<u>Sociology 4517 WA: Society, Culture, and Nature</u>

Pre-requisites: permission of instructor   Instructor: Dr. T. Puddephatt
Class Location: Ryan Building 3044   Office: Ryan Building 2034
Class Time: Monday, 2:30-5:30 pm   Email: apuddeph@lakeheadu.ca
3-0; or 3-0   Office Phone: 343-8091
Sociology web-page address: http://sociology.lakeheadu.ca   Office Hours: Monday 8:30-10:30 AM

<u>Goals of the Course</u>

With these goals in mind, you will be evaluated on the following:

(1) Weekly Summaries	(30%)
(2) Presentation/Proposal	(20%)
(3) Participation	(20%)
(4) Final Essay	(30%)
	Final = (100%)

<u>Required readings:</u>

- *Sociological Theory and the Environment: Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights.* (Edited by Riley Dunlap, Frederick Buttel, Peter Dickens, and August Gijswijt). UK: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2002.
- Package of Readings (on reserve at circulation desk, Paterson Library)
- Online articles (if not otherwise noted, you can get them through LU electronic library)

<u>Explanation of Evaluation:</u>

1. <u>Weekly Summaries (30%)</u>: To ensure you stay on top of the readings, I expect a short summary (maximum 2 pages, single spaced) for each week of readings. Any critical reflections you might have are welcome also. I would like you to end each piece with 3 bullet point questions about the readings, to aid class discussion. Your best 5 count for your grade.

2. <u>Presentation/Proposal (20%)</u>: The main project for the course is to develop an essay on some topic to do with sociology as it relates to the overlap of culture and nature or the environment (see more about this under point 4, final essay). Since this may be new terrain for you, and the term is a short one, I encourage you to get started reading, and sketching ideas, on your topic of choice as soon as possible. To aid this along, I have set a day aside for you to present a 10 minute presentation of your idea for the paper. On the same day, you are to hand in a 5 page (double spaced) proposal, which discusses your topic of choice, presents a thesis of some sort in relation to this topic, and provides a road-map of how you plan to support your thesis. Each is worth 10%, for a total 20% of the grade.

3. <u>Participation (20%)</u>: This grade is intended to reflect quality, more than the quantity, of student's participation in class. "Negative participation" (e.g., distracting, rude, or counter-productive behaviour) is reflected in penalties to this grade. Try to demonstrate your knowledge of the readings, and do your part to help with a vibrant, energetic seminar discussion, fostered in a supportive atmosphere.

4. <u>Final Essay (30%):</u> The final essay must be written using ASA format (see department website), double-spaced, 12 point times new roman font. You are to choose a sociological topic of your choice that deals with the relationship of culture to the nonhuman world or natural environment. For example, your essay might examine a theoretical debate, consider the contributions of a theorist, researcher, or school of thought, comment on a specific environmental social issue as it is portrayed in the media or popular culture, consider the role of social institutions, politics, and social movements in dealing with the natural environment, consider new forms of science and technology (e.g. medicine, communications, health, food, entertainment, etc) and their intersection with ethics and politics, explore a topic in human-animal relations and animal rights, and so on. The possibilities are endless and I hope you will find a topic that interests you. Of course, I am always here to help – if you find you are unsure what to do, please come and see me soon, and we can get you on the right track. Even if you do think you are on the right track, it still pays to run your topic by me, as I might be able to guide/redirect you as necessary. 50% of your grade rests on this project, thus, a little early checking in about your topic is well worth it.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

January 7 – Introduction to the Course

January 14 – Nature and Environment in Sociological Theory
1. Chapter 1 in ST&E
2. Cudworth, Erika. 2003. "Sociology and the Environment," pp 9-35 in E. Cudworth *Environment and Society*. London, UK: Routledge.
3. Murphy, Raymond. 1995. "Sociology as if Nature does not Matter: An Ecological Critique," *British Journal of Sociology*, 46(4): 688-707.

