

SPRING 2020

POLITICAL ECOLOGY, CRISIS AND IDENTITY (HEKN14 // Provisional)

TEACHERS:

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Rooms: F=Flygeln (first floor), R=Rio (fourth floor), M=Malmö (fourth floor), V=Världen (first floor).

COURSE GUIDELINES

Course Requirements

This is an intensely interactive course. It is very different in structure from previous courses (notably HEKN11) and requires another level of collective and individual work during the weeks of classes. Active participation in lectures and seminars is MANDATORY. This includes thorough preparation before class – engaging with the assigned literature, noting key points and insights, forming independent opinions, etcetera – and applies no less to lectures than to seminars and out-of-class group assignments. Indeed, participation in those activities is part of the total assignment, individual essays being another one – see further below.

The purpose of the course is to stimulate discussions on some of the most pressing political and cultural aspects of the current environmental crisis, and so we attempt to keep the readings as updated as possible: see the course literature listed below.

Structure

The structure of the course mostly follows a basic, tripartite model (although there are considerable variations): each week starts with a lecture, followed by a literature seminar and then a student seminar. In the lecture, the teacher introduces the topic for the week in some depth. In the seminars, we delve further into it together: see further below. But as you can see, these rules have several exceptions.

Literature Seminars

Literature seminars are planned for all weeks. Before the literature seminars, you are required to write some reflections on the readings of the week and publish them on the course site at Live@Lund (details on how to do this to be presented in the first class). It follows that the topic and structure of your reflections are entirely of your choosing, based on what you find compelling or dubious or infuriating or in any other way interesting in what you have read. You need only respond to one text if multiple texts are assigned, though you are welcome to respond to more than one if you wish to develop a comparative or synthetic response. You should also take this opportunity to raise questions on the literature that you want addressed in the seminars. The text should be between 300-450 words – i.e. one page or slightly less – and must be uploaded to L@L at least three hours before the seminar. You should try to take time to read other students' reflections too. The literature seminars will then be divided into two parts. During the first hour, you work in small groups – everyone will belong to one 'literature group' throughout the course – and discuss the reflections you have written. This means that you have to pay particular attention to the reflections posted by the other members of your group, so you can discuss the points raised by them. During the second hour, the whole class congregates and the teacher will chair the seminar based on the reflections written by everyone (and, of course, the discussions in

the small group may spill over into this forum). In this way, we achieve a much closer collective engagements with the texts than when they are only attached to lectures of the classical type.

Student Seminars

All student seminars will require preparation in groups before the seminar: they involve some sort of independent research exercise (of a reasonable extent), conducted in groups. The ‘student group’ will be different in composition from the literature group, so as to avoid monotony (with the risk of some confusion, but hopefully we can avoid that). Detailed separate instructions for each seminar will be provided in the week preceding it or in the week’s lecture, but we’ll have a general overview of the tasks at the beginning of the course (as well as the division into groups).

Missed Seminars

If for any reason you are unable to attend a seminar (or post reflections on the week’s readings), you will need to make up for it by writing one page on the topic of the missed seminar and submit it to the teacher responsible for that seminar.

Assignment

For this course, participation in seminars and execution of group tasks count as part of the total assignment for the course and will thus carry some weight in the final grade. A paper will also be due at the end of the course, but it will be shorter than usual (for a 15 credits course, that is): minimum 5 and maximum 7 pages. We will go over the full details at the start of the course, as usual.

Literature

There is a lot to read on this course. However, more detailed instructions will be given for what chapters to focus on in the books; you won’t be asked to read them all in their entirety. But you will be expected to have read the texts by the time of the literature seminars, and it’s advisable to make sure that you have done so before the start of the week – hence to plan your readings carefully in advance. Note that, in order to keep the course topical, up-to-date, interactive and open to requests, some articles might be added along the way. If for any reason you are having difficulty keeping up with the course, please contact the course coordinator ASAP.

Grading

Your work will be graded according to the standard system (A, B, C, D, E, or Fail).

