COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: SOC 1618: Environmental Sociology

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College level reading and writing
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None
5. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 2/ Critical Thinking, Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Goal 10/Pope and the Environment

This course is a sociological analysis of the relationship between social behavior the social and natural environment within which humans live. The course applies a sociological approach to describe, explain and develop responses to current and potential problems in the environment.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): September, 2012

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Introduction to environmental Sociology
   a) How sociology deals with environmental issues
   b) Social patterns and the environment
   c) The sociological imagination and the environment
   d) Sociological theory and environmental issues
   e) Sociological research on the environment
   f) Cultural systems and the environment
   g) Environmental ethics
   h) Responding to environmental concerns
2. The natural environment: Objects of concern
   a) Environmental degradation
      i. Destruction of ecosystems
      ii. Pollution
   b) Climate change
   c) Depletion, scarcity and sustainability
   d) Natural disasters, hazards and risks
3. Human behavior and the environment: Objects of concern
   a) Population patterns
      i. size
      ii. Growth Rate
      iii. Density
      iv. Distribution
      v. Composition
   b) Urban and rural environments
   c) Poverty and malnutrition
   d) Human health and well-being
      i. Illness
      ii. Pandemics
      iii. Mortality
   e) Consumption and distribution of resources
   f) Human-made disasters, hazards and risks
   g) Institutions and the environment
      i. Government and Non-governmental Organizations
      ii. Economics
         1. Established and emerging markets
         2. corporations
         3. Labor
      iii. Education
C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS: Continued...
  h) Globalism
  i) Environmental conflict and exploitation
  j) Environmental justice and inequality
  4. Responses to environmental concerns
     a) Making the case for the need to respond
     b) Global and local responses
     c) Social movements and environmental activism
     d) Governmental responses and environmental treaties
     e) Consequences of environmental intervention

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
  1. Recognize, assess and evaluate possible problems associated with human behavior and the natural environment using a sociological approach.
  2. Explain environmental patterns using multiple sociological perspectives and apply these explanations to specific examples of environmental problems.
  3. Design, explain and defend social responses to problems related to human behavior and the natural environment.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
   Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
   1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
   2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
   3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.

   Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: The student will be able to:
   1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
   2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
   3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

   Goal 10/People and the Environment: The student will be able to:
   1. Discern patterns and interrelationships of biophysical and socio-cultural systems.
   2. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
   3. Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
   Evaluation methods may include any or all of the following:
   1. Objective Exams
   2. Written papers
   3. Quizzes
   4. Written homework
   5. Small group projects
   6. Or any other work deemed appropriate by the instructor and son indicated on her/his syllabus

G. RTC Core Outcome(S) Addressed:
   ☑ Communication
   ☑ Critical Thinking
   ☑ Global Awareness/Diversity
   ☑ Civic Responsibility
   ☑ Personal/Professional Accountability
   ☑ Aesthetic Response

H. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None