SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS--Version of 7 June 2013

Voyage: Summer 2013
Discipline: Sociology
SOC 2595: Environmental Sociology
Division: Lower Division
Faculty Name: Timmons Roberts

Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines beliefs and behaviors towards the environment, and how the structures of society (such as the economic system and status hierarchies) influence these and contribute to the persistent abuse of the environment. Focuses on the rise of public concern and the environmental movement, unequal exposures to risks, and directions forward.

There is a growing awareness that in order to understand and solve the dire environmental problems facing our planet we need to examine the underlying social, psychological, political and economic forces driving human behavior. In this course we will examine the rapidly growing field of Environmental Sociology, which brings the sociological perspective and sociological methods of analysis to this broadly cross-disciplinary topic. One nice definition of environmental sociology is that it examines beliefs and behaviors towards the environment, and how structures of society influence these and contribute to the persistent abuse of the environment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To build a framework for understanding the roots of humanity's environmental crises, in both economic and cultural structures.
2. To observe Mediterranean cities and reflect upon their:
   a. environmental context and vulnerability to disasters;
   b. inequality in exposure to environmental risks;
   c. cultural norms of consumption; and
   d. urban sustainability challenges and initiatives
3. To develop reading and writing skills through frequent pieces weaving comparative observations and application of concepts from the course
4. To build a community of learning aboard the Explorer

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Michael M. Bell
TITLE: An Invitation to Environmental Sociology (Fourth Edition)
PUBLISHER: Pine Forge
ISBN #: 9781412990530
DATE/EDITION: 2012/Fourth Edition

All other readings will be provided by the professor's intranet readings list.

Read ahead if you have the opportunity; and if you'd like to get a jump, investigate environmental issues and sustainability initiatives in our eight ports on the web or library.

TOPOICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

---Readings are required, those with asterisk * can be skimmed if needed; two asterisks ** means supplemental readings---

1
C1- June 19: Introduction to the Course, Conceiving Our Question
Identifying social actors and stakeholders in an environmental dispute

Read ahead if you have the opportunity; and if you’d like to get a jump, investigate environmental issues and sustainability initiatives in our eight ports on the web or library.

C2-June 20: Contaminated community simulation
Edelstein, Michael, Contaminated Communities chap. 1-2
Bell Ch. 9: “The Rationality of Risk”
*Robbins, Hintz and Moore Environment and Society, chapter 6 “Risks and Hazards”

C3- June 21: Roots of Environmental Concern and Directions in Environmental Sociology
Bell Foreword, Preface, Chapter 1

Supplemental Readings:

Likely film: view part of “A Fierce Green Fire.”

C4- June 22: Consumption and Materialism
Chapter 2 of Bell “Consumption and Materialism.” Likely Film: portions of “Affluenza”

Discuss Assignment—shore thoughts on the Exposures, Sustainability Initiatives, Inequality and consumption norms in Morocco [see description at the bottom—students do these for 4 of the 8 ports]

June 23-June 26: Casablanca: Informal observations of unequal exposures to environmental “bads,” consumption norms and urban sustainability challenges and initiatives

C5- June 27: Shopping Our Way to Safety? Understanding Green Consumerism
Chapter 5 of Bell "Body and Health”;
Sandra Steingraeber: “The Myth of Living Safely in a Hazardous World”
Szasz, Andrew, Shopping Our Way to Safety Excerpt
Story of Change Video (Annie Leonard)

Shore Thoughts due on exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption in Morocco

C6- June 28: The Treadmill of Production and the Capitalist Economic System
Chapter 3 of Bell, “Money and Machines”

C7- June 29: Urban Sprawl and the Growth Machine
Logan, John and Harvey Molotch. "Urban Fortunes" Chapter 1

June 30th No Classes

C8- July 1: Transformations of Food Systems in the Global South and Mediterranean

**C9- July 2: Population and Environmental Degradation; the Social Construction of Nature, Science and Risk**
Bell Ch. 4 “Population and Development”

**July 3-5: Antalya, Turkey: observations of unequal exposures to environmental “bads” and consumption norms**

**C10- July 6: Development and Climate Change: Vulnerability, Adaptation and Development in a Greenhouse World**

Shore Thoughts due on exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption in Antalya

**C11- July 7: Climate Change: Why the old approaches aren’t working**
Roberts Ch. 14 in 20 Lessons in Environmental Sociology

**July 8-11: Istanbul, Turkey: observations of unequal exposures to environmental “bads” and unequal consumption norms and impacts**

**C12- July 12: Mid-term Exam—In Class review and synthesis of material to this point**

**C13- July 13: The Ideology of Ecological Domination: What Drives Anti-Environmentalism and Environmental Destruction?**
Reading: Bell Ch. 6 “the Ideology of Environmental Domination”;

Preparation for field Lab in Piraeus

**July 14-17: Piraeus**
Field Lab: Environmental and Urban Issues in Piraeus/Athens in a Time of Crisis: SEE DETAILS BELOW, including REQUIRED READINGS

**C14- July 18: The Ideology of Environmental Concern**
Bell Ch. 7 “The Ideology of Environmental Concern”
Aldo Leopold, The Land Ethic. Chapter 3 of Environmentalism: Critical Concepts, Volume 1 edited by David Pepper, Frank Webster, George Revill

**C15- July 19: Discourses of Environmental Movement Groups**

C16- July 20: Public Opinion: How much support is there for environmentalism?
Reviewing national and international survey data
Hayward, Steven. 2010. “Public Opinion about the Environment: Notable Shifts in Recent Years.”

