

COURSE OUTLINE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE SOUTH (GEOG 3209)

Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, 2013

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Lectures: Mondays, 11.35-14.25, Southam Hall 409

TA:

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course uses a political ecology approach to examine human-environment interactions in urban and rural areas in the global south. The course explores the complexity of sustainability and environmental issues at a variety of spatial scales ranging from the local to the global. The course addresses a number of significant contemporary social and environmental policy issues and research themes, such as: development and displacement, the transnational dimensions of environmental issues, access to water in urban areas, food security and sovereignty, urban planning and sustainability, the social production of risk, and resource extraction and conservation conflicts.

Prerequisite: Third-year standing and GEOG 2200 or GEOG 2300, or permission of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To critically examine the challenges of sustainability in the global south.
- To develop an understanding of the complex nature of human-environment interactions.
- To strengthen critical thinking, discussion and writing skills.

CLASS FORMAT

The course meets once weekly and consists of a 3-hour time slot. Classes will combine lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, case studies and audio-visual materials.

REQUIRED READINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, required readings are available through an electronic link for reserves that is posted on CuLearn. Students should bring their readings to class.

COURSE WEBSITE

A web site for this course containing the course outline, a link to access the required readings, lecture slides, assignments, course-related links, an online discussion forum and occasional announcements can be found on cuLearn. Please note that lecture slides provide only a partial summary of the material presented in class; they are not a replacement for attending class and taking notes. Your confidential grades will be posted on CuLearn as available. Please notify the tutorial assistant or instructor of any omissions and/or inaccuracies in posted grades.

COMMUNICATIONS

Please use your Carleton email account for all course-related correspondence, placing "GEOG 3209" in the subject heading.

PURPOSE OF LECTURES, ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS

Readings, lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, audio-visual materials and assignments are designed to complement each other in meeting the course's learning objectives. Required readings establish the overall theme for each class, introducing key concepts, issues and information. Class lectures expand upon the readings, clarify key terms or issues, provide additional background context and present case study material to illustrate key concepts. Lectures will also incorporate guest speakers and audio-visual materials, as appropriate. The assignments provide the opportunity to deepen understanding and analysis of course-related themes and concepts. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings in an informed manner and will be evaluated on their active participation.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Written assignments

There are two written assignments for this course, worth 35% of the total grade, or 15% (no. 1) and 20% (no. 2), respectively. Both assignments are reading-based and focus on specific themes related to course content. More detailed information on the written assignments will be distributed in class during the term, and in-class tutorials will be provided to assist students with the written assignments (see below). December 3, 2012 is the final day to submit written assignments for an undergraduate course in the Fall term.

Exams

The mid-term exam (20%) and final exam (30%) will be comprised of short and long answer questions and will test students on their understanding of key concepts, issues and arguments covered in class lectures, required readings, the reading assignments, audiovisual materials and class discussions. The two-hour mid-term exam will focus on material covered in the course between weeks 1 and 6. The three-hour final exam will focus on the entire course. In week 12, the professor will provide an exam review guide to help students to focus their exam preparation efforts.

If a student misses the mid-term exam for a *legitimate* reason (e.g. a documented illness), this will result in the re-weighting of the final exam to include the mid-term exam percentage (i.e. the final exam would then be worth 50% of the student's final grade), *only if* adequate official documentation is provided. If inadequate documentation is provided, the resulting grade assigned for a missed mid-term will be zero.

Class participation

Representing 15% of the final grade, class participation is an important part of this course. Students are expected to participate in an active and informed manner in class discussions. Students should come to each class prepared to discuss the required readings and the following questions:

- What are the main arguments and issues presented?
- What critical questions about environment and sustainability are raised?

Class participation will be evaluated by the professor based on (1) your overall contribution to class discussions during the entire semester (10%), and (2) your specific contribution as a "discussant" of the required readings in a given week (5%).

For the latter, students will be asked to sign up and serve as a discussant of the required readings for a particular week – discussants will be called upon in class to initiate class discussions related to the readings.

Please note the relevant due dates and evaluation details listed below.

