

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4PE3
GLOBAL POLITICAL ECOLOGY
Autumn 2019

Instructor: Professor Robert O'Brien
Email: obrienr@mcmaster.ca
Class: Wednesdays 7:00-10:00 pm
Room: LRW 3001

Office: KTH 519
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30-12:00, 6:30-7:00 or by appointment.

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Course Description

The planet is facing a multi-faceted ecological crisis. The goal of this course is to help you develop a better understanding of the nature of the crisis and the politics that surrounds it. To do this, we examine the interaction of the political economy of global capitalism with the natural environment. We begin the course by introducing ourselves to the field of political ecology and how the environmental crisis might reshape our view of global politics. Following weeks will explore particular themes such as: the problem of consumption; indigenous political ecologies; violence and racism; the production and consumption of key commodities (food, tropical forests, fossil fuels) and the issues surrounding these patterns. We conclude the course by considering the big question of the compatibility of capitalism with a healthy environment. Political ecology is an interdisciplinary undertaking, so students should be prepared to read material from a number of different fields – politics, international relations, anthropology, geography, natural sciences and ecology.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Understand the theoretical implications of political ecology.
2. Articulate a view about the significance of consumption in the global economy.
3. Be familiar with the political ecologies of key commodities (food, tropical forests, fossil fuels).
4. Present written and oral findings of a research paper on a political ecology topic.

Required Materials and Texts

- Online weekly readings.

Class Format

Weeks 2 and 3: We will divide the seminar into three sections where we consider key concepts from the readings, the author's main arguments and then criticisms or discussion of the implications of the authors argument. This will require students to read articles closely and to carefully consider their content. All students will be expected to come to class with a one page document on the texts they have read. This document will contain:

1. A list of key concepts and terms.
2. A summary statement (four sentences maximum) of each author's main argument. This statement should be written in your own words as far as possible. It should not be borrowed directly from the text of the reading.
3. Three or four issues or questions in the readings that are important and merit some discussion and that you would like to be addressed in the seminar. Formulate these in the form of a question.

Summaries will be handed in at the end of the class. Students will be expected to be active participants in class discussions. This involves leading discussions, highlighting

points from the readings, engaging with the arguments of the texts, offering criticism of what you have read and asking questions about the text. Talking for the sake of talking or making irrelevant points does not contribute to your participation grade.

Weeks 4-13: Each week the seminar will be led by two or three students. Their job is to facilitate discussion. We will begin by discussing the 'In the Press' article to gauge student's initial reaction to the featured story. Discussion will then move on to the readings of the week and how they help us understand the article in more depth. Discussion should revolve around the concepts and arguments put forth in the academic articles. Students are required to submit a one page document similar to the ones submitted in weeks 2 and 3.

Week 14: Students will be divided into groups of three or four as a panel. Each student will give a 3 minute overview of their research paper by telling the seminar their research question and what they have learned to date. Panel members will respond to questions from classmates.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Seminar participation, (throughout the term) - 30%
2. Short paper, due in class Week 4 (Sept. 25) - 20%
3. Essay proposal, due in class Week 8 (Oct. 23) - 5%
4. Research presentation Week 14 (Dec. 4) - 5%
5. Research essay, one week after last class (Dec. 11) - 40%

Course Evaluation – Details

Seminar Participation (30%)

The *participation* grade covers seminar attendance, participation, weekly summary pages and seminar coordination. I will take notes on the seminar discussions. General seminar participation is out of 15. Summary notes are graded as 10 x 1 = 10; leading a discussion is marked out of 5.

Short Paper (20%), due Week 4, (Sept. 25)

Write a 1500 word essay in response to the question 'What is political ecology and how does it differ from other theoretical approaches or subjects you have studied in Political Science courses?' You will be expected to draw on the required readings from weeks 2 and 3. You may also draw upon readings you have done in other courses to supplement your answer.