January 21 – Classical Sociology and the Environment
Chapters 3, 4, 5 in ST&E

January 28 – Critical Theory, Consumption, and the Environment
Chapters 7, 8, 10 in ST&E

February 4 – Reflexive Modernity, Risk and the Environment
1. Barry, John. 2007. "Risk, Environment, and Postmodernism," pp 242-270 in John Barry's *Environment and Social Theory, 2nd Edition*. London, UK: Routledge. (On reserve)
2. Chapters 11, 13 in ST&E

February 11 – Carbon Dependence and Peak Oil
1. *Blindspot*: Documentary on Peak Oil
2. Redclift, Michael R. 2009. "The Environment and Carbon Dependence: Landscapes of Sustainability and Materiality," *Current Sociology*, 57(3): 369-387.
3. Caffentzis, George. 2008. "The Peak Oil Complex, Commodity Fetishism, and Class Struggle," (paper from the commoner.org; check google scholar).

February 18 – Reading Week

February 25 – Student Paper Presentations + Proposals Due!!

March 4 – Social Constructionism, Culture, and Emergence in Sociology of the Environment

1. Hannigan, John. 1995. "Social Construction of Environmental Issues and Problems," pp 63-78 in J. Hannigan's *Environmental Sociology, 2nd Edition*. London, UK: Routledge. (on reserve)
2. Chapter 14 in ST&E
3. Hannigan, John. 2010. "The Emergence Model of Environment and Society," pp 164-178 in M.R. Redclift and G. Woodgate (eds.) *The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology, 2nd Edition*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. (on reserve)

March 11 – Public Perception, Media, and Global Warming

1. *The Burning Question*: Documentary on Global Warming
2. Young, Nathan and Eric Dugas. 2011. "Representations of Climate Change in the Canadian National Print Media: The Banalization of Global Warming," *Canadian Review of Sociology*, 48(1): 1-22.
3. Young, Nathan and Eric Dugas. 2012. "Comparing Climate-Change Coverage in Canadian English and French Language Print Media: Environmental Values, Media Cultures, and the Narration of Global Warming," *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 37(1): 25-54.

March 18 – Constructionism and Actor-Network Theory in Sociology of Technology

1. Puddephatt, Antony. 2005. "Mead has Never Been Modern: Using Meadian Theory to Extend the Constructionist Study of Technology," *Social Epistemology,* 19(4): 357-380.
2. Latour, Bruno. 1992. "Where are the Missing Masses? The Sociology of a Few Mundane Artifacts," pp 225-258 in W.E. Bijker and J. Law (eds.) *Shaping Technology, Building Society: Studies in Sociotechnical Change*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (on reserve)
3. Winner, Langdon. 1985. "Do Artifacts have Politics?" pp 26-38 in D. McKenzie and J. Wajcman (eds.) *The Social Shaping of Technology*. Open University Press. (on reserve)

March 25 – Biotechnology and Environmental Risk

1. *World According to Monsanto*: Documentary
2. Kousis, Maria. 2010. New challenges for 21st Century Environmental Movements: Agricultural Biotechnology and Nanotechnology pp 226-244 in M.R. Redclift and G. Woodgate (eds.) *The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology, 2nd Edition*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. (on reserve)
3. Yearley, Steven. 2010. Science and the Environment in the 21st Century. Pp 212-225 in M.R. Redclift and G. Woodgate (eds.) *The International Handbook of Environmental Sociology, 2nd Edition*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. (on reserve)

April 1 – Easter Monday!

April 8 – Animals and Society

1. Sanders, Clinton. 2007. "Mind, Self, and Animal-Human Joint Action," *Sociological Focus*, 40(3): 320-336.

2. Irvine, Leslie. 2008. "Animals and Sociology," *Sociology Compass*, 2(6): 1954-1971.
3. Cudworth, Erika. 2003. "Society, Culture, and Nature: Human Relations with Animals," pp 158-192 in E. Cudworth's *Environment and Society*. London, UK: Routledge. (on reserve)

Lakehead University Regulations:

IX Academic Dishonesty

 The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.

A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.
(a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
(b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:
1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.