July 21-26: Livorno and Civitavecchia: observations of exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption

Bell Ch. 8 “The Human Nature of Nature”

Shore Thoughts due on exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption in Italy

C18- July 28: The Media and the Public Relations Industry
Bader, Sharon. 2005. Global Spin Chapters 7 and 8 “The Public Relations Industry” and “Public Relations Strategies”

July 29-31: Malta: observations of exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption

C19- August 1: Unequal Exposure to Environmental Hazards and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement
Bellard, Robert. 2007. Dumping in Dixie excerpt

Shore Thoughts due on exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption in Italy

C20- August 2: The difficulty of reaching justice and sustainability

August 3-8: Marseille and Barcelona: observations on exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption

C21- August 9: Mobilizing the Ecological Society
Humphrey, Lewis and Buttel Ch. 8: “Environmental Sociology and Alternative Environmental Futures”
Bell Ch. 10: “Mobilizing the Ecological Society”
Mind the gap: why do people act environmentally and what are the barriers to pro-environmental behavior?
A Kollmuss, J Agyeman - Environmental education research, 2002

Shore Thoughts due on exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption in Italy

C22- August 10: Can Governments and international agencies control the destruction?
Bell Ch. 11 “Governing the Ecological Society
Preparation for Cadiz/Lisbon observations

**August 11-16: Cadiz, Lisbon:** observations on exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption

**C23- August 17: Class debate: Is greening happening? Is it possible?**
Ch. 1, 15 from "Natural Capitalism"
Ch. 1 and 6 from *Eco-Business*. Peter Daugvergne and Jane Lister. 2013. MIT Press.
**“Gottlieb Ch. 7 “Pathways to Change”**
Class will be divided into teams of 3-4 students

**Policy Briefing/field lab review due** on exposures, sustainability initiatives, inequality and consumption in Italy and Spain

August 18: Study Day

**C24-August 19: Final Exams**

August 20, 21: Reflection, Reentry, Convocation and Packing

August 22: Southampton, farewell

**FIELD WORK**

**FIELD LAB:** Environmental and Urban Issues in Piraeus/Athens in a Time of Crisis.  July 17

Objectives:
1. To observe and be told about unequal exposures to environmental risks and goods in Piraeus/Athens;
2. To learn about urban environmental conflicts in Southern European cities;
3. To directly observe and strategies for addressing socio-environmental issues;
4. To hear from local and national academics, government officials, NGOs, and community members about the nexus of economic struggles and environmental and land use issues, and hear their ideas for the future.

Description: Athens is a complex city which has grown quickly since the 1960s and where the current economic crisis and privatization of state lands is leading to a wave of conflicts over public space and the shape of the city. Our hosts are Fareniki Vatavali, Evangelia Chatzikonstantinou, and Paschalis Samarinis of the National Technical University of Athens. The lab will begin with a bus tour of major environmental areas of concern in of the city, including beaches, highly urbanized city centers, industrial facilities, and key public parks. At each stop, we will hear from experts and and community organizations about their experiences and concerns. Lunch will take place at Hellinikon beach. We will travel to relatively poorer and relatively wealthier neighborhoods for comparison of environmental issues. We will also hear about municipal and federal planning and/or environmental agencies, to discuss environmental and urban planning efforts.

1. Our host sent some **texts and articles** about Athens--the economic crisis and the kinds of struggles that have combined social and environmental issues there. Read before the field trip, and look over again afterwards:
   **Three top readings:**
   - Crisis Regime in Greece and some notions on the role of space
     http://recrise.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/1-4-greece_maria-kalantzopoulou_2-doc.pdf
   - The centre of Athens “in Crisis”: in search of critical approaches and alternative practices
   - National Technical University of Athens, proposal for a Metropolitan Park
Additional resources: City centre
- The construction of a “public” discourse for Athens centre: media, migrants and inner-city regeneration

The former airport of Hellinikon
- Short presentation about the site of Hellinikon, the plans of the government and local urban movements
  http://encounterathens.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/ntua_2012_02_06_en_full.pdf
- Municipality of Hellinikon-Argyroupoli, brochure
- HELLINIKON S.A. (the state company that manages the site of Hellinikon) http://www.hellinikon.com/en/
- Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund (the state company that runs the privatization of state property of Greece, including the site of Hellinikon) http://www.hradf.com/en/real-estate/hellinikon
- National Technical University of Athens, proposal for a Metropolitan Park
  http://courses.arch.ntua.gr/fsr/135952/NTUA_2010_Hellinikon_Metropolitan_Park_Summary_En-1.pdf

More:
- Crisis regimes and emerging social movements in cities of Southern Europe, workshop, Athens 7-9 February 2013 http://urbanrise.net/

Schedule: Wednesday 17 July 2013
Organizers: Evangelia Chatzikonstantinou, Paschalis Samarinis, Fereniki Vatavali

10.00-10.30 Welcome – Introduction
- Meeting at the port of Piraeus.
- Introduction to the field trip and short presentation of the general context of “Athens in crisis”.