Essay Proposal (5%), due Week 8, (Oct. 23)

Research paper proposal should be three pages long and include:

- proposed research question
- explanation of how it fits into course
- topics that will be addressed
- questions that need to be answered
- preliminary bibliography

Essay Presentation (5%), due Week 14, (Dec 4)

Students will give a brief (3 Minute) overview of their research topic and respond to questions from the class). They should state their research question and initial findings.

Research Essay (40%), due one week after last class (Dec. 11)

The paper should be **no longer than 4,000 words**, excluding bibliography. It must be based upon your paper outline and material beyond the course readings.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (4 Sept) Introduction

Course introduction, review of requirements and student and instructor interests and expectations.

Week 2 (Sept 11) Political Ecology

The goal this week is to gain an understanding of the basic contours of the field of political ecology. It obviously involves the study of politics and ecology, but what is meant by these terms? Are there different types of political ecology? What is the balance between the politics and the ecology? We want to learn about political ecology approaches and the debates that they foster.

Required Readings:

- Susan Paulson, Lisa Gezon and Michael Watts, 'Locating the Political in Political Ecology: An Introduction,' *Human Organization* Vol. 62, No. 3 (2003): 205-217.
- Robbins, Paul. "Political versus Apolitical Ecology. " In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Vol. 16. John Wiley & Sons, (2011). Chapter One. 1-24.
- Walker, Peter A. "Political Ecology: Where is the Ecology?" *Progress in Human Geography* 29.1 (2005): 73-82.
- Death, Carl. "Critical, Environmental, Political: An Introduction." In *Critical Environmental Politics* (2013): Chapter 1:1-12.

Suggested readings:

- Bryant, Raymond L. "Power, Knowledge and Political Ecology in the Third World: A Review." *Progress in Physical Geography* 22.1 (1998): 79-94.
- Forsyth, Tim. "Political Ecology and the Politics of Environmental Science." In *Critical Political Ecology: The Politics of Environmental Science* (2003): Chapter One. 1-22.
- Escobar, Arturo. "After Nature: Steps to an Antiessentialist Political Ecology." *Current anthropology* 40.1 (1999): 1-30.
- Penna-Firme, Rodrigo. "Political and Event Ecology: Critiques and Opportunities for Collaboration." *Journal of Political Ecology* 20.1 (2013): 199-216.
- Escobar, Arturo. "Construction Nature: Elements for a Post-structuralist Political Ecology." *Futures* 28.4 (1996): 325-343.

- Mann, Geoff. "Should Political Ecology be Marxist?: A Case for Gramsci's Historical Materialism." *Geoforum* 40. (2009). 335-344.
- Holifield, Ryan. "Actor-network Theory as a Critical Approach to Environmental Justice: A Case against Synthesis with Urban Political Ecology." *Antipode* 41.4 (2009): 637-658.
- Rocheleau, Dianne, Barbara Thomas-Slayter, and Esther Wangari. "Gender and Development: A Feminist Political Ecology Perspective." In *Feminist Political Ecology: Global Issues and Local experience*. Routledge (2013): 3-23.
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh. "Postcolonial studies and the challenge of climate change." *New Literary History* 43.1 (2012): 1-18.
- Lövbrand, Eva, et al. "Who speaks for the future of Earth? How critical social science can extend the conversation on the Anthropocene." *Global Environmental Change* 32 (2015): 211-218.
- Khan, Mohammad Tanzimuddin. "Theoretical Frameworks in Political Ecology and Participatory Nature/Forest Conservation: The Necessity for a Heterodox Approach and the Critical Moment." *Journal of Political Ecology* 20.1 (2013): 460-472.

Week 3 (18 Sept) IR and Political Ecology

This week we will examine several articles that argue that the ecological crisis has immense implications for the way that we understand and study international relations. What are these implications and are they likely to be accommodated by IR scholars, students and practitioners?

