New Elective Course

SOC 225: Society and Ecology

This course will introduce students to sociological approaches to understanding the relationship between society and ecology. The scope ranges from philosophical engagements with the distinction between nature and culture, to understanding perceptions and impacts of environmental change, to examining institutions and social structures that shape our engagement with nature. The course will familiarize students with the wide range of issues that animate the field, and examine some of the key debates by engaging with ethnographic work and specific case studies.

1. Social ecology
   a) Mapping the field
   b) Ideas of Natures

2. Explaining environmental degradation
   a) Population, consumption, development
   b) Disasters, hazards and risk

3. Environmentalism
   a) Environment and social movements
   b) Environmental justice: gender, class, caste, race

4. Environmental governance and Institutions
   a) State, community, commons
   b) Global environmental governance (problems, institutions, policies, politics)

Suggested Readings:


27. Rangarajan, Mahesh and K. Sivaramakrishnan (2014) *Shifting Grounds: People, Animals and Mobility in India’s Environmental History*. Oxford University Press, Delhi (Chapters 1, 9, 10, 11).


