

Winter Quarter 2003 Syllabus

ENVS 291-12: Advanced Readings in Political Ecology *Incipient Debates: Constructions of Nature and Scarcity?*

Time and Place: Wednesday 2 to 3:30, 455 ISB

Call Number: 38784

Contact: Dustin Mulvaney, 443 ISB, dustin@ucsc.edu

Faculty sponsor: Roberto Sanchez-Rodriguez (Environmental Studies)

This graduate student led seminar is part of an ongoing effort to engage with political ecology in a way that strengthens its usefulness and enriches its possibilities. This quarter focuses on some of the foundational debates on nature and scarcity. Protection of wildlands and issues of population have long been a central focus of environmentalism, but political ecologists have offered notable critiques of these foci. The ensuing debates had a significant impact on the discourses around these issues, while at the same time helped to define political ecology as a field. We will be reading some of these foundational critiques as well as exploring the ways that they have transformed the discursive elements of activism. Particular attention will be given to how these debates engage with the 'politicized environments' in which natural resources, scarcity and violence interact and how political ecology can lend itself to the discovery and clearer articulation of the dynamics and meanings that underlie these conflicts.

This quarter will also feature two invited speakers. **Ron Herring**, Professor of Government and Director of the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University, will present his work on GMOs and India (week 7). **Ben Crow**, Professor of Sociology, UCSC, will be presenting on the theme of sustainable industrialization (week 9).

Graduate students enrolled in the course will be expected to facilitate discussion with written reviews, discussion questions and verbal summaries of the week's readings at least once during the quarter. This class is sponsored by the Political Ecology Working Group. For a description of the Working Group and its processes, see the description below (*).

Week 1 ~ January 8

Introduction, syllabus dispersal, general overview.

Week 2 ~ January 15

Cronon, W. (1995). "The Trouble with Wilderness; or Getting Back to the Wrong Nature." in Uncommon Ground. W. Cronon, ed., New York: Norton: 69-90.

Worster, D. (1997). "The Wilderness of History." Wild Earth Fall 1997: 9-13.

Proctor, J. D. (1998). "The Social Construction of Nature: Relativist Accusations, Pragmatist and Critical Realist Responses." Annals of the Association of American Geographers **88**(3): 352-376.

Week 3 ~ January 22

Guha, R. (1989). "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique." Environmental Ethics 11(1): 71-83.

Naess, A. (1994). "The Third World, Wilderness, and Deep Ecology." . In Callicott and Nelson, eds., The Great Wilderness Debate. Athens: University of Georgia Press: 280-292.

Guha, R. (1998). "Deep Ecology Revisited." In Callicott and Nelson, eds., The Great Wilderness Debate. Athens: University of Georgia Press: 271-279.

Optional:

Cafaro, P. and M. Verma (1998). "For Indian Wilderness." Terra Nova, 3: 53-58.

Johns, D.M. (1990) "The Relevance of Deep Ecology to the Third World: Some Preliminary Comments." Environmental Ethics 12: 233-252.

Also In Callicott and Nelson, eds., The Great Wilderness Debate. Athens: University of Georgia Press: 246-270.

Week 4 ~ January 29

Escobar, A. (1999). "After Nature: Steps to an anti-essentialist Political Ecology." Current Anthropology 40(1): 1-16.

Demeritt, D. (2002). "What Is the 'Social Construction of Nature'? A Typology and Sympathetic Critique." Progress in Human Geography 26 (6):766-89.

Western, D. (2001). "In the Dust of Kilimanjaro." in Rothenberg and Ulvaeus (eds.). The World and the Wild: Expanding Wilderness Conservation Beyond its American Roots. Tuscon, Arizona: University of Arizona Press: 65-80.

Terborgh, J. (2001). " Why Conservation in the Tropics is Failing." in Rothenberg and Ulvaeus (eds.). The World and the Wild: Expanding Wilderness Conservation Beyond its American Roots. Tuscon, Arizona: University of Arizona Press: 81-88.