Required Readings:

- Cameron Harrington, 'The Ends of the World: International Relations and the Anthropocene,' *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 44 (3) (2016): 478-498.
- Anthony Burke, Stephanie Fishel, Audra Mitchell, Simon Dalby and Daniel J. Levine, 'Planet Politics: A Manifesto from the End of IR' *Millennium*, 44 (3), (2016): 499–523.
- David Chandler, Erika Cudworth and Stephen Hobden, S. 'Anthropocene, Capitalocene and Liberal Cosmopolitan IR: A Response to Burke et al.'s 'Planet Politics'. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 46 (2), (2018):190-208.

Suggested Readings

- Clapp, Jennifer, and Peter Dauvergne. "Peril or Prosperity? Mapping Worldviews of Global Environmental Change." *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment* (2005): 1-16.
- Peet, Richard, Paul Robbins, and Michael Watts, eds. "Global Nature." In *Global Political Ecology*. Routledge, (2012): 1-45.

Week 4 (25 Sept) Consumption Conundrum

While many environmentally conscious people focus on how products can be made greener, there is an argument that runaway consumption is outpacing any environmental progress being made. This week's readings prod us to theorize consumption and consider the implications of taking consumption seriously.

In the press:

Erin McCormick et al. [‘Where does your plastic go? Global investigation reveals America’s dirty secret’](#) *The Guardian* 17 June 2019

Required readings:

Peter Dauvergne, ‘Global Unsustainability’ ‘The Business of More’ ‘Consuming the Earth,’ ‘Conclusion: the Allure and Illusion of Riches’ *Environmentalism of the Rich* (Cambridge: MIT Press 2016) pp. 1-16, 41-62, 139-52.

Thomas Princen, ‘Consumption and Its Externalities: Where Economy Meets Ecology,’ in Thomas Princen, Michael Maniates and Ken Conca, eds., *Confronting Consumption* (Cambridge MIT Press 2002), 24-42.

Michael Maniates, ‘Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?’ in Thomas Princen, Michael Maniates and Ken Conca, eds., *Confronting Consumption* (Cambridge MIT Press 2002), 43-66.

Suggested readings:

Eden, Sally. "The Politics of Certification: Consumer Knowledge, Power, and Global Governance in Ecolabeling." In *Global Political Ecology* (2011): 169-184.

Peter Dauvergne. *The Shadows of Consumption: Consequences for the Global Environment* (Cambridge: MIT Press 2008).

Brooks, Andrew, and Raymond Bryant. "Consumption." In *Critical Environmental Politics* (2013): Chapter 8, 72-82.

Eden, Sally, Christopher Bear, and Gordon Walker. "Mucky carrots and other proxies: problematizing the knowledge-fix for sustainable and ethical consumption." *Geoforum* 39.2 (2008): 1044-1057

Readings:

Assignment: Short paper due in class.

Week 5 (2 Oct) Indigenous Political Ecologies

Indigenous peoples have a very different relationship to nature than Western societies. What are the varying principles of these relationships and how might they give rise to different political ecologies or challenge existing arrangements?

In the press:

Leyland Cecco, [‘Pipeline battle puts focus on Canada’s disputed right to use indigenous land’](#) *The Guardian* 11 January 2019.

Required readings:

Enrique Salmón ‘Kincentric Ecology: Indigenous Perceptions of the Human-Nature Relationship’ *Ecological Applications*, Vol. 10, No. 5 (Oct., 2000), pp. 1327-1332.

Priscilla Claeys and Deborah Delgado Pugley, 'Peasant and indigenous transnational social movements engaging with climate justice' *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* 38 (3) (2017): 325-40.

Cristina Yumie Aoki Inoue. 'Worlding the Study of Global Environmental Politics in the Anthropocene: Indigenous Voices from the Amazon' *Global Environmental Politics* 18 no. 4 (2018): 25-42.

