ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ANALYSIS

Instructor: Dr. Jamie Brownlee
Classroom: LA A220
Class Time: 8:35-11:25 Monday
Office: Loeb B340
Office Hours: 11:30-12:30 Monday (or by appointment)
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Pre-requisites: Fourth year standing in Environmental Studies, Geography or permission of the department

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course critically examines how environmental policies are connected to global capitalism, domestic and international political systems, relations of power and inequality, and the institutional structure of the modern corporation. Throughout the course, we will explore how the development, implementation and effectiveness of environmental policies (both in Canada and around the world) are shaped and controlled by elite interests and institutions. We will look specifically at how transnational corporations; states and governments; international regulatory bodies; the mass media, the advertising and public relations industries; and scientists and researchers shape policy, including to specific issues such as climate change, resource extraction, biodiversity, agriculture and water management. We will also discuss our own role as citizens and consumers in influencing the policy-making process. Finally, the course will review a range of proposed policy and other solutions – from market reforms and ‘green capitalism’ to broader institutional transformations – to environmental problems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will encourage students to think critically about the social, economic and political conditions that underlie environmental policies and problems. How are current ecological challenges – and the policy responses to them – connected to our social and intellectual history? How and why are current institutional structures at the root of environmental degradation? What are the links between the policy-making process, struggles over power and resources, and growing economic inequality? At a more general level, this course will challenge students to identify their beliefs and assumptions about the social and the political world, and to identify opportunities for engagement with these issues beyond the boundaries of the classroom.
**Course Texts and Reading Materials:**


Both of these books are available at Octopus Books (116 Third Avenue).

Please note that all other assigned readings will be available through cuLearn.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

1. **Class Participation, Presentations and Attendance**  
   25%

This is a reading intensive course. Students are strongly encouraged to keep up with the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. This is also a student-driven course, meaning that students are expected to be active participants. The grade for this requirement will be distributed over a variety of kinds of participation throughout the term, including class participation, attendance and a presentation.

Presentation: Seminar participants will be expected to present on the readings and facilitate seminar discussions once during the term. The presentations will begin the second class. The purpose of the presentations is to briefly review and analyze the main arguments and themes presented in the readings, and then stimulate class discussion. Oral presentations should be approximately 15 minutes.

2. **Short Assignment, Due in Class February 13th**  
   20%

This paper will give students the opportunity to analyze the state of knowledge around a particular ecological problem and set of corresponding environmental policies. The paper should be approximately 6-7 double-spaced pages. Additional details to follow in class.

3. **Critical Reaction Paper**  
   20%

The critical reaction paper will involve writing a critically reflective piece of approximately 6-7 double-spaced pages on all of the readings from one of the weeks during the term. The paper should briefly summarize some of the main arguments of the readings and then analyze the arguments within them. The point of the paper is to allow for a more sustained engagement with a topic that especially interests you. No other sources are expected to be used in the writing of this paper. Please note that for the critical reaction paper: (i) students are required to choose one of the weeks when they are not presenting on the readings; (ii) students are required to choose a set of readings from one of the first 11 weeks (not the final week); and (iii) papers are due in class on the selected week.

4. **Final Paper, Due in Class April 3rd**  
   35%

Students will select their own topic, understanding that it must be relevant to the issues addressed in the course. While the paper can engage with some of the weekly readings, it must also reference additional academic sources. Papers will be graded on the quality of your research, strength of your arguments and analysis, and your ability to situate your arguments within existing debates. Students are encouraged to discuss paper ideas with me at any point during the term. The final paper should be approximately 15 double-spaced pages.
GRADES

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p. 45), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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\begin{align*}
A+ & = 90-100 & B+ & = 77-79 & C+ & = 67-69 & D+ & = 57-59 \\
A & = 85-89 & B & = 73-76 & C & = 63-66 & D & = 53-56 \\
A - & = 80-84 & B - & = 70-72 & C - & = 60-62 & D - & = 50-52 \\
F & = Below 50 & WDN & = Withdrawn from the course
\end{align*}
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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website, here: http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at http://www.carleton.ca/equity/. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy Obligation:
Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Religious Obligation:
Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca PMC) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/academic-integrity/).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS. The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students.

What are the Procedures?

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level, then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS

Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): www.carleton.ca/sasc
Writing Tutorial Services: http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): http://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/
COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK ONE – JANUARY 9TH
COURSE INTRODUCTION: FACING THE ANTHROPOCENE

- Introduction to the course: themes, readings and assignments
- Presentation schedule

READINGS


WEEK TWO – JANUARY 16TH
OUR EXTRACTIVIST LEGACY: THE ENCLOSURE OF THE COMMONS, PRIVATE PROPERTY AND THE RISE OF CAPITALISM

READINGS


WEEK THREE – JANUARY 23RD
THE EXTERNALIZING MACHINE: CORPORATE PERSONHOOD AND ENVIRONMENTALISM

READINGS

WEEK FOUR – JANUARY 30TH
CAPITALISM VERSUS NATURE: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF CAPITAL ACCUMULATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GLOBALIZATION

READINGS


WEEK FIVE – FEBRUARY 6TH
GLOBAL WARMING IS GOOD FOR YOU: THE PUBLIC RELATIONS INDUSTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

READINGS


WEEK SIX – FEBRUARY 13TH
ECONOMIC INEQUALITY, CONSUMER CULTURE AND CORPORATE ‘GREENWASH’

READINGS


*READING WEEK*
WEEK SEVEN – FEBRUARY 27TH
A WAR ON SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES OF THE HARPER GOVERNMENT

READINGS


WEEK EIGHT – MARCH 6TH
CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON BUBBLES AND TAR SANDS

READINGS


WEEK NINE – MARCH 13TH
THE CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL INDUSTRY

READINGS


WEEK TEN – MARCH 20TH
THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, ECOCIDE AND MODERN WARFARE

READINGS


WEEK ELEVEN – MARCH 27TH
BACK TO BASICS: FOOD AND WATER ON A WARMING PLANET

READINGS


WEEK TWELVE – APRIL 3RD
ECO-POLITICS, SOCIAL CHANGE AND THE MODERN ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

READINGS

