Overview

In this course, we examine the linkages between people and places, the local and the global, as well as the social and the natural. The course is divided into three sections. In the first section, we explore changes in local communities. We seek a critical understanding of the prosperity of communities, in both economic and social senses. The second part of the course examines global communities, and how the global and the local are inter-connected through the movement of people and commodities. In the third section, we interrogate the ecological community, or “community in the largest possible sense” (Bell, 2012:2). We think about how the social and the natural are linked to each other.

This course offers an introduction to sociological theories that explain changes in the community and our relationships to the natural environment. By the end of the semester, you will gain deeper understanding of a set of concepts, including growth, social capital, development, globalization, consumption, nature, sustainability, and social construction. Sociological theories and concepts are not absolute truth; virtually every issue can be explored from more than one perspective. While each of these alternative points of view has shortcomings, each can generate useful insights. We use sociological theories to critically understand some of the pressing social and environmental issues.

Textbooks


These books are available at the University Bookstore. If you decide to buy online, make sure you order the correct edition. If you do not wish to buy these books, you may read them in the library. Both books are on reserve at Steenbock Library. Additional copies of the McKibben book are on reserve at College Library.

Other required readings are available on Learn@UW at learnuw.wisc.edu.
Course Requirements

• **Short papers** (100*3=300 points)
You are required to write and submit three short papers over the course of the semester. Each paper is worth 100 points for a total of 300 points. Short papers are due before class on 2/11, 3/16, and 4/22. You are required to turn in a word file of your paper to Turnitin.com (the class ID is 9264736, and passcode is cesoc), as well as a hard copy before the start of class on these days. If you are not familiar with Turnitin.com, please refer to Appendix 1.

Please limit each short paper to one page, with one-inch margins, single-spaced. If you cite materials not on this syllabus, please include a bibliography on a separate page, acknowledging your sources properly. Make sure you follow the grading rubric as you write. If you are unsatisfied with your score, there is an opportunity to rewrite. Re-writes must be turned in within a week after grades are posted on Learn@UW. The UW Writing Center (http://www.writing.wisc.edu/, 608-263-1992) is a resourceful place that can help you become better writers. You may schedule one-on-one sessions with writing experts. Various writing workshops are offered throughout the semester.

• **Final paper** (200*1=200 points)
You are required to revise and expand one of your short papers. Choose your favorite short paper, do a modest amount of additional thinking, and bring more course readings into your field of vision. See handout for details. Expand, improve, and clarify your argument. Polish your writing and turn in an expanded version. This assignment is worth 200 points. It is due 3pm on Monday May 11, 2015. NO LATE PAPERS OR RE-WRITES for this assignment. You are required to turn in a word file of your paper to Turnitin.com, and to deposit a hard copy of your paper to the collection box on the Third Floor of Agricultural Hall. Please limit your writing for this assignment to three pages, with one-inch margins, single spaced.

• **Exams** (150*3=450 points)
Each of the three exams will consist of multiple choice questions, and possibly short answer questions. The exams will cover lectures, class discussions, readings, and films. Exams are non-cumulative. Each exam will be worth 150 points. Exams will be given during class time on 2/25, 3/25 and 5/6.

• **Preparation/Attendance/Participation** (a total of 50 points)
Attending lectures and discussions is critical to your success in this class. I will use different means to check attendance, including but not limited to (a) pop quizzes at the beginning of class to test your mastery of readings assigned for the day, (b) pop quizzes at the end of class to test your understanding of the lecture, (c) opinion surveys of the class. Attendance checks are unscheduled. The worth of each attendance check will be announced before it is taken. They will add up to 50 points. In accordance with UW policy, students will not lose attendance points when they are absent from class to observe religious holidays.
Late Policy

If you submit your short paper after the due date, your score will be penalized by 10% for each day after the due date. You are required to turn in both hard copies and electronic copies of paper assignments before they are due. Requests for extension may not be approved.

Exam Policy

Make-up exams will be given only if you provide the instructor, in writing, an acceptable excuse from an accredited professional regarding the situation. You should submit the written notice before the day of the exam. Make-up exams will be scheduled at a time that is convenient for all students that miss the exam, but no later than two weeks after the scheduled exam. No re-takes will be given to students who are dissatisfied with their exam scores.

Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% or more</td>
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<td>AB</td>
<td>88-92.9%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-87.9%</td>
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<td>BC</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70-76.9%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% or less</td>
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Office Hours

Office hours are 1:30 – 2:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. My office is Room 308E in Agricultural Hall. Office hours will NOT be devoted to tutorial for materials that students miss when not attending class.