Julian Brave Noisecat, 'Slaying the Carbon-Consuming Colonial Hydra: Indigenous Contributions to Climate Action' *Development* Vol. 59:3-4 (2016), p. 199-204.

Suggested readings:

Karen Bell, 'Green Economy or Living Well? Assessing divergent paradigms for equitable eco-social transition in South Korea and Bolivia' *Journal of Political Ecology* Vol. 23, 2016 72-92.

Bebbington, Anthony. "The New Extraction: Rewriting the Political Ecology of the Andes?" *NACLA Report on the Americas* 42.5 (2009): 12-20.

Todd A. Eisenstadt and Karleen Jones West 'Indigenous Belief Systems, Science and Resource Extraction: Climate Change Attitudes in Ecuador' *Global Environmental Politics* Vol. 17:1 (2017), p. 40-58.

Week 6 (9 Oct) Slow Violence and Environmental Racism

Two significant aspects of environmental destruction are that such processes can take place over a very long time period and they are often confined to particular geographic spaces. The concept of slow violence captures the incremental but devastating nature of some forms of environmental degradation while environmental racism highlights how damage is often inflicted upon particular racialized communities.

In the press:

Mona Chalabi '[Minorities in the US breathe in more air pollution caused by white people](#)' *The Guardian* 9 June 2019.

Required readings:

Nixon, Rob. 'Introduction' In *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press (2011): 1-44.

Razmig Keucheyan. 'Environmental Racism' In *Nature is a Battlefield: Towards a Political Ecology* (Polity 2016). 8-54.

Suggested readings:

O'Lear, Shannon. "Climate Science and Slow Violence: A View from Political Geography and STS on Mobilizing Technoscientific Ontologies of Climate Change." *Political Geography* 52 (2016): 4-13.

Prudham, Scott. "Poisoning the Well: Neoliberalism and the Contamination of Municipal Water in Walkerton, Ontario." *Geoforum* 35.3 (2004): 343-359.

Agarwal, Anil, and Sunita Narain. "Global Warming in an Unequal World: A Case of Environmental Colonialism." *Global Warming in an Unequal World: A Case of Environmental Colonialism*. Centre for Science and Environment, 1991: 1-34

Mollett, Sharlene. "The Power to Plunder: Rethinking Land Grabbing in Latin America." *Antipode* 48.2 (2016): 412-432.

Hanchette, Carol L. "The Political Ecology of Lead Poisoning in Eastern North Carolina." *Health & place* 14.2 (2008): 209-216. (I also put this article in Week 7: Environment and Global Health)

Renfrew, Daniel. "In the margins of contamination: Lead poisoning and the production of neoliberal nature in Uruguay." *Journal of Political Ecology* 16.1 (2009): 87-103.

Week 7 (16 Oct) Reading Week

No Class

Week 8 (23 Oct) Organized Violence

In addition to the slow violence of environmental degradation, environmental change and challenges can lead to or intensify the use of organized violence by militias, security services and states. We will consider some of these relationships this week.

In the press

E.A. Crunden [‘Researchers probe link between climate change and global conflict’](#)
Think Progress 14 June 2019.

Required readings:

Parenti, Christian. ‘Last Call for Illusions’. In *Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence* (New York: Nation Books 2011), 1-36.

Le Billon, Philippe. ‘The Political Ecology of War: Natural Resources and Armed Conflicts.’ *Political Geography* 20.5 (2001): 561-584.

Keucheyan, Razmig. ‘Green Wars or the Militarization of Ecology’ In *Nature is a Battlefield: Towards a Political Ecology* (Cambridge: Polity 2016). 104-150.

Suggested Readings:

Michael Watts and Nancy Lee Peluso eds. *Violent Environments* (Ithaca: Cornell University press 2001)

Bigger, Patrick, and Benjamin D. Neimark. "Weaponizing nature: The Geopolitical Ecology of the US Navy’s Biofuel Program." *Political Geography* 60 (2017): 13-22.

