
GEOG 508: ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Fall 2019, Mondays 10:20AM-1:20PM, LSH-B120

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<https://marston-office-hours.youcanbook.me>

This course is designed as a critical introduction to key debates around the relation between social inequality and nature, broadly construed. The urgent matters located at this intersection cut across political scales and geographic borders, threatening local livelihoods as well as global economic systems. Attending to both historical legacies and contemporary challenges, we will explore the political philosophies, economic processes, and technoscientific practices that make socio-environmental justice such an elusive goal today.

While grounded in political ecology, our approach in this course will be irreverent. By tracing political ecological themes through classic texts as well as recent permutations, we will incorporate knowledge derived from critical race and gender studies, environmental history, environmental anthropology, and Science and Technology Studies, all while remaining connected to political economic principles. Our aim is to renovate the key concepts of political ecology so that they travel better to our respective field sites. To consider multiple facets of socio-natural ‘development,’ we will be particularly attentive to relationships between power, knowledge, labor, and materiality.

Part 1 of the course examines the epistemological underpinnings of nature/culture dualisms and their manifestations in political economic theory and practice. We will unpack the key concepts of capital, value, enclosure, and dispossession in relation to the coterminous development of capitalism and empire. In Part 2, we will explore five facets of the intersection between development and nature: resource commodification, territorialization, conservation, nationalism, and waste. In Part 3, we will consider how nature is depoliticized through scientific and technical processes, and we will think critically about how to ‘repoliticize’ science without declawing it. Finally, we will conclude in Part 4 with a brief consideration of recent approaches (and their critiques) to thinking about planetary natures.

This course is reading intensive. Expect to read the equivalent of a book and several articles every week. Recognizing that not everyone comes to graduate school with the same kind of preparation, please feel welcome to visit me in office hours at any point in the semester if you wish to discuss the readings further. Intellectuals are just people who have had more opportunities to read and discuss scholarly work, and this should be a supportive environment for practicing those skills.

I recommend you buy or otherwise get copies of the following texts:

- Philip, K. (2004). *Civilizing Natures: Race, Resources, and Modernity in Colonial South India*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

- Marx, K. (1990[1867]). *Capital, Volume 1*. London: Penguin Classics.
- Smith, N. (1984). *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space*. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press.
- Federici, S. (2004). *Caliban and the Witch*. Autonomedia. (Free download online)
- Li, T.M. (2007). *The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Friedberg, S. (2009). *Fresh: A Perishable History*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Anthias, P. (2018). *Limits to Decolonization: Indigeneity, Territory, and Hydrocarbon Politics in the Bolivian Chaco*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Ybarra, M. (2017). *Green Wars: Conservation and Decolonization in the Maya Forest*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: U of California Press.
- Hoover, E. (2017). *The River Is In Us: Fighting Toxics in a Mohawk Community*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota Press.
- Coronil, F. (1997). *The Magical State: Nature, Money, and Modernity in Venezuela*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Hayden, Cori. 2003. *When Nature Goes Public: The Making and Unmaking of Bioprospecting in Mexico*. Princeton, N.J.: University Press.
- Mitchell, T. (2002). *Rule of experts: Egypt, techno-politics, modernity*. Berkeley/LA: University of California Press.
- Carney, J. (2009). *Black rice: The African origins of rice cultivation in the Americas*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Moore, J. W. (2015). *Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital*. Verso Books.

Articles can be found online, and I will post copies of book chapters on Canvas.

Evaluation will be based on the following:

Course participation (40%): In addition to thoughtfully reading all of the assigned texts for each week, you will write a weekly written response (approx. 1 single-spaced page) that synthesizes and reflects on the readings' key arguments. These are to be posted on Canvas in the discussion section by Sunday at 6pm and will be visible to the whole class. Please come to class having read your colleagues' reflections. The quality of the seminars will depend on the collective investment of everyone at the table.

Course facilitation (20%): Every seminar will begin with a short presentation (approx. 10 min) and discussion moderated by two students. The number of times you will be asked to present will depend on the number of students in the class, but it will be no more than 3 times.