1. The waterfront of Athens. Urban contradictions and manifestations.

10.30-11.30 Tour of the west districts of Piraeus. Drapetsona and Perama.
Meeting with our local guide Dr. N. Belavilas (Architect-Urban Planner, Associate Professor at the School of Architecture Engineering, National Technical University of Athens and active in local urban politics).

These areas have been historical working class and refugee neighborhoods, related overtime with the industrial activities of the port area. After the de-industrialization of recent decades they have gone through a series of transformations, both social and spatial.

11.30-13.30 Tour of the south-east coast. Faliro and Hellinikon
11.30-12.00 Falirikos Ormos.
12.00-12.30 Lunch Break at Hellinikon beach
12.30-13.30 Tour at the former airport of Hellinikon, the Olympic facilities and the self-managed urban garden “Agros”

2. The multifaceted crisis of the centre of Athens: problems, challenges and reactions.

14.00 Pedion Areos Exarchia, and the self-managed “Navarinou pocket-park”. The neighborhood of Exarchia has a long history as the centre of political activism, social movements and alternative subcultures. Popular and crowded but at the same time stigmatized by the mass media, the neighborhood
has seen many experiments of self-management like the popular “Navarinou pocket-park”, a squatted place that citizens turned from a private parking lot to a public garden for the neighborhood.

15.00 Walk in Gerani, Psyri, Metaxourgio: An interesting part of the centre of Athens, these three neighboring -but quite different- areas are in the focus of public discussion, including the local authorities, the media and real estate interests. Gerani is misleadingly presented as a migrants’ “ghetto” in the centre of the city, Psyri during the last 20 years has been transformed into a popular recreational district for the young, and Metaxourgio is a place in a transitional phase seeing new enterpeneurial schemes, planning tools, etc.

16.00-16.40. Meeting with Dr. M.Zifou (planner - advisor of the General Secretary of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change). Discussion on the recent transformation of urban and environmental policies in Greece.

16.40-17.00 Piraeus Street: Piraeus Street has been connecting Athens with Piraeus since ancient times. In 18th and 19th century several industries were located along the street. During the last decades the area was de-industrialized and the many old buildings have been reused for cultural activities, thus changing the identity of the street.

17.00 Return to Piraeus Port

Students will prepare a 2-4 page briefing on Piraeus/Athens environmental conflicts and initiatives, tying them to readings, lectures, discussions and observations in other ports.

Associated Assignments: Students will be observing these kinds of initiatives in all other cities on the trip, and will be writing memos on their observations throughout the semester. The meetings and more in depth study at Athens will allow them to put the other visits of the semester into perspective.

FIELD ASSIGNMENTS: “Shore Thoughts:” Observations of unequal exposures to environmental “bads,” consumption norms and urban sustainability challenges and initiatives
At each port, students will observe Mediterranean cities and reflect upon their:
   a. environmental context and vulnerability to disasters;
   b. inequality in exposure to environmental risks;
   c. cultural norms of consumption;
   d. urban sustainability challenges and initiatives.

Students will compile their notes during and after port visits into “Shore Thoughts.” These will be two-page single-spaced memos with an introduction, the four sections above (vulnerability, inequality in exposure, consumption norms, and sustainability initiatives), and a conclusion. Students are required to submit four of these over the semester (of the eight ports). If students choose to do more, I will take the best four grades.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

Your requirements are preparation, attendance, participation in class discussions, debate and the simulation, “Shore Thoughts,” a briefing on Piraeus/Athens environmental conflicts and initiatives, a midterm and a final exam. Attendance is required. More than two unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your grade. Quality participation in class discussions and activities are those that tie in readings and past lectures and make an original point; requests for clarification are always welcome and show engagement. Being a reading course, to understand what we’re talking about and to participate meaningfully, YOU MUST KEEP UP WITH THE READINGS AND COME PREPARED TO OUR MEETINGS.

I will calculate final grades roughly as follows (and as a straight average):
midterm (25%),
final exam (25%);
shore thoughts—four of the eight ports (30%)
Piraeus/Athens field lab briefing (10%)
Participation (10%)

If students are not coming prepared I will institute frequent quizzes and include them in the calculation above.

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

TITLE: Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology.
PUBLISHER: New York: Oxford UP.

AUTHOR: Redclift, Michael R. and Graham Woodgate.
TITLE: International Handbook of Environmental Sociology
PUBLISHER: Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

All on intranet

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To support or explain their “Shore Thoughts” papers, students may need to search for and cite web materials on national societies, environmental risks, levels of inequality, and consumption in each nation we visit.

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”