

**AUENV/POL 328 – Environmental Politics
Course Outline – Winter 2008**

**Tuesday, Thursday – 2:15-3:30
AU G 203**

**Instructor: Sean Ryan
Office: N213 in North Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday – 11:00-12:30, Thursday – 12:30-2:00
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**Many inquiries can be handled by e-mail.
Please do not hesitate to contact me this way.**

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[Please put “328” in the subject line of your message]

This course critically examines the development of environmentalism and its impact on politics (with an emphasis on Canada). We will discuss political ecology, liberation ecology, environmental economics, green politics, and ecological economics in the context of current political, conservation, and environmental issues facing Canada.

Objectives:

- 1) explain the key points in political/liberation ecology;
- 2) discuss the differences between environmental and ecological economics and offer a critique of the former in light of the latter;
- 3) explain the tragedy of the commons and how it applies to environmental issues in Canada;
- 4) understand the challenges inherent in making policy out of science;
- 5) examine the history of green and environmental politics in Canada;
- 6) explain the connections between social justice and environmentalism.

Required Texts:

All of the readings are available to students registered in the class on Moodle as *.pdf files.

Course Evaluation:

Short Paper	January 31	10% of total grade
Mid-Term Exam	February 26	25% of total grade
Major Paper	April 3	30% of total grade
Final Exam	TBA	35% of total grade

All marks will be calculated on the university’s letter grading system and four-point scale of numerical equivalents. Evaluation will be completed and expressed in raw marks

throughout the course. Grades (using the letter grading system) will be assigned only to the final distribution of mark totals for the course.

Midterm Exam will be comprised of essay/long answer questions, covering all material up to the date of the exam. It will be written in this classroom.

Major Paper – Due April 3rd.

Students are required to complete a term paper of approximately 2000-2500 words. The paper should address and discuss a topic appropriate to the course. Potential topics will be discussed in class. It is strongly recommended that you talk about your essay with the instructor well in advance of the due date. On February 7th we will discuss what is required in a major paper. Attendance at this class is strongly recommended. The paper must be handed by the end of class on April 3rd. Papers will not be accepted as email attachments or if slid under my office door. If you hand in your paper late, it will be subject to a five-percent (5%) per day deduction. No papers will be accepted after April 10th. Extensions may be granted for medical or significant personal reasons.

Final Exam will be an essay exam written in the gym and will cover all material from the course.

Class Schedule and Readings:

Date	Topic	Readings
January 8	Course Introduction	
January 10	Liberation Ecology	Watts, Michael and Peet Richard. 2004. Introduction. In <u>Liberation Ecologies: Environment, development, social movements</u> , editors Richard Peet and Michael Watts. London: Routledge, 3-47.
January 15	Liberation Ecology	
January 17	Political Ecology	Paulson, Susan; Gezon, Lias L.; Watts, Michael. 2005. Politics, ecologies, genealogies. In <u>Political Ecology Across Spaces, Scales, and Social Groups</u> , editors Susan Paulson and Lisa L. Gezon. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 17-37.
January 22	Political Ecology	Biersack, Aletta. 2006. Reimagining political ecology: Culture/power/history/nature. In <u>Reimagining Political Ecology</u> , editors Aletta Biersack and James B. Greenburg. Durham: Duke University Press, 3-40.
January 24	Ecological Economics	Edwards-Jones, Gareth; Davis, Gareth, and Hussain, Salman. 2000. Chapter 2: A brief history of ecological economic thought. In <u>Ecological Economics, An Introduction</u> , 10-29.
January 29	Ecological Economics	Sagoff, Mark. 1993. Some problems with environmental economics. In <u>Environmental Ethics: Divergence and Convergence</u> , editors Susan J. Armstrong and Richard G. Botzler. New York: McGraw-Hill, 238-244.
January 31	Ecological Economics	Babe, Robert E. 2006. Chapter 2: Economics and ecology as discourses. In <u>Culture of Ecology: Reconciling Economics and Environment</u> . Toronto: University Toronto Press, 30-70.