Final paper (40%): I am committed to making this class useful to you and your research, so the topic of the final paper is open. Whatever you write, however, it should incorporate course themes and readings, and I recommend that you run your topic by me before you begin. Aim for between

15-25 double-spaced pages, though this is flexible depending on your needs. This paper is due on Canvas on the first day of the exam period (Monday, December 16th) at 5pm.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART 1: FOUNDATIONS

September 9: Introduction to course

- Robbins, P. (2012[2004]). *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. Introduction and Part I (pp. 11-100)
- Mollett, S., & Faria, C. (2013). Messing with gender in feminist political ecology. *Geoforum*, 45(C), 116–125.

Supplementary Readings

- o Rocheleau, D., Thomas-Slayter, B., & Wangari, E. (2013). *Feminist political ecology: Global issues and local experience*. New York: Routledge.
- o Peet, R., & Watts, M. (1996, 2004). *Liberation ecologies: environment, development and social movements*. Routledge.
- o Peet, R., Robbins, P., & Watts, M. (Eds.). (2010). *Global political ecology*. Routledge.

September 16: Nature & Culture

- Philip, K. (2004). *Civilizing Natures: Race, Resources, and Modernity in Colonial South India*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
- Moore, D., Kosek, J., & Pandian, A. (2010). *Race, Nature, and the Politics of Difference*. Durham: Duke University. (Introduction, pp. 3-70).

Supplementary Readings

- o Haraway, D. (1989). *Primate Visions: Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science*. New York: Routledge.
- o Merchant, C. (1989). *Ecological Revolution: Nature, Gender, and Science in New England*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press.
- o Kobayashi, A. & Peake, L. (1994) Unnatural discourse. 'Race' and gender in geography, *Gender, Place & Culture*, 1:2, 225-243
- o Kosek, J. (2006). *Understories*. Durham: Duke University Press.

September 23: Nature, Space, Value

- Marx, K. (1990[1867]). *Capital, Volume 1*. London: Penguin Classics. Part One: Commodities and Money, pp. 125-247.
- Smith, N. (1984). *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space*. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press.

Supplementary Readings

- o Marx, K. (1973[1939]). *Grundrisse*. London: Penguin Classics. Pp. 83-88, 100-108, 690-712, 881-882

- Smith, A. (1776) *Wealth of Nations*. Chapters 1-7.
- Chari, S. (2004). Provincializing capital: The work of an agrarian past in South Indian industry. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 46(4), 760-785.
- Labban, M. 2008 *Space, Oil and Capital*. London: Routledge.
- Henderson, G. L. (2004). Value: The Many-Headed Hydra. *Antipode*, 36(3), 445-460.

September 30: Enclosure & Dispossession

- Marx, K. (1990[1867]). *Capital, Volume 1*. London: Penguin Classics. Part Eight: So-Called Primitive Accumulation, pp. 873-940.
- Federici, S. (2004). *Caliban and the Witch*. Autonomedia.

Supplementary Readings

- Harvey, D. (2009). The New imperialism: Accumulation by Dispossession. *Socialist register*, 40(40).
- Glassman, J. (2006). Primitive accumulation, accumulation by dispossession, accumulation by 'extra-economic' means. *Progress in human geography*, 30(5), 608-625.
- Hall, D. (2013). Primitive accumulation, accumulation by dispossession and the global land grab. *Third World Quarterly*, 34(9), 1582-1604
- Fairbanks, L., Campbell, L. M., Boucquey, N., & St. Martin, K. (2018). Assembling enclosure: Reading marine spatial planning for alternatives. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 108(1), 144-161.

October 7: Development & Governmentality

- Li, T.M. (2007). *The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Foucault, M. (1994[1978]). Governmentality. In *The Essential Foucault* (Rabinow, P. & Rose, N., eds.), New York: The New Press, pp. 220-245.
- Watts, M. (2003). Development and governmentality. *Singapore journal of tropical geography*, 24(1), 6-34.
- Yeh, E. T. (2005). Green governmentality and pastoralism in western China: 'Converting pastures to grasslands'. *Nomadic peoples*, 9(1-2), 9-30.

Supplementary Readings:

- Yeh, E.T. (2013). *Taming Tibet: Landscape Transformation and the Gift of Chinese Development*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Elden, S. (2007). Rethinking governmentality. *Political geography*, 26(1), 29-33.
- Ekers, M., & Loftus, A. (2008). The power of water: developing dialogues between Foucault and Gramsci. *Environment and planning D: society and space*, 26(4), 698-718.
- Wainwright, J. (2011). *Decolonizing development: Colonial power and the Maya* (Vol. 36). John Wiley & Sons.