COURSE SCHEDULE

TBA: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Day	Time			Literature	Teacher	Room
Week 1			<i>POLITICAL ECOLOGY: A SET OF THEORETICAL, METHODOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL COMMITMENTS</i>			
20/1	Mon	15-17	Lecture	Robbins (2012) Chapters 1-4, Bridge et al. (2015)	MB	F
21/1	Tue	12-14	Lecture	Robbins (2012) Chapter 6, Tetreault	MB	V
24/1	Fri	12-14	Literature seminar	(2017); Svarstad et al. (2018)	MB	F

24/1	Fri	15-17	Student seminar	Robbins (2012) Chapters 8-13	MB	F
Week 2			<i>CONVERGENCE OF CRISES, THE GLOBAL RESOURCE GRAB AND AGRARIAN CHANGE</i>			
28/1	Tue	11-13	Lecture	Dunlap & Jakobsen (2020) Chapter 3, McMichael (2012), White et al. (2012), Fairhead et al. (2012), Bernstein (2010) (Chapters 1-2; 6-8) Borras et al. (2018), Borras & Franco (2018)	MB	V
30/1	Thu	13-15	Literature Seminar		MB	F
Week 3			<i>FEMINIST POLITICAL ECOLOGY</i>			
3/2	Mon	15-17	Lecture	TBA	MTK	F
6/2	Thu	15-17	Literature Seminar		MTK	F
7/2	Fri	11-13	Student Seminar		MTK	F
Week 4			<i>ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND DISPOSSESSION</i>			
10/2	Mon	12-14	Lecture	Nixon (2012) Chapters 1-3, 5; Huber (2015); Aklin & Urpelainen (2018) Stock & Birkenholtz (2019), Dunlap (2018)	MB	F
13/2	Thu	11-13	Literature Seminar		MB	R
14/2	Fri	10-12	Guest Lecture Thiago Gehre			V
Week 5			<i>END OF THE WORLD VS. END OF THE MONTH: THE POLARIZATION OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IDENTITIES AWAKENED BY THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS (A LESSON FROM THE YELLOW VESTS IN FRANCE)</i>			
17/2	Mon	11-13	Lecture	TBA	MM	F
19/2	Wed	11-13	Literature Seminar		MM	F
21/2	Fri	12-14	Student Seminar		MM	F

Week 6			<i>HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE INTERPENETRATION OF THE NATURAL AND THE SOCIAL?</i>			
25-26/2	Tue-Wed		Two days of excursion to the Emporia mall in Malmö and the Söderåsen national park. With group tasks and literature seminar (and a bit of lecture). Detailed instructions to be given in class.	Garrard (2012), Vannini & Vannini (2016), TBA	AA	
28/2	Fri	15-17	Student Seminar		AA	R
Week 7			<i>THE POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF THE OCEANS</i>			
2/3	Mon	12-14	Lecture	Steinberg 1999; Zalik 2019; Campling & Colas 2018; Barbesgaard 2018; Bond 2019; Mallin 2018; Mallin et al. 2019	MB	V
4/3	Tue	15-17	Literature seminar		MB	R
6/3	Fri	13-15	Student Seminar		MB	F
Week 8			<i>THE CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS</i>			
9/3	Thu	15-17	Lecture	Ciplet et al. (2015); Wainwright & Mann (2018), Orange (2017)	MB	R
11/3	Wed	11-13	Literature Seminar		MB	V
13/3	Fri	13-16	Final student seminar: Solutions, alternative, ways forward		MB	F
22/3	Sun	23.59	<i>SUBMISSION OF FINAL ESSAY</i>			

COURSE LITERATURE

Books:

Ciplet, David, J. Timmons Roberts & Mizan R. Khan (2015): *Power in a Warming World: The New Global Politics of Climate Change and the Remaking of Environmental Inequality*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Garrard, Greg (2012): *Ecocriticism*, Abingdon: Routledge.

Malm, Andreas (2018): *The Progress of This Storm: Nature and Society in a Warming World*, London: Verso.

