Introduction
Greetings and welcome to my Sociology class. You have enrolled in a very interesting and important course of study. Environmental Sociology is a more recent discipline in sociology, but one that is crucial in understanding how everything that is social effects the Earth’s physical environment and in turn, how the Earth’s environment effects everything that is social – meaning ‘humans’. It doesn’t matter if you are a global warming “believer” or a “denier” – this course is a sociological study of how the environment and humans interact and the effect each has on the other. After reading the message below, please feel free to email me with any questions karith.meyers@canyons.edu. I welcome and encourage emails prior to the first day of class and throughout the duration of this course.

Course Description
Students enrolled in this online sociology course will study the topic of society and the social issues of environment. This course examines the interconnections between the social and biological features of society, as well as the sociological ramifications of environmental policies and cultural practices. Throughout this term, we will explore issues of sustainability in relation to patterns of human consumption, production of waste, economic factors, social policy, globalization, alternative energy sources, as well as the short-term and long-term environmental effects. The approach I use in teaching sociology is to make the connection of everything you learn in this course, as it is relevant to your everyday life. Upon completing this course, students will have a much deeper understanding of the social effect on Earth’s environment as well as the environment’s effect on human life.

Student Learning Objectives

- Analyze the interconnections between, and effects of, cultural practices, social policies, and human lifestyles on the environment.
- Evaluate environmental justice as related to diversity issues of class, race, ethnicity, and region.

Textbook information

This text is available for purchase or rental at the COC Library, visit coc.bncollege.com. However, you may consider shopping this item online! Please purchase the 5th edition.

The text for this course is a mandatory requirement. All course assignments are directly connected to the readings assigned in this text, in addition to weekly PowerPoint lectures, video/TED Talks/documentaries and extra readings.
Other relevant course information

**Canvas**

The course can be accessed via Canvas at [cv.canyons.edu](http://cv.canyons.edu) on the first day of the course. Follow the login instructions at the bottom of the screen to log in. Here, you can also access Canvas user guides with helpful tips for navigating and using Canvas. For any Canvas related issues please call the Canvas Student Support line at (661)362-3344 during college business hours, or (877)889-9052 for 24/7 support.

**Surviving an Online Course:**

Please be advised that the pace will be intense and you must strive to not fall behind. It is crucial to adhere to all deadlines. It is very difficult to catch up if you fall behind.

Remember, that for each full term online three-unit sociology class, you should expect to spend nine hours per week on class. This includes reading, taking exams, quizzes, assignment and projects. Online classes require a high level of self-discipline and self-motivation on the part of the student. Having these qualities will help you to be successful in this course. I want you to succeed in this course and you must possess these qualities to be a successful sociology distance learner. Importantly, this course requires that you have regular and daily access to a computer for completing all course work and in communicating with me and with your fellow students. College of the Canyons has many computers for your use at the library, The Learning Center (TLC) and the ASG computer lab. Public libraries may also have computers for use; however, the time allowed on those may be restricted or limited.

The content of this course is the same as traditional classroom courses that I teach. The only differences are that you will not be attending lectures and you will submit your work online via CANVAS. Everyone enrolled in the course is required to participate in class discussions. Exams for online courses are open book and there is a time restriction for how long you may spend on the exam. Therefore, you should still take these exams very seriously and study prior to the exam date. I will also require writing assignments for all online courses.

**Waitlist**

If you are on my waitlist I will contact you at the COC email address you have on MyCanyons, if and when I have an opening. I will only add students from the waitlist and in the order listed on the waitlist. You do not need to contact me unless I offer you a space. If I do offer you a space, you will need to contact me within 24-hours to accept. You will then need to add and pay for the class immediately since it may take up to 48 hours for you to appear in CANVAS. Typically I have a syllabus-screening quiz that is due at the beginning of the course. I will use this quiz to drop students who are not active in class. If I add you after the quiz due date, you will need to work with me on an extension or exemption on the points.

**Contacting Me**

During this course, you can contact me directly through email and I will return your message within 24-72 hours. I do not regularly listen to or respond to voicemail communication, so please email me if you should have questions.

**Office Hours**

As this is an online class, my office hours are virtual. Please email me questions and we can communicate back and forth in that manner or visit the Student Café Discussion in this course CANVAS every Thursday between 9-10am for online office hours.

I am happy that you have decided to take this course – it will be a fun and important learning experience. If you have any questions prior to the beginning of the semester, please feel free to contact me via email at Karith.meyers@canyons.edu.
Additional Resources

**Distance Learning**
Check out the [Distance Learning website](#) for more information on a variety of topics that can help you be a successful online student such as: exam proctoring, learning styles, computer skills, and tips for student success. If this is your first online course, feel free to take our [online learning readiness assessment](#) to assess your skills.

**The Learning Center (TLC)**
The TLC provides FREE tutoring resource to COC students including:
- Face-to-face & ONLINE tutoring
- Testing Center: offers test proctoring services for courses that have required proctored exams
- Study Jam Review Sessions
- Computers with over 300 software programs
For more information visit the [TLC Website](#).

**Disabled Students Program & Services (DSPS)**
College of the Canyons DSPS provides educational services and access for eligible students with documented disabilities who intend to pursue coursework at COC. A variety of programs and services are available which afford eligible students with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of the college programs and activities through appropriate and reasonable accommodations. For more information on their services visit the [Disabled Students Program & Services website](#).

**Online Counseling**
The Counseling Department offers appointments online. You can schedule an appointment by visiting the [Online Counseling website](#). Counselors can help you map out a plan to reach your educational goals as well as advise you on course selection and registration.

**MANAGEMENT OF STRESS AND MENTAL HEALTH:**

Often the pressure on our students is very strong, involving academic commitments, relationships, outside jobs and family pressure to name a few. The staff and faculty of College of the Canyons are here to see you succeed academically and care about your emotional and physical health. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential student services, including counseling and mental health services available on campus by visiting the Student Health & Wellness Center in the Student Services Building (across from the bookstore) or by clicking [here](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/Health/Pages/default.aspx). The phone number is **661-362-3259**. At the Canyon Country Campus the Health Center is in 1B adjacent to Administration, Admissions and Records.

Also, the **National Suicide Hotline number is 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)**. All students at COC are encouraged to enter that phone number in their cells. You can it call when you, or someone you know, is having thoughts of suicide or is in severe distress.