COURSE OUTLINE
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE SOUTH (GEOG 3209)
Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, 2011

Professor: Jill Wigle, PhD, MCIP
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Office hours: Tuesdays 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, or by appointment
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Lectures: Fridays, 10:35 am-1:25 pm, Tory 446
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COURSE OVERVIEW
This course takes a political ecology approach to examine the relationship between people and the environment in the global south at a variety of spatial scales, ranging from the household to the community to the global. Adopting a broad definition of the environment that includes rural and urban areas, the course deals with a number of major policy issues and research themes, such as: development and displacement, the transnational dimensions of sustainability and environmental issues, access to water in urban areas, food security and sovereignty, urban planning and sustainability, the social production of risk, and the political ecology of resource extraction and conservation. Course-related materials explore sustainability and environment issues in different urban and rural contexts.

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 appreciation of the complex nature of the relationship between people and the environment in the global south at a variety of spatial scales.
• 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, most required readings are available through on-line course reserves in the library. Chapters from books are available through short-term loan in the library, and policy reports are posted on WebCT. Students should bring their readings to class.

WEBCT
A web site for this course containing the course outline, a link to the on-line course reserve, lecture slides, assignments, course-related links, an online discussion forum and occasional announcements can be found on WebCT. 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 WebCT 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 arguments. 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 of key issues and concepts introduced in class readings, lectures and discussions. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings in an informed manner and will be evaluated on their participation (see below).

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION
Written assignments
There are two written assignments for this course: a reading-based assignment (15%) and an annotated bibliography and review essay (25%). These assignments are designed to deepen understanding and analysis of course-related themes and to help students prepare for the mid-term and final exams. More detailed information on the written assignments will be distributed in class during the term (see below). In-class tutorials will be offered in weeks 4 and 8 of the term to assist students with the written assignments. December 5, 2011 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 answer and essay questions and will test students on their critical understanding of key concepts, issues and arguments covered in class lectures, required readings, the reading assignments, audio-visual materials and class discussions. The two-hour mid-term exam will focus on material covered in the course between weeks 1 and 5. 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. 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), if accompanied by official documentation. If inadequate documentation is provided, the resulting grade assigned for a missed mid-term will be zero.

Class participation
Representing 10% 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 following questions related to the required readings:

- What is the main thesis or argument being presented?
- Why is the reading interesting, useful or significant?
- What are the implications for sustainability? The environment?
Class participation will be evaluated by the professor based on (1) your overall contribution to class discussions during the entire semester (5%), 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. For discussion purposes, discussants are asked to bring to class a paper copy of an article published in a credible newspaper (e.g. The Guardian) or online media site (e.g. CBC) that relates the required readings in a particular week to a current event or issue. Articles should be submitted to the professor (with the student’s name written on the article) at the end of the class and no later.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Distributed in class</th>
<th>Due in class</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Assignment</td>
<td>Week 3 (Sept 23)</td>
<td>Week 5 (Oct 14)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography and Review Essay</td>
<td>Week 5 (Oct 14)</td>
<td>Week 10 (Nov 18)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>The mid-term exam will take place in class in Week 6 (Oct 21)</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>The final exam will take place in the exam period December 8-21</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Based on entire term as outlined above</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Submission, grading of assignments and late penalties**

Assignments must be typed, submitted as a hard, 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. Assignments handed in late 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). There are two reasons for this policy: 1) the dates for assignments are clearly laid out in the course outline; and 2) 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 B349, Loeb Building) in accordance with the drop-box policy detailed in class and posted on the course’s WebCT. 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 and posted on WebCT. 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

Week 2 – September 16
Political Ecology and Development
• What is political ecology and why is it useful for studying sustainability and the environment in the global south?


Guest speaker: Julia Thompson, Partnership Branch, CIDA

Week 3 – September 23
Mining and Resource Extraction
• Trans-national mega-projects and local resistance
• Resource exploitation and displacement
➢ Distribution of reading assignment (due October 14)


Audio-visual: Under Rich Earth

Guest speaker: Andrea Carrión, PhD candidate, Carleton University

Week 4 – September 30
Globalization, Development and Displacement
• Land, property relations and access to natural resources
• Global and local processes in development and displacement
➢ In-class tutorial for reading assignment


*Look at:* Friends of River Narmada (http://www.narmada.org/index.html)

*Audio-visual:* Dam/age: A Film with Arundhati Roy

**There will be no class on October 7 because the university is closed.**

**Week 5 – October 14**

**The Political Ecology of Conservation**
- The enclosure of land and the appropriation of nature
- People versus parks?
  - Reading assignment due at the beginning of class; distribution of annotated bibliography and review essay assignment (due November 18)


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

*Audio-visual:* A Kalahari Family

**Week 6 – October 21**

**Mid-Term Exam** (2 hours)

**Week 7 – October 28**

**Access to Water in Urban Areas**
- Uneven urban development and access to water
- Gender, markets and water politics in Bolivia


*Audio-visual:* Thirst

**Week 8 – November 4**

**Politics, Planning and Sustainability in Mexico City**
- The inter-scalar and place-specific politics of environmental sustainability
- Politics and land use planning
  - In-class tutorial for annotated bibliography and review essay assignment


Week 9 – November 11
“Unnatural” Hazards and Uneven Urban Development
• The social production of “natural” hazards in fragmented urban environments
• Urban planning as socio-spatial regulation


Audio-visual: Climate Refugees

Week 10 – November 18
Rural Change and Implications for Livelihoods
• Changing relationships among people, land and livelihoods
• Climate change adaptation and small farmers in Africa
➢ *Annotated bibliography and review essay assignment due at the beginning of class*


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

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

Week 11 – November 25
Land, Food Sovereignty and Food Security
• What is food sovereignty and why is it important to sustainable rural development?
• The links between food security and biodiversity


Look at: Via Campesina (http://www.viacampesina.org/en/)

Week 12 – December 2
Course Review
• Course summary and exam review
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 2011-12 Undergraduate Calendar: http://www.carleton.ca/calendars/ugrad/1011/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html.

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 on plagiarism, please refer the web page “How do I... Avoid Plagiarism” (http://www.library.carleton.ca/howdoI/plagiarism.html). 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
Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.
If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: http://www2.carleton.ca PMC/PMC/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/. Contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) (Room 500, Unicentre) to register for formal evaluation of disability-related needs in order to obtain the necessary letters of accommodation.

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/.