1. Schnaiberg, Foster, and O’Connor each offer a Marxist or neo-Marxist approach to addressing environmental issues. Explain and compare their perspectives highlighting the points of convergence and divergence among the schools of thought. What remedies might each propose to the respective crises they identify?

2. What are the theoretical bases and major claims of the Ecological Modernization Theory regarding potential sustainability of 21st century societies? How are EMT’s claims tested? Address critiques of EMT brought by eco-feminists, cultural theorists, political economists and world systems theorists. How has EMT been modified in response to criticism leveled by opponents? Do these modifications address the theoretical criticisms?

3. Environmental sociologists pose various explanations for the causes environmental degradation. Compare and contrast how eco-Marxist, eco-feminist, cultural theorists, and environmental justice theorists perceive the causes of and potential responses to environmental degradation. Include an analysis of the epistemological, methodological, and empirical perspectives marshaled by each.

4. The environmental justice movement encompasses a multitude of theoretical perspectives. Describe the emergence, development, and diversity of perspectives within the environmental justice movement. Discuss the perceived shortfalls of the various branches of the environmental justice movement (e.g. its alleged lack of a theoretical foundation and its anthropocentrism) and their proposals for environmental sustainability.

6. In what ways is global food security an environmental problem? Examine the relationship between food security and environmental degradation through eco-Marxism, eco-feminism, environmental justice and ecological modernization perspectives. How do each frame the relationship, marshal evidence, respond to criticism, and propose solutions to the problematic relationship between global food security and environmental sustainability?

7. Eco-Feminists argue that patriarchy and a desire to dominate women, nature, and people of color is fundamental to environmental degradation while neo-Marxists contend that ecological destruction is primarily a function of capitalist structures. Explain the positions of each perspective including an analysis of the debates among the central eco-Feminist and eco-Marxist subgroups. Which of these two overarching perspectives best explain the foundations of environmental degradation?

8. Examine the debate between cultural sociologists and political economists regarding whether individual-based consumption or industrial-level production is more significant in explaining environmental degradation. Which of these two perspectives best explains why people engage in increasing levels of consumption within late capitalist societies?
Books (25):


Articles & Chapters (100):


