to distinguish between human, non-human, and inhuman natures, and the mystification of human connections to the environment due to intensifying social divides. We also need to consider how social distributions of power - which determine the extent to which the environment is collectively or privately owned, and the kinds of political alliances that are built around environmental concerns - are reflected in natural environments.

This course will follow environmental debates and struggles through theoretical conceptualizations and case studies drawn from around the world and within the U.S. In the process, it will seek to clarify local nuances of environmental issues in terms of their global connections, trace the role of the politics of power and protest in shaping relationships with the environment, and remain attentive to ways in which environmental understandings vary across places and over time. The aim of the course is to augment critical thinking skills and

international awareness, necessary to understanding contemporary challenges facing environments around the world, as well as evaluate possible pathways to meeting these challenges. Focusing on issues of contemporary significance to both environmental theorists and activists, this course aims to compare environmental debates across the world, and carefully contemplate the interconnectedness of our environmental futures.

Course Objectives

- To understand how environmental thought and practices vary across the world and are shaped by particular geographic contexts (e.g. differences between developed and developing countries).
- To learn how to view contemporary environmental issues from multidisciplinary perspectives, bridging scientific methodologies and social/critical theories.
- To analyze the range of contemporary debates in environmental change and protection.
- To improve written and oral communication skills through assignments and class discussions.
- To improve research skills through conduct of library research and writing a research paper.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

This course is structured around readings from academic books and journals that will form the basis for assignments and class discussions. It is being offered in a hybrid format, with in-class meetings every Tue (201 Cotton Memorial) and online synchronous class meetings every Thu (via Blackboard Collaborate) from 12 to 1.20 p.m. The class will be a mix of lectures and discussions. Students are expected to actively participate by completing all reading assignments, submitting written exercises, and engaging in thoughtful discussion of the assigned readings in weekly discussions. This course requires that all students take an active role in their own learning, as well as interact with each other through in-class and virtual class sessions to produce a collaborative and supportive learning environment. All students are expected to participate in a manner that demonstrates adequate reflection and understanding of the subject matter, respect for your colleagues in the class, and a willingness to learn and grow. Everyone should feel comfortable sharing their thoughts freely during the class meetings and in the online discussion forums.

The foundation of this course is its weekly assignments, and an intensive and substantial level of engagement with pertinent class lectures and readings is expected. Lectures and readings will be available via Blackboard and will be discussed in class. All assignments should be submitted via Blackboard, and due dates, maximum points, as well as grading rubrics will also be available on Blackboard. Please adhere to the due dates for assignments or let me know of any issues with submitting them. Late submission of assignments may result in the assignment not being graded. Finally, all assignments have to be submitted in order to obtain a final grade for this class.

Class Participation (20%)

Class participation will be counted based on any one of the following: completion of in-class assignment, contribution during online class via audio or chat, or response to discussion board question.

Weekly Assignments (40%)

Each week, students will be expected to complete an assignment based on the lectures and readings for that week. The assignment will consist of short answer questions and short essays. Assignments will become available every Friday and will be due the following Monday. The aim here is to ensure that students read and reflect on course materials in a timely fashion.

Take-home Exam (10%)

This will consist of short answer and short essay questions drawn from lectures and readings, Further details on format and content of the exam will be discussed in class and available on Blackboard.

Final Project (30%): references (5%), presentation (10%), and final paper (15%)

The project will consist of research on an environmental issue designated by the instructor. Students are expected to find references related to the topic, build a presentation summarizing the references, and writing a final paper based on the presentation. Each topic will have a group of students working on it, and group members can consult each other on finding references and constructing the presentation. The final paper will be at least 2000 words (around 8 double-spaced pages) and will be due during final exams week.

Grading scale (based on weighted total percentage points)
A = 90% plus
B = 80-89.9%
C = 70-79.9%
D = 60-69.9%
F = 59.9% and below

Note: Grading scale may vary depending on discretion of the instructor. All assignments have to be completed to receive a grade for this class.

Course Materials (e.g. books, book chapters, journal articles, videos) will be listed on Blackboard, and will be available either on Blackboard (as pdf files) or through the UTEP Library website. **Please contact Dr. Basu in case of any difficulties in obtaining access to readings.**

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

This calendar provides an overview of the course. More details, including readings and assignments, will be available after the first week of classes.

NOTE:
- **Meeting times:** In-class meetings every Tue (201 Cotton Memorial) and online synchronous class meetings every Thu (via Blackboard Collaborate) from 1.30 to 2.50 p.m.
- **Due dates:** All weekly assignments will be due on Monday.

