窗体顶端

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**Introduction to Research Methods in Environmental Sociology**

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本科生 硕士生

Undergraduate Master

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English

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Introduction to Sociology or equivalent

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Lecture, discussion, and debate in class

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(1) Attendance and participation 10%  
(2) Mid-term Paper 30%  
(3) Final Paper 60%

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2 credits

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Chenyang Xiao，Dr. Xiao earned his BA at Peking University, Beijing, MA at University of Toledo, Ohio, USA and Ph.D. in sociology at Washington State University, Washington, USA. He joined the Department of Sociology at American University as an assistant professor on the tenure track (to be promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure in April-May, 2014). His main research interests include environmental beliefs, attitudes, behaviors and public opinion over environmental issues. He is also interested in applied social statistics and quantitative research methodology. Dr. Xiao's current project compares the USA and China in terms of environmental concern.

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This course is an introduction to the common research methods, and the methodology behind them, in the field of environmental sociology. Environmental sociology seeks to understand the interaction between human society and the natural environment with a focus on the causes and consequences of various environmental problems. This course covers topics including the basics of research methodology such as common problems in human inquiry and logics of science, the issues of measurement and sampling in environmental sociology research, as well as specific methods of data collection and analysis such as survey, field research, quantitative and qualitative analyses. It is designed to have a broad coverage, but will have more emphasis on the specific methods. This course has several objectives: the main objective is to get a grasp of basic concepts and logics of research methods so that you can become a trained reader and evaluator of research reports in environmental sociology. Students will also practice the art of research methods by applying them to an actual research question. So the second objective is for students to design a feasible research in the form of a research proposal. Finally, the third objective is to understand the basics of data analysis.

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Week One  
Class One: introduction of teacher/students and the course, course setup. Why study research methods? The field of environmental sociology  
Class two: The basic logics of research methodology, the nature of science.   
Week Two  
Class Three: the structure of a research, elements of a research including unit of analysis, variables, relationships, hypothesis, and overall design  
Class Four: measurement and sampling in environmental sociology  
Week Three  
Class Five: the use of survey in environmental sociology  
Class Six: the use of field research in environmental sociology  
Week Four  
Class Seven: research using available data, quantitative and qualitative, in environmental sociology  
Class Eight: data processing, analysis, and interpretation

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Singleton, Royce A., Jr. and Straits, Bruce C. 2010. Approaches to Social Research, Fifth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

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Gould, Kenneth A. and Tammy L. Levis. 2009. Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology. New York: Oxford University Press.  
Various Journal Articles

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