This course deals with the sociological approach to the study of environmental issues and problems. Within the field of sociology, human ecology has classically dealt with the adaptation of society to its environment. This has included both the impact of the environment on the society, and the impact of the society on the environment.

Much of ecology was concerned with the impact of the environment on society, and focused on issues such as the spatial arrangement of cities. More recently, sociologists have increasingly turned their attention to the second problem, the impact of the society on the environment, and have re-labeled this field as environmental sociology. Our seminar this quarter will survey a variety of important issues in environmental sociology, with particular attention to environmental justice and sustainability.

Three books have been ordered, and are available in the ASUCLA Bookstore. These are Robert Bullard, Dumping in Dixie, 3rd Edition; Robert Bullard (ed.), Confronting Environmental Racism; and Theodore Goldfarb (ed.), Taking Sides, 10th Edition. In addition to these books, we will use material from the library, some of which will be provided by the professor in class. We will discuss these reading materials the first day of class, and will also discuss additional bibliographic materials (for example, materials used in the preparation of your research paper). Readings listed below will be discussed in class.

Grades will be assigned primarily on the basis of a written research paper (85 percent) and class participation, including presentations and discussions (15 percent). The paper is due the last day of finals, June 16, 2006. A one-page typed proposal giving the tentative paper title, a brief description of the paper’s goal, and three tentative references is due in class on May 1, 2006. Papers will be presented in the last class period (June 5, 2006). The required research paper will generally be 12-15 pages long. The paper will be discussed in detail on the first day of class. The required class presentations to be made during the course of the quarter include the proposal presentation (May 1), the paper presentation (June 5) and the reading presentations (to be discussed the first day of class).
SCHEDULE

**April**

3  Introduction and overview of the course.

10  The Field of Environmental Sociology

1. F. Curt Cylke, Jr., *The Environment* (selected chapters to be assigned).

17  Ecopolitics and Gender


24  **YRL, Room 21536, Lab on Library References, 1-2:30 pm**

Environmental Justice

1. Bullard, *Dumping in Dixie*, (selected chapters to be assigned).

**May**

1  **Typed Paper Proposal Due (Also Presented Briefly in Class)**

Environmental Racism (Continued)

1. Bullard, *Confronting Environmental Racism: Voices From the Grassroots*, (selected chapters to be assigned).

8  Global Environmental Change

The “Limits to Growth Debate” and Sustainable Development


3. The World Commission on Environment and Development, Our Common Future, 1987 (selected chapters to be assigned)


Sustainability (Continued)

1. Taking Sides, (selected chapters to be assigned).

HOLIDAY

June

5 Last Class. Presentation and Discussion of Research Papers

16 PAPER DUE. Last day of finals. The research paper is due in the Sociology Department Office, Haines Hall 264, by 3pm.