February 5	Tragedy of the Commons	Hardin, Garrett. 1993. The tragedy of the commons. In <u>Environmental Ethics: Divergence and convergence</u> , editors Susan J. Armstrong and Richard G. Botzler. New York: McGraw-Hill, 224-227.
February 7	Writing Essays	
February 12	Tragedy of the Commons	Rubinoff, Lionel. 1997. Politics, ethics, and ecology: Confronting the tragedy of the commons. In <u>Canadian Issues in Environmental Ethics</u> , editors Alex Wellington, Allan Greenbaum, and Wesley Cragg. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 133-152.
February 14	Introductory Ecology	O'Neill, Robert V. December 2001. Is it time to bury the ecosystem concept? (with full military honors, of course!). <u>Ecology</u> 82, no. 12: 3275-84.
February 18-22	Reading Week – No Classes	
February 26	Midterm Exam	
February 28	TBA	
March 4	Environmental Law	Boyd, David R. 2003. Canada's Environmental Record. In <u>Unnatural Law: Rethinking Canadian Environmental Law and Policy</u> . Vancouver: UBC Press, 3-12.
March 6	Environmental Law	Boyd, David R. 2003. Chapter 2: Water. In <u>Unnatural Law: Rethinking Canadian Environmental Law and Policy</u> . Vancouver: UBC Press, 13-27, 42-65.
March 11	Environmental Politics	Paehlke, Robert and Torgerson, Douglas. 1993. Environmental politics and the administrative state. In <u>Environmental Ethics: Divergence and Convergence</u> , Susan J. Armstrong and Richard G. Botzler. New York: McGraw-Hill, 265-272.
March 13	Green Politics	Carter, Neil. 2007. Chapter 3: Green political thought. In <u>The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy (2nd edition)</u> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 41-81.
March 18	Environment vs. Development in Alberta	Urquhart, Ian. 1998. Cheviot: A Land Where Coal Is King. <u>Assault on the Rockies: Environmental controversies in Alberta</u> , editor Ian Urquhart. Edmonton, Alberta: Rowan Books, 83-113.
March 20	Endangered Species	Bocking, Stephen 2001. The Politics of Endangered Species: A Historical Perspective. In <u>Politics of the Wild: Canada and Endangered Species</u> , editors Karen Beazley and Robert Boardman. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 117-136
March 25	TBA	
March 27	Biodiversity and Politics	Vanderlinden, Loren and John Eyles. 2000. Public perspectives on biodiversity: Models and a case study. In <u>Biodiversity in Canada: Ecology, ideas, and action</u> , editor Stephen Bocking. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 237-70.
April 1	Biodiversity, Terrorism, and	Guyer, Jane and Richards, Paul. 1996. The invention of biodiversity: Social perspectives on the management of biological variety in Africa. <u>Africa</u> 66, no. 1: 1-13.

	Immigration	
April 3 Essays Due	The Politics of Protected Areas	Kosek, Jake. 2004. Purity and Pollution: Racial degradation and environmental anxieties. In <u>Liberation Ecologies: Environment, development, social movements</u> , editors Richard Peet and Michael Watts. London: Routledge, 125-165.
April 8	The Politics of Protected Areas	Neumann, Roderick P. 2004. Nature—state—territory: Toward a critical theorization of conservation practices. In <u>Liberation Ecologies: Environment, development, social movements</u> , editors Richard Peet and Michael Watts. London: Routledge, 195-217.
April 10	Course Review	

Grading System:

The following table illustrates the grading system that will be used for this course:

Descriptor	Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value
Excellent	90% or higher	A+	4.0
	85-89%	A	4.0
	80-84%	A-	3.7
Good	77-79%	B+	3.3
	74-76 %	B	3.0
	70-73 %	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	67-69 %	C+	2.3
	64-66 %	C	2.0
	60-63 %	C-	1.7
Poor	55-59 %	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	50-54 %	D	1.0
Failure	49 % or lower	F	0.0

Writing Assistance, Learning Resources, and Exam Strategies: Contact the Writing Centre, Room 210 Faith and Life Centre.
http://www.augustana.ca/student_life/studentservices/WritingCentre/;
email: write@augustana.ca

Specialized Support and Disability Services: Students who require accommodations in this course due to a disability affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning, or mental or physical health are advised to discuss their needs with Specialized Support and Disability Services, F214, Faith and Life Centre, (780) 679-1649
http://www.augustana.ca/student_life/studentservices/ssds/;
E-mail: ssds.augustana@ualberta.ca

Course Outlines: Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar

University Code of Student Behaviour:

Please note the following as stated in the University Code of Student Behaviour and included in the *Calendar* [www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm]:

Plagiarism:

- “No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.”

Cheating:

- “No Student shall in the course of an examination, obtain or attempt to obtain

information from another student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another student...”

- “No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.”
- “No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.”

Misrepresentation of Facts

- “No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage.”

Participation in an Offence

- “No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.”