



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

NHSA 417: Sociology of the Environment

END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

APRIL/MAY 2026

LECTURER: Mrs C RAPANDO

DURATION: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper contains **TWO** sections (Section A and Section B).
2. Section A is **COMPULSORY**.
3. Answer **ANY TWO (2) questions** from Section B.
4. Start each question on a new page in your booklet.
5. Credit will be awarded for logical, systematic and neat presentation
6. Do not repeat material.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

INSTRUCTION: *Answer Question 1.*

Question 1

You notice that a rapidly growing city is struggling with waste management and its informal settlements are seen to be lacking proper sanitation, and waste is burned openly, causing health and environmental hazards. Municipal authorities blame population growth on the mess being witnessed.

Apply theories of urbanization, inequality, governance, and consumption to explain this crisis and discuss sustainable alternatives. **[40 Marks]**

SECTION B

INSTRUCTION: *Answer ANY TWO (2) questions.*

Question 2

- a) Define sociology of the environment and explain how it differs from natural science approaches to environmental problems. **[10 marks]**
- b) Discuss the concept of nature as a social construct. **[20 marks]**

Question 3

Critically examine any two classical sociological perspectives on nature and show how they inform contemporary environmental sociology. **[30 marks]**

Question 4

Compare William R. Catton Jr's Human Exemptionalism Paradigm and Riley E. Dunlap's New Environmental Paradigm and evaluate their relevance today. **[30 marks]**

Question 5

Environmental values and belief systems have a mutual relationship. With reference to this statement, discuss the role of religion, ethics, and indigenous knowledge in shaping environmental worldviews. **[30 marks]**

END OF PAPER