Kosek, Jake. "Ecologies of Empire: On the New Uses of the Honeybee." *Cultural Anthropology* 25.4 (2010): 650-678.

Peluso, Nancy Lee. "Coercing Conservation?: The Politics of State Resource Control." *Global Environmental Change* 3.2 (1993): 199-217.

Week 9 (30 Oct) Species Extinction and Biodiversity

While humans have been successful at dominating their environment, they have had a devastating effect on other species. Some observers have suggested that we are now driving the sixth mass extinction in earth's history. This week we will consider the dangers of mass extinctions and human's role in that process.

In the press

[‘Plummeting insect numbers threatens the collapse of nature’](#) *The Guardian* 10 February 2019.

Required readings:

IPBES [‘Nature’s Dangerous Decline ‘Unprecedented’ Species Extinction Rates ‘Accelerating’](#) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services, Monday 6 May 2019

Philip Cafaro, ‘Three ways to Think About the Sixth Mass Extinction’ *Biological Conservation* 192 (2015): 3878-93.

Büscher, Bram, et al. ‘Towards a synthesized critique of neoliberal biodiversity conservation.’ *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 23.2 (2012): 4-30.

Suggested readings:

Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* (New York: Picador 2014)

WWF, ‘Chapter 1: Why Biodiversity Matters’, ‘Chapter 2: The threats and pressures wiping out our world’, ‘Chapter 4: ‘Aiming higher, what future do we want? *Living Planet Report 2018: Aiming Higher* M. Grooten and R.E.A. Almond eds., (Gland Switzerland: WWF), pp. 16-27, 28-87, 108-23.

Jeremy Walker ‘Brining Liquidity to Life: Markets for Ecosystem Services and the New Political Economy of Extinction in Kanchi Kohli & Manju Menon eds., *Business Interests and the Environmental Crisis* New Delhi: Sage 2016, pp. 3-27.

Gupta, Clare. "Contested Fields: An Analysis of Anti-GMO Politics on Hawai'i Island." *Agriculture and Human Values* 35.1 (2018): 181-192.

Escobar, Arturo. "Whose Knowledge, Whose Nature? Biodiversity, Conservation, and the Political Ecology of Social Movements." *Journal of Political Ecology* 5.1 (1998): 53-82.

Shiva, Vandana. *The Violence of the Green Revolution: Third World Agriculture, Ecology, and Politics*. University Press of Kentucky, 2016.

Shiva, Vandana, ed. *Seed Sovereignty, Food Security: Women in the Vanguard of the Fight against GMOs and Corporate Agriculture*. North Atlantic Books, 2016.

Readings:

Assignment: Essay proposal due

Week 10 (6 Nov) Global Food Regimes

The way that humans produce and consume food has undergone dramatic transformation over the past two centuries. Growing human population and the industrialization of agriculture have profound implications for ecological systems

around the world. This week we will familiarize ourselves with these transformations and consider their consequences.

In the press

Sam Wolfson, '[Could flexitarianism save the planet?](#)' *The Guardian* 19 January 2019

Required Readings:

Harriet Friedmann 'Discussion: Moving Food Regimes Forward' *Agriculture and Human Values* 26.4 (2009): 335-344.

Peter Dauvergne, 'Beef' *The Shadows of Consumption: Consequences for the Global Environment* (Cambridge: MIT Press 2008), 133-168.

Jennifer Clapp, 'Mega-Mergers on the Menu: Corporate Concentration and the Politics of Sustainability in the Global Food System' *Global Environmental Politics* 18 no.2 (2018): 12-33.

Suggested readings:

J. Poore and T. Nemecek, 'Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers' *Science* 360 (6392) (01 Jun 2018): pp. 987-992
Philip McMichael, "A Food Regime Analysis of the 'World Food Crisis'." *Agriculture and Human Values* 26.4 (2009): 281-95.

