

SOCI 101

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

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**SOCIOLOGY.MORRISVILLE.EDU
> SOCI 101**

It's possible to love someone
And not treat them in the way that you want
It's possible to see your eyes
Be the devil in disguise with another front
And, it's possible to change this world
Revolutionize the boys and girls
It's possible to educate
The next generation that will rule the world someday
Creating a world for the open minded
A unique perception of truth inside it
I know we could find it
It's just a matter of where and when we collectively decide it
The world is not a vicious place
It's just the way we've been raised
Discovering time and space
I know that we could make a change
Rearrange the way that we appreciate the world today
...it's possible to love someone...

Artist: DubFX
Song: Love Someone
Album: Everythinks A Ripple

Theme: Population and Environment

Is it luck that I love this crazy place, the human race?
Don't get me wrong I still think we could change
But this life and the fact that time exists
And were here and we don't come equipped with it all
Half the fun is learning and I'm having a ball
While the world keeps turning my role is small
But I'll make a change
I hope you're feeling the same way
I hope you're seeing what I say



Theme: Society and Environment Artist: Counting Crows
Song: Big Yellow Taxi
Album: Hard Candy

They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot
With a pink hotel, a boutique
And a swinging hot spot
Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
'Til its gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot

They took all the trees
Put 'em in a tree museum
And they charged the people
A dollar and a half just to see 'em

Hey farmer, farmer
Put away that D.D.T. now
Give me spots on my apples
But leave me the birds and the bees
Please!



Environmental Sociology

1. Resources: The Logic and Limits of Growth

a. The **logic of growth** thesis holds that **more powerful technology has improved lives** and new discoveries will continue to do so in the future. We can overcome overuse. **Economic growth** is the most important value in this model.

But, "progress" can lead to unexpected problems:

b. The **limits of growth** thesis suggests:

- Natural resource development today exceeds the Earth's **carrying capacity**;

- We cannot invent our way out of problems because technological "solutions" frequently present further problems;

- We must seek to control population & limit damage to the environment (growth must have limits)



Environmental Sociology

2. The list of environmental problems related to social development is long:

- Waste Disposal ([Toxic](#); [2](#), and [Non-Toxic](#); [GPPG](#))
- Water supply [pollution](#) and [scarcity](#) [2](#)
- Acid Rain [1](#) | [2](#)
- [Oil Spill Contaminations](#)
- Air pollution [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#)
- [Ocean Acidification](#)
- [Reduction in biodiversity](#) (species extinction)
[Are we undergoing another mass extinction?](#)
[Evidence](#) of link between sea-level rise and extinction

3. [Climate Change](#)

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Population increases in recent years in combination with **Industrialization** related to **Urbanization** has created global environmental impacts. The most wide-ranging effects have been related to global **Climate Change**.

3. **Climate Change** (i.e. "Global Warming")

An increase in CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and other greenhouse gasses (GHG's) over the past century has been observed, and it is hypothesized that this is a result of industrialization (chiefly [due to the burning of fossil fuels](#)).

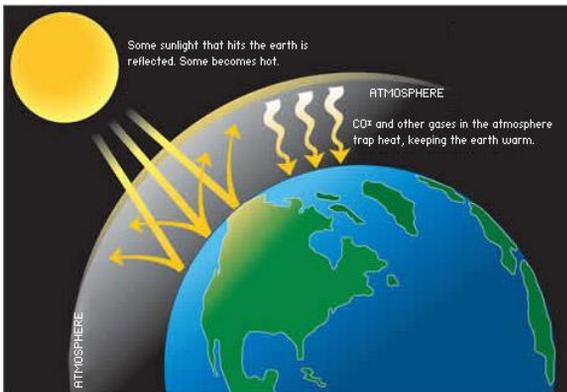
Environmental Sociology

Because of an increase in CO₂ and other industrial gasses, **the earth's temperature has increased in the past century due to the "greenhouse effect."**

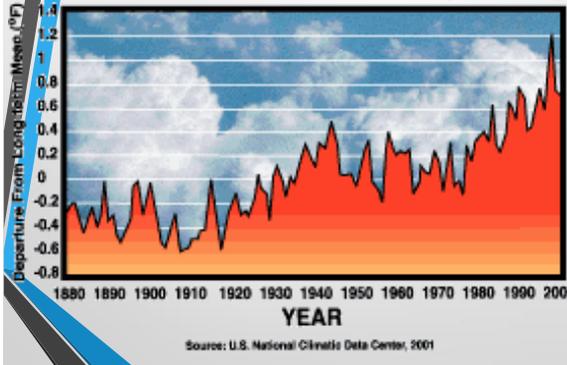
The greenhouse effect warms the atmosphere by trapping heat radiation near the earth's surface.

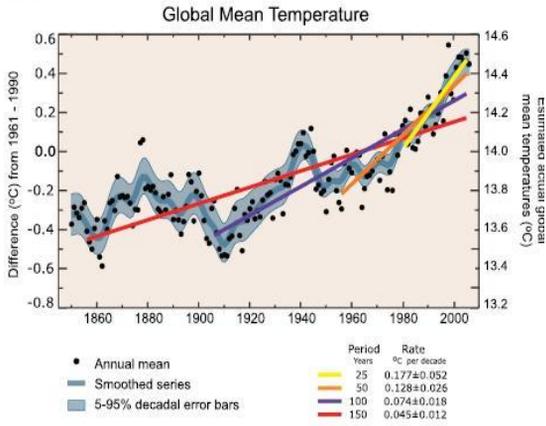
[Human industrialization is clearly linked to the greenhouse effect.](#)

