

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

ANTHROPOLOGY 3379F

POLITICAL ECOLOGY and RESOURCE FRONTIERS

Instructor: Dan Jorgensen

Time:

Place:

Office: SSC 5403

Office Hours:

Phone: 85085

Introduction:

This course is built around an emerging field known as political ecology, which draws upon several disciplines – anthropology, geography, political science, economics, ecology – that share an interest in the linkage between processes of globalization and changing environmental use. The point of departure for political ecology is the fact that such issues involve an interplay between local and non-local ("global") actors, who bring different kinds of power and interest to bear on human relations with the natural world.

The basic geometry of transnational resource exploitation is triangular – involving local people, developers and the state – but we will also have occasion to examine the interventions of NGOs or multilateral institutions such as the World Bank. Keeping this in mind, we start with a preliminary examination of ecopolitics by looking at how representations of indigenous people, national development and the values of conservation shape the arenas in which environmental debates get played out. This provides a nexus for thinking about issues at several scales (local, regional, transnational) and for becoming attuned to positional and perspectival differences.

We will go on to focus on a series of substantive or topical issues surrounding what I call "resource frontiers." The notion of resource frontiers draws attention to the historical dynamics of patterns of natural resource exploitation in which newly identified resources are found on the margins of the world system. As with all frontiers, this margin is mobile and shifts over time – a kind of wave-front of logging, mining and drilling. For the purposes of this course we will be particularly interested in three kinds of resources – timber, minerals, and oil. We will likewise focus on three particular regions – Southeast Asia, the Western Pacific, and South America.

The course concludes with a consideration of Anna Tsing's arguments concerning environmental politics and what she terms "scale-making projects."

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Midterm Exam (25%)

Research Essay (40%)

Final Examination (35%) – Date TBA

My general expectation is that you will attend lectures and prepare for them by doing the appropriate readings according to the topic sequence shown in this syllabus. My lectures often take the readings as a

context for what I say – in other words, I assume that you know what is going on in the readings as a backdrop for understanding my lectures

If you have questions, ideas, or would just like to chat, I would encourage you to drop in during office hours (or, by making an appointment). Do not be shy about seeking advice or help with the course from either myself or from our TA.

About research essays:

The research paper will sum the outcome of your research on a topic related to the course. It must include a clear line of argument, drawing primarily from anthropological sources. The paper should be fifteen to twenty pages in length, double-spaced, inclusive of bibliography. In general, your work will be evaluated on the basis of several factors, including:

- overall coherence (consistency, logical construction)
- insight and originality of thought
- grasp of key issues
- ability to link ideas with ethnographic material

Books (available in the bookstore):

Peet, Richard and Michael Watts, eds.
2004 Liberation Ecologies. New York: Routledge.

Sawyer, Suzana
2004 Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador.
Durham: Duke University Press.

Tsing, Anna
2005 Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

The remaining readings will be available in a coursepack.

TOPICS AND READINGS

ORIENTATIONS

Adger, W.N., T.A. Benjaminsen, K Brown, and H. Svarstad
2001 Advancing a Political Ecology of Global Environmental Discourses. *Development and Change* 32(4):681-715.

Bryant, Raymond
1997 Beyond the Impasse: the Power of Political Ecology in Third World Environmental Research. *Area* 29:1:5-19.

Dove, Michael
2006 Indigenous People and Environmental Politics. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 35:191-208.

ENVIRONMENTS, MOVEMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Bebbington, Anthony

- 2004 Movements and Modernizations, Markets and Municipalities: Indigenous Federations in Rural Ecuador. *In Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 394-421. New York: Routledge.

Doyle, Timothy and Brian Doherty

- 2006 Green Public Spheres and the Green Governance State: The Politics of Emancipation and Ecological Conditionality. *Environmental Politics* 15:881-892.

Forsyth, Tim

- 2004 Industrial Pollution and Social Movements in Thailand. *In Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 422-438. New York: Routledge.

Hecht, Susanna

- 2004 Invisible Forests: The Political Ecology of Forest Resurgence in El Salvador. *In Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 64-104. New York: Routledge.

Rangan, Haripriya

- 2004 From Chipko to Uttaranchal: Development, Environment and Social Protest in the Garhwal Himalayas, India. *In Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 371-393. New York: Routledge.

Zimmerer, Karl

- 2004 Environmental Discourses on Soil Degradation in Bolivia: Sustainability and the Search for Socioenvironmental "Middle Ground." *In Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 107-124. New York: Routledge.

THE POLITICS OF CONSERVATION

Alcorn, Janis

- 1995 Big Conservation and Little Conservation: Collaboration in Managing Global and Local Heritage. *Yale Forestry and Environmental Studies Bulletin* 98. Electronic document.
<http://environment.research.yale.edu/documents/downloads/0-9/98alcorn.pdf>

Filer, Colin

- 2000 How Can Western Conservationists Talk to Melanesian Landowners About Indigenous Knowledge? *Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Working Paper* 27. Canberra: Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University. Electronic document. http://rspas.anu.edu.au/papers/rmap/Wpapers/rmap_wp27.pdf

Goldman, Michael

- 2004 Eco-governmentality and Other Transnational Practices of a "Green" World Bank. *In* Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 166-192. New York: Routledge.