Harriet Friedmann, 'From Colonialism to Green Capitalism: Social Movements and Emergence of Food Regimes.' *New Directions in the Sociology of Global Development*. Emerald Group Publishing Limited, 2005. 227-264. (GET)

Tony Weis, *The Ecological Hoofprint: The Global Burden of Industrial Livestock* (London: Zed Books 2013).

McMichael, Philip. "Agrofuels in the Food Regime." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 37.4 (2010): 609-629.

Philip McMichael. 'A Food Regime Genealogy.' *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 36.1 (2009): 139-169.

Pachirat, Timothy. *Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight*. Yale University Press, 2011: 1-37.

Bakker, Karen. "The "Commons" versus the "Commodity": Alter-globalization, anti-privatization and the Human Right to Water in the Global South." *Antipode* 39.3 (2007): 430-455.

Carney, Megan A. "The Biopolitics of Food Insecurity': Towards a Critical Political Ecology of the Body in Studies of Women's Transnational Migration." *Journal of Political Ecology* 21.1 (2014): 1-18.

Goodman, David. "Agro-food Studies in the 'Age of Ecology': Nature, Corporeality, Biopolitics." *The Rural*. Routledge, 2017. 127-148.

Davis, Mike. *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World*. Verso Books, 2002.

Prudham, Scott. "The Fictions of Autonomous Invention: Accumulation by Dispossession, Commodification and Life Patents in Canada." *Antipode* 39.3 (2007): 406-429.

Pachirat, Timothy. *Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight*. Yale University Press, 2011.

Watts, Michael. "Hazards and Crises: A Political Economy of Drought and Famine in Northern Nigeria." *Antipode* 15.1 (1983): 24-34.

Week 11 (13 Nov) Tropical Forest Products

Tropical forests are vital for the health of local communities and the planet. Recent years has seen massive deforestation around the world with particularly dramatic developments in Brazil and Indonesia. This week we will try to get a better understanding of the causes and consequences.

In the press:

Jonathan Watts, '[Deforestation of Brazilian Amazon surges to record high](#)', *The Guardian* 4 June 2019.

Required Readings:

Richard Tucker, 'Environmentally Damaging Consumption: The Impact of American Markets on Tropical Ecosystems in the Twentieth Century' in Thomas Princen, Michael Maniates and Ken Conca, eds., *Confronting Consumption* Cambridge MIT Press 2002), 177-95.

Peter Dauvergne, 'The Global Politics of the Business of "Sustainable" Palm Oil' *Global Environmental Politics* 18:2 (2018): 34-52.

Constance L. McDermott, Kelly Levin and Benjamin Cashore, 'Building the Forest-Climate Bandwagon: REDD+ and the Logic of Problem Amelioration,' *Global Environmental Politics* 11, no .3 (2011): 85-103.

Possible readings:

Astuti, Rini, and Andrew McGregor. "Indigenous Land Claims or Green Grabs? Inclusions and Exclusions within Forest Carbon Politics in Indonesia." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 44.2 (2017): 445-466.

Orsato, Renato J., Stewart R. Clegg, and Horacio Falcão. "The political ecology of palm oil production." *Journal of Change Management* 13.4 (2013): 444-459.

Yemadje, R. H., et al. "The Political Ecology of Land Management in the Oil Palm Based Cropping System on the Adja Plateau in Benin." *NJAS-Wageningen Journal of Life Sciences* 60 (2012): 91-99.

Peluso, Nancy Lee, Peter Vandergeest, and Lesley Potter. "Social Aspects of Forestry in Southeast Asia: A Review of Postwar Trends in the Scholarly Literature." *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 26.1 (1995): 196-218.

Week 12 (20 Nov) Oil

Exploitation of oil resources has generated considerable wealth for some residents of the global economy. It has also been linked with environmental destruction, human rights abuses and autocratic governance structures. What kinds of political ecologies are generated by oil extraction in different parts of the world?