The Greenhouse Effect

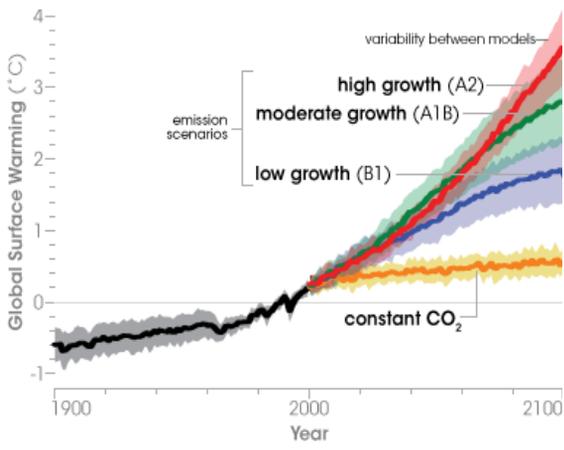


GLOBAL TEMPERATURE CHANGES (1880-2000)









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4. Known Consequences of Climate Change:

- [coastal flooding](#) (costs: insurance, development)
- [ice sheet and glacial melting](#) (cost: water shortages)
- [extreme storms](#) (costs: insurance, devo., lives)
- [climate pattern change](#) (costs: lifestyle, crops)
- [drought and forest fires](#) (costs: devo., insur., lives)

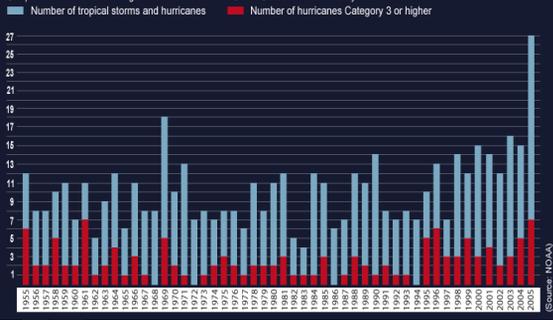
Potential solutions: International agreement to [reduce industrial emissions](#) linked to warming.

The [Kyoto Protocol](#) is one such agreement, created in 1997. Though an original member, the U.S. is the only industrialized nation which is currently not part of this agreement, yet we [produce 26% of the CO₂](#). Climate [talks continued](#) in [Durban, South Africa](#) in 2011. and in [Paris, France, in 2015](#). Trump seeks to remove the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement.

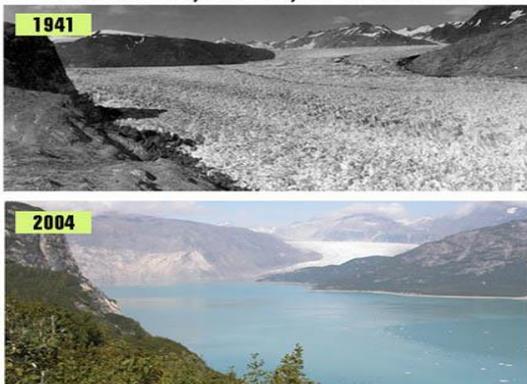


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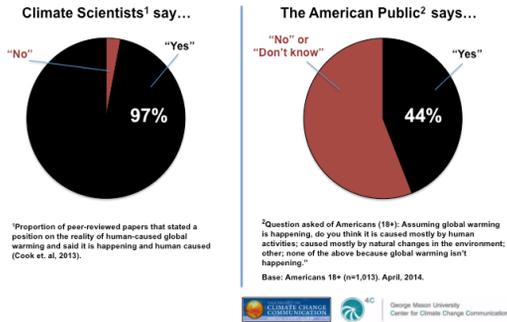
Compare the number and strength of hurricanes to hit the United States over the last 50 years



Muir Glacier, Alaska, 1941 and 2004



Is Global Warming Happening and Mostly Human Caused?



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5. What might resolve these environmental crises and others that could arise in the future?

a. Education and Awareness

For example, in 2014 only 63% of Americans believe that climate change is happening, and only 48% believe it is connected to human development (compared to 99% of climate scientists)! Why? [Politics](#).

b. Social Reorganization

Not just technological change (reliance on new energies and a synthesized approach to science technology and society), but real social change (new norms, roles, institutions and cultures).
cf. the [Ecological Justice Movement](#)

"We are living beyond our means. As a people we have developed a lifestyle that is draining the earth of its priceless and irreplaceable resources without regard for the future of our children and people all around the world."
-- Margaret Mead (1901-78),
American anthropologist

"Our technology has surpassed our humanity." -- Albert Einstein

"Ecological catastrophe is as evil as white supremacist catastrophe, male supremacist catastrophe..."

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6. With all these problems, does hope exist in a world out of balance? Yes!

a. Hope exists in the knowledge of the individual:

People should act according to their "calling"; study the *Social Problems (SOCI 201)* that worry you in order to fix them.

"Be the change you want to see in the world." - Anon

SELF

b. Hope exists in the "public sphere" of society:

free people can act together in collective projects and *Social Movements* -- (*SOCI 360*) to foster positive social change.

"Freedom is what you do with what's been done to you."
-- Jean Paul Sartre, French philosopher (1905-1980)

SOCIETY

Environmental Sociology

Q: Does hope exist in a world out of balance?

A: Yes!

c. **Participatory Sociology** opens the door to critically examining your self, your society, and the relationship between the two.

Biography / **Self** ← (institutions, roles, norms, etc.) → **Society** / History

The Sociological Perspective

can help **build the new communities** needed in the 21st century to **overcome the injustices and social problems** constructed in the last century.