PART 2: NATURE, RESOURCES, TERRITORY

October 14: Material Resources & Commodification

- Friedberg, S. (2009). *Fresh: A Perishable History*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

- Watts, M. (2001). Petro-violence: Community, Extraction, and Political Ecology of a Mythic Commodity. In N. L. Peluso & M. Watts (Eds.), *Violent Environments* (pp. 189–212). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Bakker, K., & Bridge, G. (2006). Material world? Resource geographies and the “matter of nature.” *Progress in Human Geography*, 30(1), 5–27.

Supplementary Readings

- o Richardson, T., & Weszkalnys, G. (2014). Introduction: Resource Materialities. *Anthropological Quarterly*, 87(1), 5-30.
- o Bridge, G. (2009). Material worlds: Natural resources, resource geography and the material economy. *Geography Compass*, 3(3), 1217-1244.
- o Bridge, G. (2011). Resource geographies 1: Making carbon economies, old and new. *Progress in Human Geography*, 35(6), 820-834.
- o Huber, M. (2015). Theorizing energy geographies. *Geography Compass*, 9(6), 327-338.

October 21: Land & Territory

- Anthias, P. (2018). *Limits to Decolonization: Indigeneity, Territory, and Hydrocarbon Politics in the Bolivian Chaco*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Moore, D. (2005). *Suffering for Territory: Race, Place, and Power in Zimbabwe*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Introduction, Chapter 1, and Conclusion.

Supplementary Readings

- o Rappaport, J. (1985). History, myth, and the dynamics of territorial maintenance in Tierradentro, Colombia. *American Ethnologist*, 12(1), 27-45.
- o Braun, B. 2002. *The intemperate rainforest: nature, culture and power on Canada's west coast*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- o Wolford, W. (2010). *This land is ours now: Social mobilization and the meanings of land in Brazil*. Duke University Press.
- o Elden, S. (2010). Land, terrain, territory. *Progress in human geography*, 34(6), 799-817..
- o Bryan, J. (2011). Walking the line: Participatory mapping, indigenous rights, and neoliberalism. *Geoforum*, 42(1), 40-50

October 28: Conservation and Enclosure

- Ybarra, M. (2017). *Green Wars: Conservation and Decolonization in the Maya Forest*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: U of California Press.
- Yeh, E.T. (2013). *The Politics of Conservation in Contemporary Rural China*. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 40(6), 1165-1188.
- Büscher, B., & Fletcher, R. (2015). Accumulation by conservation. *New political economy*, 20(2), 273-298.

Supplementary Readings

- o Sundberg, J. (2006). Conservation encounters: transculturation in the ‘contact zones’ of empire. *cultural geographies*, 13(2), 239-265.
- o Wainwright, J. (2011). *Decolonizing development: Colonial power and the Maya* (Vol. 36). John Wiley & Sons.
- o Grandia, L. (2012). *Enclosed: Conservation, cattle, and commerce among the Qeqchi Maya lowlanders*. University of Washington Press.

- Mollett, S., & Kepe, T. (2018). *Land Rights, Biodiversity Conservation and Justice: Rethinking Parks and People*. New York: Routledge.

November 4: State, Nation, Nature

- Lefebvre, H. (1991[1974]). *The Production of Space*. Translated by D. Nicholson-Smith. Malden, MA: Blackwell. Chapter 5: Contradictory Space, pp. 292-351.
- Coronil, F. (1997). *The Magical State: Nature, Money, and Modernity in Venezuela*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Valdivia, G. (2008). Governing relations between people and things: Citizenship, territory, and the political economy of petroleum in Ecuador. *Political Geography*, 27(4), 456-477.

Supplementary Reading

- Hecht, G. (2009). *The Radiance of France: Nuclear power and national identity after World War II*. MIT press.
- Lafitte, G. (2013). *Spoiling Tibet: China and resource nationalism on the roof of the world*. Zed Books Ltd.
- Perreault, T. (2013). Nature and nation: hydrocarbons, governance, and the territorial logics of “Resource Nationalism” in Bolivia. In *Subterranean Struggles: New Geographies of Extractive Industries in Latin America*, eds. Bebbington, A., & Bury, J. Austin: University of Texas Press.