	Topic
Week 1, Jan 18, Tue	Introduction and Discussion of Syllabus (IN-CLASS)
Week 1, Jan 20, Thu	Climate Change and the Global Economy (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)
Week 2, Jan 25, Tue	Climate Change and the Global Economy (IN-CLASS)
Week 2, Jan 27, Thu	Environment and Markets (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)
Week 3, Feb 1, Tue	Environment and Markets (IN-CLASS)
Week 3, Feb 3, Thu	Institutions and Governments (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)
Week 4, Feb 8, Tue	Institutions and Governments (IN-CLASS)
Week 4, Feb 10, Thu	Ecology and Culture (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)
Week 5, Feb 15, Tue	Ecology and Culture (IN-CLASS)
Week 5, Feb 17, Thu	Environmental Justice (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)

Week 6, Feb 22, Tue	Environmental Justice (IN-CLASS)
Week 6, Feb 24, Thu	Pollution and Hazards (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)
Week 7, Mar 1, Tue	Pollution and Hazards (IN-CLASS)
Week 7, Mar 3, Thu	Media and Ideology (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)
Week 8, Mar 8, Tue	Media and Ideology (IN-CLASS)
Week 8, Mar 10, Thu	Discussing the Exam (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)
Week 9, Mar 15-17	*Spring Break*
Week 10, Mar 22, Tue	Discussing Group Project
Week 10, Mar 24, Thu	
Week 11, Mar 29, Tue	
Week 11, Mar 31, Thu	
Week 12, Apr 5, Tue	
Week 12, Apr 7, Thu	
Week 13, Apr 12, Tue	
Week 13, Apr 14, Thu	
Week 14, Apr 19, Tue	
Week 14, Apr 21, Thu	
Week 15, Apr 26, Tue	
Week 15, Apr 28, Thu	
Week 16, May 3, Tue	Completing remaining assignments (no class)

Week 16, May 5, Thu	Completing remaining assignments (no class)
Finals week, May 9-13	Final paper due

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

- This course is being offered in a hybrid format, and class meetings will be held in person on Tuesdays in 201 Cotton Memorial and online on Thursdays via Blackboard Collaborate, 12.00 to 1.20 p.m.

- Class readings and lectures will be available via Blackboard.

- Weekly assignments for the course will be due on Mondays. Assignments have to be submitted via Blackboard, or posted on Blackboard Discussion Board.

- The foundation of this course is its assignments, so it is important that you attentively and carefully devote time to reading and completing assignments in a timely manner. The course expects an intensive and substantial level of engagement with the reading material and a reflection of this engagement in the assignments, research papers, and exams.

- Students are expected to actively participate by completing all reading and viewing assignments, submitting written exercises, and engaging in thoughtful discussion in class and on the discussion board. All students are expected to participate in a manner that demonstrates adequate reflection and understanding of the subject matter, respect for your colleagues in the class, and a willingness to learn and grow. Class meetings and discussion forums are expected to be safe environments and any material posted on them can only be used for class purposes.

- All assignments should be submitted via Blackboard, and due dates, maximum points, as well as grading rubrics will also be available on Blackboard. Please adhere to the due dates for assignments or let me know of any issues with submitting them. Late submission of assignments may result in the assignment not being graded. Finally, all assignments have to be submitted in order to obtain a final grade for this class.

- Office hours for the class will be conducted via Blackboard Collaborate. Students will preferably first contact the instructor via email and then set up a specific meeting time as required to meet via Blackboard Collaborate.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is partly delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Note that for technological issues, the Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you. However, you can also let me know in case this interferes with your ability to attend class, or submit assignments in a timely fashion.

Course Communication: How we will stay in contact with each other

Since this is an online class, we will not be in the same place as each other. I will not be visiting campus or available in my office over the Spring semester. However, there are a number of ways we can keep communication channels open:

- **Office Hours**: I will have virtual office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held through Blackboard Collaborate Ultra on Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. I can also meet with you by appointment during a time that is convenient for both of us.

  Blackboard Collaborate Ultra runs in your browser, so no additional software is needed. It is also accessible via your mobile device. If you want to be heard and/or seen, you will need a microphone and/or webcam. You are also welcome to just "chat" with me. Click here for "Collaborate Ultra Help for Participants." Keep in mind that anyone in the virtual office hours session can hear/see you if you use a microphone/webcam. If you need to talk to me privately (which you might need to do if you want to discuss issues such as your grades), make sure to use the private chat option. Here is a quick tutorial on how to do so. To participate in a virtual meeting, click on the Blackboard Collaborate link – available under "Tools" on the Blackboard course website – and join the course room.

- **Email**: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course name in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name.

- **Discussion Board**: If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, you can also post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.

- **Announcements**: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- o Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.

- o Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.

- o When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.

- o Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Course Policies: What do you need to do to be successful in the course

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:
- o Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- o Participating in scheduled in-class and Blackboard Collaborate sessions
- o Participating in engaging discussion with your peers in class and on the discussion boards
- o Other activities that may be indicated

Since these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

BLACKBOARD COLLABORATE SESSIONS

This class requires that you participate in in-class meetings on Tuesdays and scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions on Thursdays, 12.00 p.m. to 1.20 p.m. The purpose of these sessions are for you to view live demonstrations of the course material and/or to participate in small discussion groups with your classmates.

Students are expected to, at least occasionally, participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard.

If you are unable to attend a Collaborate session, please let me know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made when appropriate.

ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email. Additionally, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know, and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

Weekly Assignments
- Assignments will be due on Mondays at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (assignments, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide

them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

CLASS RECORDINGS

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

For each day that you are on campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to campus when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection. Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present.

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. Students who are considering on-campus activities and are designated high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations.

(*classes with on-campus meetings*) Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services:](#) Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services:](#) Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.