Aims and Learning Outcomes
The basic aim of this seminar is to consider and explore some of the major themes, theories and concepts that together constitute the fields of transdisciplinary research, political economy and political ecology. We revisit some texts and contemporary applications of these epistemological, theoretical and empirical literatures. Students learning outcomes for this course include:

- to demonstrate competence in key aspects of these theorizing and research traditions.
- to develop a working knowledge of how key concepts and ideas are applied to understand contemporary developments in the links between social and biophysical territorial processes
- to develop transdisciplinary skills by linking Political Economy and Political Ecology to analyze social and biophysical territorial processes

Successful completion of this course will help students to advance transdisciplinary research projects for analyzing the links between social and biophysical processes at different territorial and temporal scales.

Organization and Assessment
The course will follow a seminar format. Students are expected to complete the required readings for each session, participate fully in the discussions, and fulfill their written assignments.

Seminars will be organized around the relevant literature for each topic. Starting in week 3, and following the powerpoint presentation by the instructor, the sessions will be organized as a roundtable discussion by all students based on their required readings and other suggested references, followed by general discussion.

The evaluation process will be structured in three modalities. The first includes a short paper critical assignment of some aspects of the theoretical literature, previously agreed with the instructor. The second focuses on the presentation in classroom of a first version of his/her own research paper, also as previously discussed with the instructor. The third modality encompasses the presentation in classroom of his/her final version of the paper.
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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Short paper critical assignment. Variable due dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Oral participation in the discussion seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>First version of the research paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Final version of the research paper and presentation</td>
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The oral participation component is assessed over the entire semester. Aspects of the student’s participation, which are graded, include the quantity of his/her comments, the familiarity which the student displays with the assigned reading material, the comprehension of the material as demonstrated by his/her comments, and the degree of value which his/her participation add to the seminar discussion. In terms of written assignments, both the outline and the essay are to be submitted via cuLearn.

The first written assignment should include secondary material where appropriate and relate the work in question to the theoretical traditions with which it engages. The MAXIMUM length of this essay is 2000 words (excluding notes and references) and it is worth 20% of the total grade. The due date for the first assignment is the second week following the presentation in the classroom.

The research paper is a longer essay on any aspect of the course literature. The topic(s) developed must be approved by the course instructor. This outline should contain the title, a brief description of the problem(s) explored, the research question(s), an indication of how the paper will be organized, a bibliography, and a summary of the intended argument. The complete research paper is due on (date).

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**WEEK 1:** INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR

**WEEK 2:** RESEARCHING TERRITORIAL PROCESSES: EPISTEMOLOGICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

**Required readings:**


Other references:

WEEK 3: QUALITATIVE and QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

Required readings:

WEEK 4: POLITICAL ECONOMY: Introduction

Required readings:

Other references:
WEEK 5: POLITICAL ECONOMY, PUBLIC POLICIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Required readings:

Other References:

WEEK 6. POLITICAL ECONOMY and the NEW INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS

Required readings:

Other references:


WEEK 7: POLITICAL ECOLOGY: INTRODUCTION

Required readings:

Other References:
United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity. 1992

WEEK 8: POLITICAL ECOLOGY: Analyzing ecosystems

Required Readings:
Nelson, Gerald C. et al. 2006. “Anthropogenic Drivers of Ecosystem Change: an overview”, DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska – Lincoln (http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/agronomyfacpub/364)
WEEK 9: POLITICAL ECOLOGY: Methodological perspectives

Required readings:

Other References:
- United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity. 1992

WEEK 10: TERRITORIAL ANALYSES: time and space

Required readings:


Other References:


WEEK 11. RENTIER STATES, NEO-EXTRACTIVISM AND TERRITORIAL RIGHTS

Required readings:


Other references:


WEEK 12: NORMATIVE GOALS: Human Rights, Empowerment and Self-managed organizations

Required readings:


**Other References:**


