GEOG 2030: Environment & Development

Autumn 2017
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:20am; location TBA
Course Instructor: Dr. Anna Stanley
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Office Hours (Hutt 350): TBA

Teaching Assistants: TBA

Course Overview:
Environmental problems in the Global South are numerous and complex. People influence, and are influenced by, environmental changes such as deforestation, desertification, agricultural intensification, climate change, and biodiversity loss. What causes these problems? How are people affected by these problems? Why is solving these problems so difficult? This course takes a geographical perspective (based on the subfield of ‘political ecology’) to try to answer these questions. A focus is placed on power relations, scale, the politics of knowledge, and political economy in order to examine environmental issues in the Global South from a critical perspective. Topics include: history of sustainable development; population; poverty and environment; politics of environmental knowledge; impact of environmental change on marginalized people; the politics of conservation and ideas about nature; and neoliberalism.

Course objectives:

At the end of the course you should be able to:

- Distinguish between, and appropriately evaluate, different sources of information on environmental issues in the Global South.
- Identify and explain concepts from the course, as presented both in lecture and through readings and films;
- Critically apply these concepts in order to interpret current environmental changes and conflicts;
- Evaluate the utility of these concepts for understanding human-environment relations in the Global South; and
- Write an effective briefing paper using these concepts.

Course format:
The purpose of this course is to introduce you to problematics of environmental and development in the Global South. The course will introduce you to the course material through a combination of lecture, discussion, film and debate. Our time in class together will also include in-class activities, participation exercises and class discussions. These activities will evaluate your engagement with course materials, including your preparation of the week’s readings. My expectation is that you gain insight into the complexities of environmental issues in the Global South. I hope that you will be motivated to explore these issues and topics further in academic, professional, community and/or personal pursuits. I do not expect you to agree with me or with each other or to adopt a fixed approach or to merely absorb a fixed package of "facts". I do expect an intensive engagement with the subject matter and with the process of learning in the class. I will encourage respectful debate, discussion and dialogue as we explore issues that I believe to be critical to how we live in the world. 

You are therefore encouraged to attend class regularly, prepare the readings in advance of each class, and come prepared to engage. Some tips for succeeding in this course:

• Do the readings before each lecture; attend lecture and take your own notes;
• Meet with TA or professor to clarify any questions throughout the semester;
• Leave enough time to reflect on, write and edit assignments; and
• Study for midterms and the final exam well in advance of the exam dates

Course readings:
All readings will be available through Course Link

Assignments:
15% class activities/participation
25% First Exam (in class)
35% Written Assignment – Part 1: 10%; Part 2: 25%
25% Second Exam

In-class activities and participation (15%)
Students must participate in in-class discussions and activities based on readings and course material throughout the semester. Instructions for the activities will be provided in-class; no preparation is necessary other than being up to date with course material including readings for that day. Students should be sure to attend class regularly so as not to miss this evaluation component. Alternate arrangements are only possible in the instance of extreme conditions
(so, no, a note from a walk in clinic saying you had a cold will not compel me to accommodate your absence).

**First Exam (in class, 25%)**
The objective of the first exam is to ensure that you review and critically engage with the material introduced in lectures, films, and readings. The exam will be a mix of multiple-choice, short answer and paragraph length questions. It will cover material from the lectures and readings.

**Writing Assignment (35%)**
Details for this assignment will be distributed during the first few weeks of class but will consist of two parts. Part 1 will consist of two critical reading guides and is worth 10%. Part 2 is a completed policy brief and is worth 25%.

**Second Exam – December TBA (25%)**
The second exam will cover material from the whole term, although it will be heavily focused on material from after the first exam, and will be a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer and paragraph answer questions.

*Note that all lecture material, including films, and all readings may be covered on exams.*

**Course/Department/University Policies**

**Note Taking:** Students are responsible for taking their own notes during lectures. *Materials, such as powerpoint slides, provided on the course page are incomplete and are not intended to replace student notes.* I will not provide lecture material for missed lectures. Please coordinate with other students if you need notes for missed classes.

**Communication:** As per university regulations, all students are required to check their uoguelph e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students. Please also check Courselink regularly; important information will be made available here. For any questions related to course content or requirements, please use the discussion boards on Courselink. For any individual/confidential concerns, please email your TA. If your TA cannot help you they will direct you to the instructor. I will respond to emails sent on weekdays within 24 hours; emails sent after 4pm Friday will be responded to on Monday. You are also welcome (and encouraged!) to visit the instructor during her office hours or to make an individual appointment with your TA.
When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement: When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise your TA in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

Late Policy:

In-Class Activities: If you miss one of these activities you will receive a mark of zero unless the Instructor excuses you from the activity ahead of time due to extenuating circumstances.

Assignments: Unless an extension is discussed well ahead of the due date, late penalties of 5%/day (including weekends) will be assigned. Extensions may be granted in certain circumstances, and will usually require the student to produce valid medical (doctor’s note) or personal (note from Counseling Services) documentation. Late assignments/exams will not be accepted once graded assignments have been returned officially to the class at large unless circumstances permit and alternative arrangements have been made.

Copies of out-of-class assignments: Keep paper and/or reliable electronic back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments (including those submitted on Courselink!): you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility:
The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community’s shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or refer to the CSD website.

Academic Misconduct:
The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University’s policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.
Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Recording of Materials:** Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

**Drop Date:** The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is (TBA). For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses.