



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2155B-001**  
**Environmental Sociology**  
**Winter 2022**

**Wednesdays 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

\*\*\*\*\*OFFERED ONLINE WINTER 2022\*\*\*\*\*

**Instructor:** Dr. Kim Shuey

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: [kshuey@uwo.ca](mailto:kshuey@uwo.ca)

**Course Description:**

In this class you will be introduced to a sociological approach to understanding the ways humans interact with and are connected to their natural environments. We will examine the social causes of environmental problems, their connection to economic activity, and the over-time consequences of human interactions with their natural environment. A sociological approach to these issues includes a discussion of power, social inequality and environmental justice. This course will allow you to explore individual, social, and political solutions to environmental destruction as well as the role of social factors such as consumption, technology, politics, and population size.

This course will include both synchronous and asynchronous learning, as well as guided experience-based learning activities to help you engage and reflect on environmental issues that we are discussing in class. Students will be asked to review and critically engage with course material prior to the synchronous online meeting held via Zoom. The synchronous portion of the course will include structured class discussions and course material. It is expected that you use a webcam and share video during our Zoom online meetings.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Antirequisite(s):** Sociology 2220A/B, Sociology 2298A/B taught in 2020/2021

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

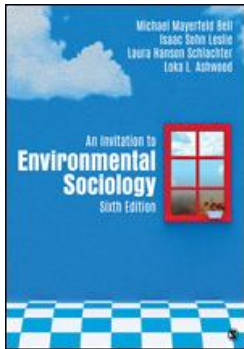
- Understand the link between environmental problems, social problems, and social inequality
- Recognize and explain the ways in which health, consumption, the economy, science, technology, development, and population shape environmental conditions
- Understand the influence of political institutions on environmental practices

- Recognize and explain how culture, ideology, moral values and social relations shape our thoughts and actions with regard to the environment
- Identify some practical solutions to bring about a just ecological society
- Draw on the “environmental sociological imagination” to understand their own behaviour and experiences related to the environment and to join the dialogue regarding practical solutions

**Required Text(s):**

Bell, M., Ashwood, L., Leslie, I., and Schlachter, L. (2020). [An Invitation to Environmental Sociology](#), Sixth Edition. Sage. ISBN: 9781506366005

A number of options for purchase or rental are available from the UWO bookstore at:  
[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021B&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/SOC2155B](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC2155B)



**Method of Evaluation:**

**Evaluation Breakdown:**

Midterm: In-person on March 2 in NS-7 (the originally scheduled classroom)	35%
Final exam: TBD	35%
Reflection papers from experience-based learning: (2 x 15% each, due February 16, March 30)	30%

**Attendance requirements:** To receive a passing grade in the course, you must attend at least 80% of the synchronous class meetings. Attendance will be taken.

**Midterm exam:** The 2-hour exam will be held in person, during class time, in the originally scheduled classroom. It is mixed format, including a range of types of questions (multiple choice, short answer, longer answers) that cover all elements of the course to date.

**Final Exam:** The 2-hour exam will be held in person. It is mixed format, including a range of types of questions (multiple choice, short answer, longer answers). Multiple choice questions will only cover material since the midterm. Essay questions might ask questions geared towards assessing your engagement with the course materials across the semester.

**Reflection Papers from guided experience-based learning:** The purpose of this assignment is for you to develop your ‘Environmental Sociological Imagination’ and critical thinking skills by applying what you are learning in class to observations of the world around you. Each Reflection Paper involves a combination of preparatory research to provide context, a tangible community-focused application, and the documentation of your experience using principles of Photovoice in an 800-word written essay.

**How to Contact Me:**

Please contact me via email at [kshuey@uwo.ca](mailto:kshuey@uwo.ca)

**How to get important information:**

Visit our Course OWL site, and look under the resources and lessons tabs.

## **Important Policies**

***Policies for Assignment Deadlines:***

Tests must be completed in the time allotted. Assignments must be loaded onto OWL by the deadline, unless a formal extension or accommodation has been granted. Late assignments are subject to grade reductions of 5% a day.

***Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic:***

The changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor. When deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western’s Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

***A Note on Plagiarism:***

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

***Plagiarism Checking:***

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism

of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

### ***Policies on Examinations***

#### **Electronic devices will NOT be allowed during tests.**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

#### ***Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:***

Laptops are permitted in class, but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

#### ***Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness***

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html).

#### ***Academic Consideration for Missed Work***

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will NOT be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

#### ***Accessibility Options:***

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Scholastic Offences***

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***Mental Health***

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western

([www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.