

Social Organization and the Environment

Lecture

_____ focuses on the tendency of capitalist expansion to lead to ecological disruption and environmental degradation.

- a) Ecological modernization
- b) Ecofeminism
- c) Treadmill of production

_____ are legally independent corporations in which the parent company owns more than 50% of their stock.

- a) Establishments
- b) Subsidiaries
- c) Facilities

What type of methods does Prechel and Zheng employ?

- a) Quantitative
- b) Qualitative

Classical social theorists examined the impact of humans on the environment.

- a) True
- b) False

Lecture Learning Outcomes

Identify common assumptions related to humans and the environment

Describe the rise of environmentalism in the U.S.

Apply theoretical perspectives to understand how human organization relates to environmental outcomes

CPR Assignment One and Two Review

- Environmental injustice
- Environmental justice frame
- Pellow's findings
- My critique of Pellow
 - Know this for the exam
 - Do not use this critique in your CPR Assignment



CPR Assignment Three

- Skim the two readings to answer the questions in the Guidance to Understanding Supplementary Material section
- Come up with a BASIC plan
 - Usually, these things are developed over months
 - I just want you to practice your critical thinking and communication skills
 - This is just an introduction to something you would learn in a graduate project management class
- Do not overthink things!
 - When writing
 - When reviewing

CPR Assignment Conclusion

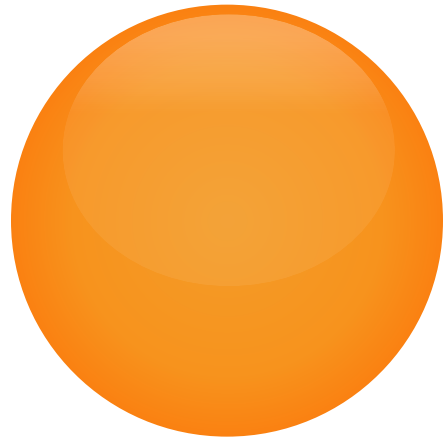
- After completing this assignment, you should include the following experiences on your resume:
 - Reviewed peer work by using a rubric
 - Applied research to critique a modern social problem
 - Developed a program logic model to plan and evaluate a response to a modern social problem



Introduction to Environmental Problems

- Ecosystem
- Pollutant
- Environmental Pollution
 - Point Source Pollution
 - Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Pesticide
- Herbicide
- Eutrophication
- Environmental Depletion





WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT?



Common Assumptions on the Environment

- Technocentrism
- Anthropocentrism
- Ecocentrism
- Human Exceptionalism Paradigm v. New Environmental Paradigm



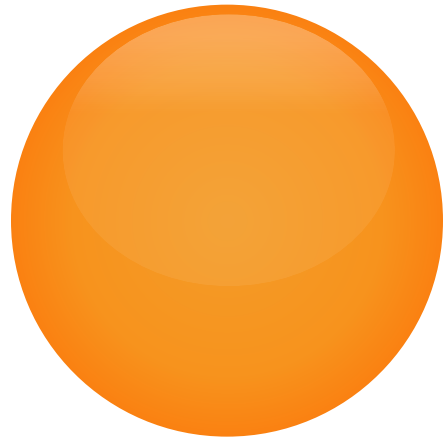
U.S. Environmental History

- 1864- Marsh Publishes Man and Nature
- 1869- The Golden Spike
- 1890- Transcendentalism becomes popular
- 1892- Muir establishes the Sierra Club
- 1893- Ecology becomes a field of study
- 1910- Western water becomes a major concern
- 1962- Carson Publishes Silent Spring
- 1968- Hardin Publishes Tragedy of the Commons
- 1970- Earth Day and EPA established
- 1972- Club of Rome publishes The Limits to Growth
- 1991- First National People of Color Environmental Justice Leadership Summit
- 1996- Bill Kronin publishes The Trouble with Wilderness

Types of Environmental Discourse

- Conservation/wildlife management
- Preservation
- Reform environmentalism
- Environmental justice
- Ecospiritualism
- Ecofeminism
- Green/antiglobalization
- Deep ecology
- Animal Rights





WHAT ARE SOME MODERN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS?

Class Discussion 



Modern Issues

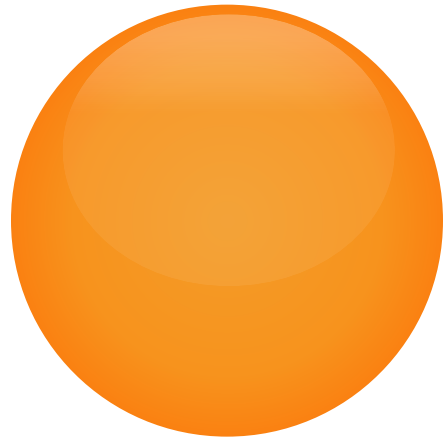
- Global Climate Change
- Air Quality
- Hazardous Waste Sites and Brownfields
- Water Quality
- Acid Rain
- Oil Spills
- Food Deserts



What kinds of organizations pollute the most?

- Subsidiaries pollute at higher rates
- Parent companies with more facilities pollute more
- Corporations with lower profits pollute more
- Parent companies with more debt
- Penalties do not have an effect on pollution rates
- When corporate headquarters are in states with high environmental standards, they pollute less





WHY DO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OCCUR?

Class Discussion 



Functional Perspectives of Environmental Problems

- Explanation of Environmental Problems
 - Environmental problems are dysfunctions of modern living, the result of agricultural and industrial modes of production
- Questions Asked About the Environment
 - How are environmental problems related to social institutions or to our patterns of consumption?
 - Are environmental problems inevitable consequences of modern living?

Interactionist Perspectives of Environmental Problems

- Explanation of Environmental Problems
 - Environmental problems are socially created and defined
- Questions Asked About the Environment
 - How are environmental problems created?
 - What factors are included in the process?
 - How is a problem legitimized?
 - What individuals or groups play a role in the process?



Conflict Perspectives of Environmental Problems

- Explanation of Environmental Problems
 - Problems are created by humans competing for power, income and their own interests
 - Our capitalist economic system has been identified as a primary source of the conflict over polluting (or conserving) our physical and natural worlds
- Questions Asked About the Environment
 - How do environmental problems emerge from our capitalist economic system or from a patriarchal society?
 - Which particular groups are at risk for experiencing environmental problems or their impacts

Producer Oriented Theories

- Impact Theories
- Treadmill of Production
- Growth Machine
- Resource Extraction/Ecologically Unequal Exchange Theory
- Ecological Modernization/New Corporate Environmentalism



Watch Video-

“Fracking Explained”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uti2niW2BRA>

Small Group Discussion-

Evaluate fracking by applying sociological perspectives

- How does fracking affect local communities?
- What are the functions and dysfunctions of fracking?
- When are environmental risks acceptable/unacceptable?
- How has fracking become viewed as problematic?
- Who does fracking benefit? Who does it harm?
- How would different theories describe the phenomenon?
- Why is fracking legal despite known problems?
- Should fracking be legal in city limits?



Questions...

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” -Nelson Mandela