**R&R in Comparative Politics: Political Ecology**

Fall 2020 – Syllabus

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Office Hours: by appointment

***Course Description***

The undeniable ecological crisis does not affect all societies and non-human beings in the same way. The distribution of environmental costs and benefits are uneven both within nation states and between them. This course provides a background on the sources of the ecological crisis, waves of environmental movements that have attempted to address the problems and the interconnections between political, economic and institutional causes of the crisis. This is a seminar course. The instructor will not lecture and you will participate in the discussion based on your readings and your reflections on the readings.

***Evaluation***

***Reflection Paper – you are requested to write a reflection paper for Part 1 and Part 2 (10% each)***

Write down a critical review of the readings for that week. It should not be longer than 2 pages.

***Review article – 50%***

Please select two books on political ecology and write a review article. You can find such books from the following link: <https://entitleblog.org/2016/06/30/a-comprehensive-political-ecology-reading-list/>

***Presentation of the review article – 10%***

***Item #8 Participation* 20%**

***Late papers/assignments***: there will be 3 percent penalty per day for late papers and reviews.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a serious problem and refers to dishonestly representing someone else’s ideas as your own. Plagiarism is punished by disciplinary council and usually results in an F as course grade and sometimes heavier penalties. All students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences (For a good guide to consult (<http://www.buowl.boun.edu.tr/students/favoidingplagiarism.htm> ).

The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism. For further guidelines, you can consult: <http://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Publications/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf>
3. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
4. an automatic F in the assignment or the exam,
5. an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee,
6. losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty,
7. losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs,
8. losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department.

The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Part 1**

**Introduction to Political Ecology**

Robbins, P. (2012). Introduction, Chapter 1 (Political versus apolitical ecologies pp. 11-24), and Chapter 2 (A tree with deep roots pp. 25-48). In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Second Edition.

Perreault, Bridge, and McCarthy. 2015, “Editors’ Introduction” (pp. 3-9). In: *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*, edited by Tom Perreault, Gavin Bridge, and James McCarthy. New York, Routledge.

**Tools of Political Ecology: an Overview**

Robbins, P. 2012 “The Critical Tools” (Ch. 3). In: *Political Ecology. A Critical Introduction.*

**Environmental Degradation**

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 5: Challenges in Ecology. In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*.

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 8: Degradation and Marginalization. In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*.

**Part 2**

**Social Construction, Critical Realism, and their Critique**

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 6: challenges in social construction. In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction.* Oxford: Wily-Blackwell.

Benjaminsen, T. A., Aune, J. B., & Sidibe. (2010). A critical political ecology of cotton and soil fertility in Mali. *Geoforum*, *41*(4), 647-656.

Demeritt, D. (2002). What is the social construction of nature? A typology and sympathetic critique. *Progress in Human Geography*, *26*(6), 767-790.

**Conservation**

Robbins, P. (2012). Chapter 9: Conservation and Control. In *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell-Wily.

Adams, W.M. and J. Hutton. (2007). People, Parks and Poverty: Political Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation. *Conservation and Society* 5(2): 147-183.

**Part 3**

Book TBA.

**Part 4**

Book TBA.

**Part 5**

Book TBA.

**Part 6**

Book TBA.

**Part 7**

Book TBA.

**Part 8**

Book TBA.

**Part 9**

Book TBA.