Component	Distributed in class	Due at beginning of class	% of final grade
Written Assignment No. 1	Week 3 (Sept 20)	Week 6 (Oct 11)	15
Written Assignment No. 2	Week 8 (Oct 25)	Week 12 (Nov 22)	20
Mid-term Exam	The mid-term exam will take place in class in Week 7 (Oct 18)		20
Final Exam	The final exam will take place in the exam period December 6-19		30
Class Participation	Based on entire term		15

Submission, grading of assignments and late penalties

Assignments must be typed, submitted as a paper copy and adhere to the guidelines and instructions for written assignments distributed in class. Students are asked to retain a hard copy (with electronic backup) of all assignments in the event of loss. In all cases, originals should be submitted for marking purposes. All assignments must represent individual work completed on an independent basis. Plagiarism will be closely monitored and treated as an instructional offence in accordance with university policy (see below).

All written assignments are due in class on the indicated dates at the *beginning* of class.

Work submitted after the class will be considered late. Late assignments will be subject to a reduction of the overall assignment mark at the rate of 5% for each day past the indicated deadline, unless accompanied by adequate written documentation for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness). Late penalties will be enforced to ensure fairness in grading practices among all students. Although strongly discouraged, late assignments can be submitted through the drop-off slot located near the main geography office (Room B342, Loeb Building) in accordance with the drop-box policy detailed in class and posted on the course's CuLearn. If the drop-box policy is not followed, the assignment will be marked as being received the day it is picked-up from the drop-box.

Requests for a review of an assigned grade must take place in written form (e.g. by email) *within* 10 days after the class during which the assignment in question is returned. In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 56-59
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; ABS = Student absent from final exam; DEF = Deferred; FND = Failed, not Deferred (Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam). All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Please note that lecture topics, required readings and audio-visual resources are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Week 1 – September 9

Course Introduction

- Introduction to course: topics, assignments, evaluation and overall approach
- Sign-up to be a reading discussant for a particular week of the term

Week 2 – September 16

Political Ecology, Environment and Development

- What is political ecology and why is it useful for studying sustainability and the environment in the global south?

Bryant, Raymond. 2001. Political Ecology: A Critical Agenda for Change? in N. Castree and B. Braun (eds), *Social Nature: Theory, Practice and Politics*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 151-169.

Robbins, Paul. 2012. What is Political Ecology? Political versus Apolitical Ecologies in *Political Ecology* (2nd edition). Malden, MA: Blackwell, pp. 11-24.

Week 3 – September 23

Globalization, Development and Displacement

- Land rights, changing property relations and access to resources
- Global and local processes in development and displacement
- Distribution of written assignment no. 1*

Zoomers, Amelie. 2010. Globalization and the foreignisation of space: Seven processes driving the current global land grab. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 37(2): 429-447.

Roy, Arundhati. 1999. *The Greater Common Good*. Available at <http://www.narmada.org/gcg/gcg.html> (accessed August 2012).

Look at: Friends of River Narmada (<http://www.narmada.org/index.html>)
Audio-visual: Dam/age: A Film with Arundhati Roy

Week 4 – September 30

Mining and Resource Extraction

- Resource exploitation, livelihoods and displacement
- Debates about corporate social responsibility

Geneen, Sarah. 2012. A dangerous bet: The challenges of formalizing artisanal mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *Resources Policy* 37 (2012) 322–330.

MiningWatch Canada and CENSAT-Agua Viva. 2009. *Land and Conflict Resource Extraction, Human Rights, and Corporate Social Responsibility: Canadian Companies in Colombia*. Ottawa: Interpares, pp. 2-24. [Available on CuLearn]

Audio-visual: Under Rich Earth

Guest speaker: Andrea Carrión, PhD candidate, Carleton University

Week 5 – October 7

The Political Ecology of Conservation

- The enclosure of land and the appropriation of nature
- People versus parks?
- In-class tutorial for written assignment no. 1*

Adams, William and Jon Hutton. 2007. People, parks and poverty: Political ecology and biodiversity conservation. *Conservation and Society* 5(2): 147-183.

