



**Environmental Sociology**  
**DSOC 3240 (SOC 3240, STS 3241)**  
**MW 2:55pm - 4:10pm**  
**Instructor: John Zinda**

How do mountains and rivers make people do things?

Can human well-being and environmental integrity coexist?

What is nature, anyway?

When will people see eye to eye on climate change?

Humans have fraught relationships with the animals, plants, land, water—even geological processes—around us. We struggle over who gets to use what, which resources to use or to keep intact, what scientific claims are true and worthy of action. We come together to revere, conserve, protect the things many call nature.

Every environmental concern is on some level a social concern. And more social concerns than we often realize are environmental concerns. In this course, we will examine how people make and respond to environmental change and how groups of people form, express, fight over, and work out environmental concerns. We will probe how population change, economic activity, government action, social movements, and changing ways of thinking shape human-environmental relationships. Through these conversations, we'll explore possibilities for rich and durable ways of living together in our social and material world.