Lecture Slides

I will post lecture slides on Learn@UW after each class. These slides alone do not provide a sufficient basis for you to answer exam questions. They are meant to provide a general outline.

Readings

It is extremely important for you to keep up with the required readings for each session. I lecture with the assumption that you have read all pieces before class. I normally do not lecture from the readings, but try to build on them. In order for you to benefit from lectures, it is best to read the assignments in advance. You may also bring along your questions about specific readings to class.

Communication

I will make an effort to timely announce any changes to the syllabus via email, on Learn@UW, and in class. Please make sure you check your wisc.edu emails, and let me know if you have trouble receiving emails sent to the class list.

You are welcome to communicate with me via email. Please expect a reply within 48 hours. However, I will NOT respond to questions if answers can be found in this syllabus. Nor will I respond to questions that have been addressed in class. Try to ask questions of clarification in class so your fellow classmates can also benefit from the exchange.
Academic Honesty

All work that you submit for this class must be your own. All sources and assistance used in preparing your papers must be precisely and explicitly acknowledged. Please read Appendix 2 if you need more information about this. If you are still unsure, come and talk with me, or consult the Writing Center (http://www.writing.wisc.edu/, 608-263-1992).

Cheating on exams and/or papers will not be tolerated. Students caught completing quizzes for students not attending the session will be charged with academic misconduct. Students caught cheating will receive a grade of F for the entire course, and the case will be reported to the Dean of Students. NO EXCEPTIONS. You should familiarize yourself with UW rules regarding academic honesty at http://students.wisc.edu/doso/acadintegrity.html.

Classroom Etiquettes

One of my responsibilities is to ensure that the environment in the classroom is conducive to learning. If you are late, you should find a seat in the back of the classroom. If you need to leave early, please let me know in advance and sit in a location where it will be easy to quietly leave the room. Turn off all cell phones and put away newspapers before class begins. Please hold side-conversations and discussions until after class.

Although computers are a valuable tool for research and study, they are inimical to participation and collegiality in the classroom. The use of laptops or other electronic devices for note-taking or other purposes in class, therefore, will NOT be permitted.

Accommodation

I wish to include fully any students with special needs in this course. Please let me know (the earlier the better) if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or evaluation procedures in order to enable you to participate fully. The McBurney Center (www.mcburney.wisc.edu, 702 W. Johnson Street, 608-263-2741) can provide useful assistance and documentation.

If English is not your first language, or one of your first languages, you may have an additional thirty (30) minutes for each exam. If this applies to you, please come and talk with me at your earliest convenience.

The University recognizes that as a community many of its members use names other than their legal names to identify themselves. More information about the UW preferred name policy can be found online at http://registrar.wisc.edu/preferred_name.htm

Nighttime Safety

The University has established several transportation and walking escort services to help you stay safe while getting around campus and the nearby areas after dark. To help take responsibility for your own safety and that of your friends, make use of services such as SAFEwalk and SAFEride. Details can be found at http://transportation.wisc.edu/transportation/safeservices.aspx
Class Schedule and Required Reading Assignments

Week 1 - Introduction

- January 21
  Read the opening paragraphs of this syllabus, if you have not done so already.

Local Community: Towards Prosperity in Places

Week 2 - Growth redefined

- January 26

- January 28

Week 3 - Growth machine theory

- February 2

- February 4

Weeks 4&5 - Social capital

- February 9
February 11

DUE Short Paper #1

Find a concrete example of local development. To what extent does your example lend support to the growth machine theory?


February 16


February 18


Week 6 – Case study

February 23

In-class documentary: Wal*Mart: The high cost of low price.

February 25 (Exam #1)

Global Community: Inequality and Justice in International Development

Week 7 – Development theories

March 2


March 4

**Week 8 – People on the move**

- March 9

- March 11

**Week 9 – Stuff on the move**

- March 16
  Look into the US immigration debate. Make an argument of your own to join the debate. Be sure to use course readings.


- March 18

**Week 10 – Development agencies**

- March 23

- March 25 (Exam #2)

**Week 11 – Spring recess**

No class.
Ecological Community: Rethinking Nature

Weeks 12 - Food

- April 6

- April 8

Week 13 - Consumption

- April 13

- April 15

Week 14 - Nature

- April 20

- April 22
  **DUE** Short Paper #3 Using FADS, find out consumption patterns of one or more food item in the US in recent decades. Explain the patterns.

Week 15 – Climate change

- April 27

- April 29

Week 16 – Plenitude

- May 4

- May 6 (Exam #3)

Week 17 – Exam period

- May 11

  DUE Final Paper

#The End#