DILLA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**Module Name**: Environment and Society **Module ECTS**: 5 ECTS

**Module Code**: SocM3171 **Total Module Study Hour**: 135 hours

**Course Name**: Environmental Sociology **Module Instructor**: Oliyad.M

**Course code**: SOCI3171 **Academic Year**: 2018

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**Course Name**: Environmental Sociology **Module Instructor**: Fekadu Israel

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**Module/Course Description**

This module introduces students to the general discipline of environmental sociology, which deals with the interaction between environment and society. It starts by introducing the focus of the discipline and how it benefits from classical sociological theories. It also covers a wide range of contemporary theoretical approaches that explain environmental degradation as well as theories of modernism and environmental improvement. In the same vein, the debate between Realism and Constructionism as well as the application of the latter in environmental discourses will be discussed in detail. At the end, it will provide insights into current environmental problems (globally, regionally and locally), their causes and possible solutions.

**Module/Course Objectives**

This module intends to familiarize students with the relationship between society and the ecosystem of which we are a part. Accordingly, it addresses important themes so as to make possible a deeper understanding of the reciprocal interaction.

**Module / Course Competency**

Upon completion of this module, students will:

 Clearly understand the emergence of environmental sociology and its foci

 Identify the contributions of classical sociological pioneers to environmental sociology

 Comprehend stance, strengths and limitations of major contemporary theoretical approaches to ES

 Well-versed with various environmental discourses, their sources and their role in the construction of environmental problems

 Comprehend key tasks in the social construction of environmental problems and strategies for the successful construction of environmental problems

 Understand the role of media, scientists and local people in the construction of environmental problems

 Be familiarized with the research themes in environmental sociology

**Course Contents**

 **Section one: Introducing environmental sociology: Definition, emergence, and focus of** environmental sociology as well as classical sociological theory and the environment.

 **Section two: Contemporary theoretical approaches to environmental sociology:** *Explanations for environmental degradation/ destruction, theories of modernism and environmental improvement and the acrimonies debate between realism and Constructionism.*

 **Section three: Environmental discourse:** *definition and typology of environmental discourse*

 **Section four:** *Discourse, power relations and political ecology: Discourse and political ecology, and water privatization*

 **Section five: Social construction of environmental issues and problems***: Key tasks in the social construction of environmental problems, audiences for environmental claims and mechanisms for the successful construction of environmental problems.*

 **Section six: Media and environmental communication*:*** Manufacturing news, media discourse, *Mass-mediated environmental discourse* and c*onstructing winning environmental accounts in the media.*

 **Section seven: Science, scientists and environmental problems:** *Science and the construction of environmental problems and science and environmental policy*

**Section eight: Risk*:*** *Risk and culture, sociological perspective on risk and power and the social construction of environmental risk*

 **Section nine**: **Biodiversity loss:** *Factors for the rise of biodiversity loss as a major environmental problem and the social construction of biodiversity loss*

 **Section ten: An emergence model of environment and society**

 **Section eleven: Environmental problems in Ethiopia**

**Mode of Delivery and Study Hour**

The mode of delivery for this course is interactive teaching and learning, independent learning and collaborative learning. The total study hours allocated for this course is 135 hours: Lectures (30 Hrs), assignments (19 Hrs), presentation (15 Hrs), tutorials and problem solving sessions (20 Hrs), independent study (35 Hrs) and assessment (16 Hrs).

**Mode of Assessment**

- **Assignment (**20%: write up 10% and presentation10%): Students will select a research topic concerning societal-environmental interaction, conduct primary sources based mini-research in either rural or urban villages of nearby Zones and submit the findings of their work. - **Tests** (20%), **Quiz (**10%) and **Final Examination (50%).**

**Reading Materials**

Dunlap, R. E. and Michelson, W. (eds) (2002) Handbook of Environmental Sociology, Westport,

 CT: Greenwood press

Hannigan, John (2006) Environmental Sociology. USA and Canada: Routledge

Jarson Clay (2004) World Agriculture and the environment: A commodity by commodity impacts

 and practices. World Wildlife Fund. Washington: Island press

OkbazghiYohannes (2008) Water Resources and inter-riparian relations in the Nile-Basin: The

 search for an integrative discourse. USA: State university of New York Press

Milton, Kay (1996) Exploring the role of anthropology in environmental discourse. London: Rout

 ledge / Taylor and Francis Group.

Pak Sum Low (2005) Climate Change and Africa. Cambridge University Press

Picou, Steven(1999) Theoretical Trends in Environmental Sociology: Implications for Resource

 Management in the Modern World. Paper presented at the Social and Economic Planning

 Conference, minerals management services. Utah

Sutton, W (2004) Nature, Environment and Society. Palgrave Macmillan

Thomson, Mames T. (1992) A framework for analysing institutional incentives in community

 forestry – Executive summary page v-x.Food and Agriculture Organization. Rome.

YerasworkAdmassie (1997) Social and Institutional Issues Relevant for Environmentally Sound

 Natural Resource Management in Ethiopia. A Discussion Paper Prepared for the Africa

 Regional Environmental Assessment Training Course Ethiopia for USAID Partners