Environment and Society
ENVST-UA 101
Summer 2019
Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00 p.m - 4:55 p.m.
Silver Center, Room 504

Professor
Derek Sylvan (derek.sylvan@nyu.edu)
Office hours: by appointment, Wilf Hall 318

Course Description
A systematic survey of central concepts and issues relating to environment and society, including concepts of nature and the environment; the rise of environmentalism; environmental skepticism; anthropogenic global change; population and consumption; ecological footprint analysis and other environmental indicators; environmental justice; public goods and collective action problems; regulatory regimes; environmental politics; environmental movements; environmental values; environmental protest and disobedience; and the future of environmentalism.

This course is a gateway to the Environmental Studies major and minor, and one of its core courses. It will cover a very significant amount of demanding material, in order to prepare students for upper-level courses. This course will be challenging, and students should expect a steep learning curve.

Texts
Environment and Society: A Reader, edited by Christopher Schlottmann, Colin Jerolmack, Anne Rademacher, Maria Damon, and Dale Jamieson.

Other texts will be made available via NYU Classes.

Requirements
You are required to attend every class session and do all of the assigned reading. In addition, you are required to write two essays of 900-1200 words. Late essays will only be accepted if you have a very good excuse and notify the professor by the due date at the latest. The only exceptions to this policy are at the absolute discretion of the professor and will result in a reduced grade.

Essays are due by 11:59 p.m. on the dates indicated below.
In addition, you will be required to post comments or questions for our class discussions in the Forum on NYU Classes. Each student must post a minimum of 10 times during the course (no more than one post per class). Posts must be submitted by 11 a.m. on the morning of that day’s class. You will also be required to share a relevant news item with the class three times during the course. Students are required to complete four quizzes, and will also be graded for attendance and participation.

**Grading Breakdown**
The two essays will determine 50% of your grade (essays weighted equally); quizzes will be worth 20%; forum posts will be worth 15%; and attendance/participation will be worth 15%.

**Disability Disclosure Statement**
Academic accommodations are available to any student with a chronic, psychological, visual, mobility, learning disability, or who is deaf or hard of hearing. Students should please register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980.

NYU’s Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities  
726 Broadway, 2nd Floor New York, NY 10003-6675  
Telephone: 212-998-4980 Voice/TTY  
Fax: 212-995-4114  
Web site: [http://www.nyu.edu/csd](http://www.nyu.edu/csd)

**Plagiarism and Academic Support**
Plagiarism results in failure in the class and referral to your academic dean. Examples of plagiarism include: copying sentences or fragments from any source without quotes and references; not citing a source used in your papers; citing internet information without proper citation; presenting someone else’s work as your own; or copying verbatim from any source. Plagiarism often results in failure in the class and referral to an academic dean. You are subject to CAS’s guidelines on plagiarism: [https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/academic-integrity.html](https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/academic-integrity.html).

NYU offers academic support and tutoring at the University Learning Center:  
[www.nyu.edu/cas/ulc](http://www.nyu.edu/cas/ulc), (212) 998-8085.

**Tentative Schedule**

**5/28:** Course Overview and Introduction; Ideas of Nature  
Read McKibben, Steffen et al.

**5/30:** Ideas of Nature (continued)  
Read Weisman, Merchant, Francis, Snyder, Leopold
6/4: Environmentalism and Environmental Movements  
Read Muir, Carson, Bullard, Gottlieb

6/6: Critiques of Environmentalism  
Read Nordhaus and Shellenberger, Guha, Baviskar  
Quiz #1

6/11: Population and Consumption  
Read Malthus, Taylor & Buttel, Chertow, Daily & Ehrlich

6/13: Population and Consumption (continued)  
Read McDonough & Braungart, Maniates, Kolankiewicz  
Quiz #2

6/17: FIRST ESSAY ASSIGNED

6/18: Public Goods and Collective Action  
Read Hardin, Ostrom, Petrzelka & Bell

6/20: Public Goods and Collective Action (continued)  
Read Van Vugt, Hourdequin, Adler

6/24: FIRST ESSAY DUE

6/25: Managing Public Goods - Fisheries; Values and Justice  
Read Pauly, Ranada (PDFs on NYU Classes), Goodin, Passmore (from book)  
Optional: Thoreau

6/27: Values and Justice; Environmental Controversies  
Read Holland, Schlosberg, Owen, Abbey  
Quiz #3

7/1: SECOND ESSAY ASSIGNED

7/2: Environmental Controversies; the Anthropocene  
Read Borlaug, Berry, Allenby, Keith  
Quiz #4

7/4: No class (July 4 holiday)

FINAL ESSAY DUE MONDAY, JULY 8 by 11:59 p.m.