November 11: Waste & Space

- Hoover, E. (2017). *The River Is In Us: Fighting Toxics in a Mohawk Community*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota Press.
- Goldstein, J. (2013). Terra economica: Waste and the production of enclosed nature. *Antipode*, 45(2), 357-375.
- Dillon, L. (2014). Race, waste, and space: Brownfield redevelopment and environmental justice at the Hunters Point Shipyard. *Antipode*, 46(5), 1205-1221.

Supplementary Reading

- Gidwani, V., & Reddy, R. N. (2011). The afterlives of “waste”: Notes from India for a minor history of capitalist surplus. *Antipode*, 43(5), 1625-1658.
- Perreault, T. (2013). Dispossession by accumulation? Mining, water and the nature of enclosure on the Bolivian Altiplano. *Antipode*, 45(5), 1050-1069.
- Gordillo, G. R. (2014). *Rubble: The Afterlife of Destruction*. Durham: Duke University Press.

PART 3: KNOWLEDGE & TECHNOLITICS

November 18: Biological Knowledge & Social Life

- Hayden, Cori. 2003. *When Nature Goes Public: The Making and Unmaking of Bioprospecting in Mexico*. Princeton, N.J.: University Press.
- TallBear, Kim. 2013. *Native American DNA: Tribal Belonging and the False Promise of Genetic Science*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-2, Conclusion.

Supplementary Readings

- Guthman, J., & Mansfield, B. (2013). The implications of environmental epigenetics: A new direction for geographic inquiry on health, space, and nature-society relations. *Progress in Human Geography*, 37(4), 486-504.
- Landecker, H., & Panofsky, A. (2013). From social structure to gene regulation, and back: A critical introduction to environmental epigenetics for sociology. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 39, 333-357.
- Haraway, D. (1991). *Simians, cyborgs, and women: The reinvention of nature*. New York: Routledge.

November 25: Technopolitics of Nature

- Mitchell, T. (2002). *Rule of experts: Egypt, techno-politics, modernity*. Berkeley/LA: University of California Press.
- Hecht, G. (2010). Hopes for the radiated body: Uranium miners and transnational technopolitics in Namibia. *The Journal of African History*, 51(2), 213-234.
- Cram, Shannon. (2015). "Becoming Jane: The Making and Unmaking of Hanford's Nuclear Body." *Environment and Planning D* 33, no. 5: 796-812.

Supplementary Readings

- Freidberg, S. (2014). Footprint technopolitics. *Geoforum*, 55, 178-189.
- Ogden, L. (2008). The Everglades ecosystem and the politics of nature. *American Anthropologist*, 110(1), 21-32.
- Hoogeveen, D. (2016). Fish-hood: Environmental assessment, critical Indigenous studies, and posthumanism at Fish Lake (Teztan Biny), Tsilhqot'in territory. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 34(2), 355-370.

December 2: Redefining Environmental Science

- Carney, J. (2009). *Black rice: The African origins of rice cultivation in the Americas*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Turnbull, D. (1997). Reframing science and other local knowledge traditions. *Futures*, 29(6), 551-562.
- Braun, B. (1997). Buried epistemologies: the politics of nature in (post)colonial British Columbia. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 87(1), 3-31.

Supplementary Readings

- Kimmerer, R. W. (2013). *Braiding sweetgrass: Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants*. Milkweed Editions. Selections.
- Chambers, D. W., & Gillespie, R. (2000). Locality in the history of science: Colonial science, technoscience, and indigenous knowledge. *Osiris*, 15, 221-240.

PART 4: CONCLUSION

December 9: Global Natures

- Moore, J. W. (2015). *Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital*. Verso Books.

- Pulido, L. (2018). Racism and the Anthropocene. In *Future Remains: A Cabinet of Curiosities for the Anthropocene*, Mitman, G, Amiero, M, Emmett, R.S. (eds), pp. 116-128. Chicago: The U of Chicago Press.

Supplementary Readings

- Lowe, L. (2015). *The Intimacies of Four Continents*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Crutzen, P J. (2006) "The "Anthropocene"." *Earth system science in the anthropocene*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, pp. 13-18.
- Todd, Z. (2015). Indigenizing the Anthropocene. *Art in the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Aesthetics, Politics, Environment and Epistemology*, 241-254.
- Vergès, F. (2017). Racial Capitalocene. In: Johnson, G. T. and A. Lubin (eds.) *Futures of Black Radicalism*. New York: Verso. Available online:
<https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/3376-racial-capitalocene>

FINAL PAPERS DUE: Monday, December 16th at 5pm. Please submit papers on Canvas.