In the press

Ruth Maclean, '[Toxic mud swamps fortunes of Niger Delta women years after oil spill](#)'
The Guardian 19 December 2018.

Required readings:

Michael, Watts, 'A Tale of Two Gulfs: Life, Death, and Dispossession along Two Oil Frontiers.' *American Quarterly* 64.3 (2012): 437-467.

Angela V. Carter and Anna Zalik, 'Fossil Capitalism and the Rentier State: Towards a Political Ecology of Alberta's Oil Economy,' in Laurie Adkin, ed., *First World Petro-Politics: the Political Ecology and Governance of Alberta*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 2016), 51-77.

Nicholas Shaxon, 'Oil, corruption and the resource curse', *International Affairs*, Volume 83, Issue 6, November 2007, Pages 1123–1140

Suggested Readings:

Havard Haarstad, H., & Tarje Wanvik, 'Carbonscapes and beyond: Conceptualizing the instability of oil landscapes.' *Progress in Human Geography*, 41(4), (2017). 432–450.

Huber, Matthew T. "Energizing Historical Materialism: Fossil Fuels, Space and the Capitalist Mode of Production." *Geoforum* 40.1 (2009): 105-115.

Laurie Adkin 'Ecology and Governance in a First World Petro-State' *First World Petro-Politics: the Political Ecology and Governance of Alberta*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016).

Watts, Michael. "Resource curse? Governmentality, oil and power in the Niger Delta, Nigeria." *Geopolitics* 9.1 (2004): 50-80.

Watts, Michael. "Petro-violence: Community, extraction, and political ecology of a mythic commodity." *Violent Environments* (2001): 189-212.

Week 13 (27 Nov) Capitalism and Climate Change

Perhaps the most pressing issue in political economy is whether preventing catastrophic climate change is possible under our existing capitalist system. There is no easy or clear cut answer, but we consider the problem this week.

In the press

George Monbiot, '[Dare to declare capitalism dead – before it takes us all down](#)' *The Guardian* 25 April 2019

Required readings:

Naomi Klein, 'One Way or Another Everything Changes' *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* (Toronto: Vintage 2015), pp. 1-30.

Peter Newell and Matthew Paterson M. 'Climate Capitalism' in Elmar Altvater and Achim Brunnengräber A. (eds) *After Cancún: Climate Governance or Climate Conflicts* (Germany: Springer, 2011), pp. 23-44.

Suggested Readings

- Clark, Brett, and Richard York. "Carbon Metabolism: Global Capitalism, Climate Change, and the Biospheric Rift." *Theory and Society* 34.4 (2005): 391-428.
- Nicolas Stern, *Why Are We Waiting?: The Logic, Urgency and Promise of Tackling Climate Change* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2015).
- Kate Raworth, *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist* (Vermont: Chelsea Green Publishing, 2017).
- Matthew Paterson, 'Who and what are carbon markets for? Politics and the development of climate policy' *Climate Policy* Vol.12:1 (August, 2011), p.82-97.
- Bumpus, A. G., and Diana M. Liverman. "Carbon colonialism? Offsets, greenhouse gas reductions, and sustainable development." In *Global Political Ecology* 203 (2011): 203-224.
- Peter Newell and Matthew Paterson, *Climate Capitalism: Global Warming and the Transformation of the Global Economy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).
- Razmig Keucheyan, 'Financializing Nature: Ensuring Climatic Risk' *Nature is a Battlefield: Towards a Political Ecology* (Polity 2016), 55-103.

Week 14 (4 Dec) Essay presentations

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are to be handed in during class in hard copy. The final essay should be submitted in hard copy to the instructor in person on the due date and an electronic copy should be submitted to Avenue on the same date.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Late papers and other marked assignments will be penalised at the rate of one grade point per day (a grade point is the interval between A+ and A, A and A-, etc.), including weekend days, except in the most extenuating of circumstances. It is your responsibility to make contingency plans for unforeseen problems such as computer and car failures.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.