GGR 338H1F: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH
Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto

Fall Session 2017 | Monday 3:00-5:00
Class Meeting Location: Sidney Smith Hall 2110

Instructor: Elsie Lewison
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Office: Sidney Smith 5061
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00 or by appointment
Teaching Assistants: Shalini Mariyathas & Laura Tozer

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will be exploring the relationship between 'development' and 'environment' from a number of different perspectives. Rather than identifying 'best practice' approaches or technological solutions to common environmental issues, the aim of the course is to encourage a deeper understanding the relations of power that shape the definition, distribution and governance of environmental harms and hazards. We will critically examine the Global South-Global North distinction to consider what historical and contemporary processes are producing global geographies of inequality and how these might relate to socio-environmental relations. The course will be primarily structured around case studies in order to explore how these relations are embedded in particular geographical and historical contexts.

An important focus of the course will be on familiarizing students with the history and institutions of international development. We will be looking at some of the key actors involved in producing dominant forms of environmental knowledge as well as governmental interventions to manage and improve human-environmental relations. The course aims to provide students with some strategies for thinking critically about the meaning and use of common terms like over-population, sustainability, vulnerability and resilience, and about how environmental problems are framed in a variety of different forms including research institution reports, development agency documents and the media.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Preparation: This is a third-year course, and you will be expected to perform at an upper year level by demonstrating critical thinking and independent study skills. We will be actively engaging with the readings in class through the lectures, small group discussions and independent writing activities. You are expected to come to class having completed the readings.

Email expectations: Announcements will be sent to you via your utoronto email address, it is expected that you will regularly check this email account. Please also use this account for any emails regarding the course and include GGR338 in the subject line.

I will aim to respond to emails within two working days. I will generally not respond to emails on weekends or after regular work hours (9 am to 5 pm). If you have logistical questions about course policies or assignments, please be sure to thoroughly review your syllabus and assignment handouts before emailing. If your question requires a long and complex response, it’s probably best to speak with me after class or during office hours.
Electronic devices: Taking photos and videos during class is not permitted. Please ask me for permission if you wish to audio record the lecture. Students should be aware that since audio recordings may occur within the lecture, your voice may be recorded by other students during class. Please speak to me if you have any concerns about this. A reminder that cell phones and other communications devices should either be turned off or in silent mode. Do not answer your phone or text message during class. If you use a laptop for taking notes, please do so in a way that does not disturb other students or distract the instructor (i.e., quiet on the keyboard, do not use computer for non-class related activities, turn off the internet function).

READINGS AND BLACKBOARD

Required texts: There is no textbook for the course. I will post links to the readings or a PDF file of the readings in Blackboard. If a link is broken, search for the reading on the library website. You are responsible for making sure you can access all readings, and you are expected to read the assigned reading before each class.

Blackboard: Make sure to check the Blackboard site frequently. I will post course announcements on the Blackboard home page for the course. Throughout the course I will be posting: lecture notes (generally after lecture); the readings for the class and reading questions to help highlight important content; assignment guidelines, along with useful links and resources for completing assignments.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class 1 | September 11 | Course introduction
Why study 'environmental issues' in the 'Global South'?

Class 2 | September 18 | Colonial Ecologies and Uneven Development

Suggested

Class 3 | September 25 | Limits to Growth to Sustainable Development
Class 4 | October 2 | Soils

No Class | October 9 | Thanksgiving

Class 5 | October 16 | Forests

Suggested

Class 6 | October 23 | Parks

Suggested

Class 7 | October 30 | Slums

No Class | November 6 | Reading Week
Class 8 | November 13 | Waste

Suggested
• Clapp (1994) The toxic waste trade with less industrialised countries: Economic linkages and political alliances, Third World Quarterly, 15:3, 505-518.

Class 9 | November 20 | Extraction

Suggested
• Dubois, Frédéric, Marc Tessier, & David Widgington. EXTRACTION! Comix Reportage
• Watts, M. Petró-Violence: Community, Extraction and Political Ecology of a Mythic Commodity

Class 10 | November 27 | Carbon

Class 11 | December 4 | Climate Chaos

Class 12 | December 7 | Course Wrap Up
ASSESSMENT AND DEADLINES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>In class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Friday October 13th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Friday November 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Friday December 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Participation:** Throughout the course, you will complete a variety of in-class exercises of the following types: reactions to lectures or films, writing exercises, small group discussions and activities to prepare for the course assignments. Please note that you will only be able to complete these activities if you are in class. The assessment will be based on a combination of the quantity of in-class activities you complete and the quality of these engagements.

**Extensions:** Extensions on assignments will be granted sparingly in the case of illness or other emergencies. For illness, you must have a health care professional fill out the official University of Toronto medical verification form. Please consult your College Registrar if you are having difficulties during the term that prevent you from completing your course work.

SUPPORT AND ACCOMMODATION

**Accessibility:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom, or the course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility.

**Online writing resources:** More than 60 Advice files on all aspects of academic writing are available from http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice.

**English language support:** You can find more resources on the webpages of the English Language Learning program (ELL) at http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell. Check out the non-credit August course ELL010H (Intensive Academic English). Enrolment in this course takes place via ACORN along with registration for the Fall/Winter Session (http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell/ell010h1). For more information, contact the ELL Coordinator Leora Freedman at ell.newcollege@utoronto.ca.

**Mental health:** If you have mental health concerns, you are not alone! Over half of the undergraduates in a recent University of Alberta student survey reported feeling extreme anxiety or hopelessness. Please contact Counseling and Psychological Services for help: www.caps.utoronto.ca.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

While I encourage you to discuss the class topics and assignments with others, I expect that the essays you submit are your own work. This includes learning how to properly cite and summarize information from other sources. For help with this, see the very useful document, “How not to plagiarize”: www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize. Cheating and plagiarism are
serious offences at the University of Toronto, and I expect you to be familiar with and abide by the University’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters:
http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm

Plagiarism is quoting or paraphrasing the work of another author (including the work of fellow students) without proper use of citations (and quotations marks when using an author’s words). You also should not be submitting any academic work for which you have previously obtained (or are currently seeking) credit without first discussing this with me.