Nixon, Rob (2011): *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Orange, Donna M. (2017): *Climate Crisis, Psychoanalysis, and Radical Ethics*, Abingdon: Routledge.

Vannini, Phillip & Vannini, April (2016): *Wilderness*, Abingdon: Routledge. Excerpts, TBA.

Wainwright, Joel & Mann, Geoff (2018): *Climate Leviathan: A Political Theory of Our Planetary Future*, London: Verso.

Articles and book excerpts:

Aklin, M. & J. Urpelainen (2018). *Renewables: The politics of a global energy transition*. Massachusetts: MIT Press

Barbesgaard, M. 2018. Blue growth: savior or ocean grabbing. *Journal of Peasant Studies*. 45 (1), 130-149

Bond, P. 2018. Blue Economy threats, contradictions and resistances seen from South Africa. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 26, 341- 362

Borras Jr., S.M., Tsegaye Moreda, Alberto Alonso-Fradejas & Zoe W. Brent (2018) Converging social justice issues and movements: implications for political actions and research, *Third World Quarterly*, 39:7, 1227-1246

Borras Jr., S.M. & Jennifer C. Franco (2018) The challenge of locating land-based climate change mitigation and adaptation politics within a social justice perspective: towards an idea of agrarian climate justice, *Third World Quarterly*, 39:7, 1308-1325

Bernstein, H. 2010. *Class Dynamics of Agrarian Change*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing

Bridge, G., J. McCarthy and T. Perrault. 2015. Editors' Introduction, in Perreault et al. (eds.): *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*. Oxon: Routledge, p. 3-9

Campling, L. and A. Colás. 2018. Capitalism and the sea: Sovereignty, territory and appropriation in the global ocean. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. 36 (4). 776-794.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775817737319>

Dunlap, A. & J. Jakobsen (2020), *The Violent Technologies of Extraction: Political Ecology, critical agrarian studies and the capitalist worldeater*. Switzerland: Palgrave

Dunlap, A. (2018) Counterinsurgency for wind energy: the Bú Hioxo wind park in Juchitán, Mexico, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 45:3, 630-652,

Fairhead, J., M. Leach, I. Scoones. 2012. Green Grabbing: a new appropriation of nature? *Journal of peasant studies*, 39 (2), 237-261

Huber, M. 2015. Theorizing energy geographies. *Geography Compass*, 9 (6), 327-338

Mallin, M.-A.F. 2018. From sea-level rise to seabed grabbing: The political economy of climate change in Kiribati. *Marine Policy*. 97. 244-252. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2018.04.021>

- Mallin, M.-A.F. et al. . 2019. Entrusting ocean's capital: conservation, philanthropy and the political economy of Large Marine Protected Areas. *Marine Policy*, in press.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2019.01.010>
- McMichael, P. (2012). The land grab and corporation food regime restructuring. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 39 (3-4), 681-701
- Robbins, Paul (2012). *Political Ecology: a critical introduction*. 2. ed. Chichester, West Sussex: J. Wiley & Sons
- Steinberg. P.E. 1999. The Maritime Mystique: Sustainable Development, Capital Mobility, and Nostalgia in the World Ocean. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. 17(4), 403–426.
<https://doi.org/10.1068/d170403>
- Stock, R. and T. Birkenholtz. The syn and the scythe: energy dispossessions and the agrarian question of labor in solar parks. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, early-view:
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2019.1683002>
- Svarstad et al. 2018. Power theories in Political Ecology. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 25, 350-425
- Tetreault, D. 2017. Three Forms of Political Ecology. *Ethics & the Environment*, 22:2, pp. 1-23
- White, B., S.M. Borrás, R. Hall, I. Scoones, W. Wolford. 2012. The new enclosures: critical perspectives on corporate land deals. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 39 (3-4), 619-647
- Zalik, A. 2018. Mining the seabed, enclosing the Area: ocean grabbing, proprietary knowledge and the geopolitics of the extractive frontier beyond national jurisdiction. *International Social Science Journal*. 68 (229-230), 343-359