Look at: There You Go! at: <http://www.survivalinternational.org/thereyougo>

Week 6 – October 14

Environmental governance/justice and resource conflicts

- Resource privatization and “accumulation by dispossession”
- ‘Water Wars’? The political ecology of disputes over water
- Access to water in urban areas
- Written assignment no. 1 due at the beginning of class*

Perrault, Thomas. 2006. From the *Guerra Del Agua* to the *Guerra Del Gas*: Resource governance, neoliberalism and popular protest in Bolivia. *Antipode* 38(1): 150-172.
Urban Water: A Political-Ecology Perspective

Erik Swyngedouw, Maria Kaïka and Esteban Castro. 2002. Urban Water: A Political-Ecology Perspective. *Built Environment (1978-)* Vol. 28, No. 2, Water Management in Urban Areas (2002), pp. 124-137

Audio-visual: Thirst

Week 7 – October 21

Mid-Term Exam (2 hours)

Week 8 - October 28 - FALL READING BREAK– NO CLASSES

Week 9 – November 4

Rural Change and Implications for Livelihoods

- Changing relationships among people, markets, land and livelihoods
- Women's rights to resources
- Climate change adaptation and small farmers in Africa

Archer, E et al. 2008. “Farming on the edge” in arid western South Africa: Climate change and agriculture in marginal environments. *Geography* 93(2): 98-107.

Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Nancy Johnson, Agnes Quisumbing, Jemimah Njuki, Julia Behrman, Deborah Rubin, Amber Peterman, and Elizabeth Waithanji. 2011. *Gender, Assets, and Agricultural Development Programs: A Conceptual Framework*. CAPRI Working Paper 99. Washington, DC: IFPRI. 2011

Look at: The Heiveld Cooperative (<http://www.heiveld.co.za/>)

Guest speaker: Kevin Perkins, Farm Radio International (www.farmradio.org/)

Week 10 – November 11

Politics, Planning and Sustainability in Developing Cities

- The place-specific politics of resource and land management
- Politics, commercial development, housing and land use planning

Distribution of written assignment no. 2

Wakhungu, Judi, Huggins, Chris, Nyukuri, Elvin and Jane Lumumba. 2010. *Approaches to Informal Urban Settlements in Africa: Experiences from Kigali and Nairobi*. Nairobi: ACTS

Payne, Geoffrey. 2004. Land tenure and property rights: an introduction. *Habitat International* 28 (2004) 167–179

Week 11 – November 18

“Unnatural” Hazards and Uneven Urban Development

- The social production of “natural” hazards
- The materiality of urban risk and vulnerability
- In-class tutorial for written assignment no. 2*

Murray, Martin. 2009. Fire and ice: Unnatural disasters and the disposable poor in post-apartheid Johannesburg. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 33(1): 165-192.

Wamsler, Christine. 2004. Managing Urban Risk: Perceptions of Housing and Planning as a Tool for Reducing Disaster Risk *Global Built Environment Review* Vol. 4 No. 2 pp 11 – 28

Week 12 – November 25

Food Sovereignty and Food Security

- Land, food sovereignty, food security and rural development
- The geopolitics of food systems

Desmarais, Annette-Aurélie. 2002. The Vía Campesina: Consolidating an international peasant and farm movement. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 29(2): 91-124.

Huggins, Chris. 2011. *A Historical Perspective on the ‘Global Land Rush’*. Rome: International Land Coalition

Collier, Paul 2008. The politics of hunger. *Foreign Affairs* 87(6): 67-79.
Look at: Vía Campesina (<http://www.viacampesina.org/en/>)

Guest speaker: TBC

Week 13 – December 2nd

Course Review

- Course summary and exam review

Reading assignment no. 2 due at the beginning of class

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Instructional and Conduct Offences

Carleton University has clear and firm policies regarding instructional and conduct offences. Instructional offences include among other activities cheating, contravening examination regulations, plagiarism, submitting similar work in 2 or more courses without prior permission, and disrupting classes. Conduct offences apply in areas of discrimination and sexual harassment. Further information about University regulations which define and regulate these offences is presented in the 2012-2013 Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>.

Plagiarism is one kind of instructional offence. The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own."

This can include:

- Reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- Submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- Using another's data or research findings;
- Failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- Handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized.

Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/avoid-plagiarism>. This link also contains useful instructions on how to properly acknowledge sources.

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

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*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>.

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. For more details visit the Equity Services website <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>.

Pregnancy

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. For more details visit the Equity Services website <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>.