Neumann, Roderick

- 2004 Nature-State-Territory: Toward a Theorization of Conservation Enclosures. *In* Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 195-217. New York: Routledge.

Vandergest, Peter and Nancy Peluso

- 1995 Territorialization and State Power in Thailand. *Theory and Society* 24:385-426.

West, Paige, James Igoe and Dan Brockington

- 2006 Parks and Peoples: The Social Impact of Protected Areas. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 35:251-277.

ECOPOLITICS AND REPRESENTATION

Brosius, J. Peter

- 1997 Endangered Forest, Endangered People: Environmentalist Representations of Indigenous Knowledge. *Human Ecology* 25:47-69.

Conklin, Beth and Laura Graham

- 1995 The Shifting Middle Ground: Amazonian Indians and Eco-politics. *American Anthropologist* 97:695-710.

Li, Tania

- 2004 Environment, Indigeneity and Transnationalism. *In* Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements. R. Peet and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 339-370. New York: Routledge.

Vandergest, Peter

- 2003 Racialization and Citizenship in Thai Forest Politics. *Society and Natural Resources* 16(1):19-37.

Wood, Michael

- 1999 Rimbunan Hijau vs. the World Bank and Australian Miners: Print Media Representations of Forestry Policy Conflict in Papua New Guinea. *The Australian Journal of Anthropology* 10(2):177-191.

Zerner, Charles

- 1994 Through a Green Lens: The Construction of Customary Environmental Law and Community in Indonesia's Maluku Islands. *Law and Society Review* 28(5):1079-1122.

LOGGING AND RAINFOREST POLITICS

Brosius, J. Peter

- 2003 The Forest and the Nation: Negotiating Citizenship in Sarawak, East Malaysia. *In* Cultural Citizenship in Island Southeast Asia, R. Rosaldo, ed. Pp. 76-133. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Filer, Colin

- 1996 The Social Context of Renewable Resource Depletion in Papua New Guinea. *In* Resources, Nations and Indigenous Peoples. R. Howitt, J. Connell and P. Hirsch, eds. Pp. 289-299. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hviding, Edvard

- 2003 Contested Rainforests, NGOs, and Projects of Desire in Solomon Islands. *International Social Science Journal* 55(178):539-554.

McCarthy, John

- 2002 Turning in Circles: District Governance, Illegal Logging, and Environmental Decline in Sumatra, Indonesia. *Society and Natural Resources* 15:867-886.

Schieffelin, Edward L.

- 1997 History and the Fate of the Forest on the Papuan Plateau. *Anthropological Forum* 7(4):575-98.

Wadley, Reed and Michael Ellenburg

- 2005 Autonomy, Identity, and 'Illegal' Logging in the Borderland of West Kalimantan, Indonesia. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 6(1):19-34.

MINING POLITICS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

Ballard, Chris and Glenn Banks

- 2003 Resource Wars: The Anthropology of Mining. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32:287-313.

Banks, Glenn

- 2002 Mining and the Environment in Melanesia: Contemporary Debates Reviewed. *The Contemporary Pacific* 14(1):39-68.

Filer, Colin

- 1990 The Bougainville Rebellion, the Mining Industry and the Process of Social Disintegration in Papua New Guinea. *Canberra Anthropology* 13(1):1-39.

Jorgensen, Dan

- 2006 Hinterland History: The Ok Tedi Mine and Its Cultural Consequences in Telefomin. *The Contemporary Pacific* 18:233-263.

Kirsch, Stuart

- 2002 Anthropology and Advocacy: A Case Study of the Campaign Against the

Ok Tedi Mine. *Critique of Anthropology* 22(2):175-200.

Macintyre, Martha and Simon Foale

2004 Politicised Ecology: Local Responses to Mining in Papua New Guinea. *Oceania* 74:231-251.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND OIL

Ferguson, James

2008 Seeing like an oil company. *American Anthropologist* 107:377-382.

Sagir, Bill

2001 The Politics of Petroleum Extraction and Royalty Distribution at Lake Kutubu. *In Mining and Indigenous Lifeworlds in Australia and Papua New Guinea*, A. Rumsey and J. Weiner, eds., pp. 145-156. Adelaide: Crawford House.

Sawyer, Suzana

2004 *Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Watts, Michael

2001 Petro-violence: Community, Extraction and Political Ecology of a Mythic Commodity. *In Violent Environments*, N. Peluso and M. Watts, eds. Pp. 189-212. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

FRICITION: A FRAME FOR UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Tsing, Anna

1999 Becoming a Tribal Elder, and Other Green Development Fantasies. *In Transforming the Indonesian Uplands*. Tania M. Li, ed. Pp. 159-202. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers.

2003 Agrarian Allegory and Global Futures. *In Nature in the Global South: Environmental Projects in South and Southeast Asia*, P. Greenough and A. Tsing, eds., pp. 124-169. Durham: Duke University Press.

2005 *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.