Western & Terborgh. (2001). "Trouble in Paradise: An Exchange" in Rothenberg and Ulvaeus (eds.). The World and the Wild: Expanding Wilderness Conservation Beyond its American Roots. Tuscon, Arizona: University of Arizona Press: 89-92.

Optional:

"Comments" following Escobar, A. (1999). "After Nature..." Current Anthropology 40(1): 16-30.

Week 5 ~ February 5

Peluso, N. (1993). "Coercing Conservation: The Politics of State Resource Control." In Lipschutz and Conca, eds., The State and Social Power in Global Environmental Politics. New York: Columbia University Press: 46-70.

Neumann, R.P. (2001). "Disciplining peasants in Tanzania: From State Violence to Self-Surveillance in Wildlife Conservation." in Peluso & Watts, eds., Violent Environments. Ithaca: Cornell University Press: 305-327.

Neumann, R.P. (2002). Killing for Conservation: Is Biodiversity Protection the Moral Equivalent of War? Paper Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers March 19-23, Los Angeles, CA.

Optional:

Neumann, R.P. (1998). Imposing Wilderness: Struggles over Nature Protection and Livelihoods in Africa Berkeley: UC Press. Chapter 3 Conservation versus Custom: State Seizure of Natural Resource Control, pp. 97-121.

Eckersley, R. (1998) "Beyond Human Racism." Environmental Values Volume 7, Number 2, pp.165-182.

Week 6 ~ February 12

Hartman, B. (2001). "Will the Circle Be Unbroken? A Critique of the Project on Environment, Population, and Security." in Peluso & Watts, eds., Violent Environments. Ithaca: Cornell University Press: 305-327.

Homer-Dixon, T. F. (1999). Environment, Scarcity, and Violence. Princeton, NJ, Princeton University Press. Chapter 6: 107-132.

Optional:

Watts, M and N. L. Peluso. (2001). "Introduction: Environmental Violence and Green Security." in Peluso & Watts, eds., Violent Environments. Ithaca: Cornell University Press: 3-38.

Bobrow-Strain, A. (2001). "Between a Ranch and a Hard Place: Violence, Scarcity, and Meaning in Chiapas, Mexico." in Peluso & Watts, eds., Violent Environments. Ithaca: Cornell University Press: 146-154.

Week 7 ~ February 19

Invited Guest:

Ron Herring, Professor of Government and Director, The Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University

"GMOs in India"

Week 8 ~ February 26

Fairhead, J. (2001). "International Dimensions of Conflict over Natural and Environmental Resources." in Peluso & Watts, eds., Violent Environments. Ithaca: Cornell University Press: 213-236.

Levine, S. (1997). "The Great Denial: Puncturing Pro-Natalist Myths. Wild Earth Winter 1997/98: 8-17.

Optional:

Ross, E. B. (1998). The Malthus Factor: Poverty, Politics and Population in Capitalist Development. Conclusion: Malthusianism After the Cold War: The Struggle Continues. London: Zed Books: 200-223.

Mamdani, M. (1973). The Myth of Population Control: Family, Caste, and Class in an Indian Village. New York: Monthly Review Press: Introduction 13-22.

See also: Committee on Women, Population and the Environment <<http://www.cwpe.org>>

Week 9 ~ March 5

Invited Guest:

Ben Crow, Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Cruz

Wallace, D. (1996). Sustainable Industrialization. London, Earthscan/Royal Institute of International Affairs. Chapters 1, 3, 7, 9.

Week 10 ~ March 12

Harvey, D. (1974). "Population, Resources, and the Ideology of Science." Economic Geography 50: 256-277.

Jarosz, L. (1993). "Defining and Explaining Tropical Deforestation: Shifting Cultivation and Population Growth in Colonial Madagascar (1896-1940)." Economic Geography 69(4): 366-379.

Optional:

Moore, D. (1993). "Contesting Terrain in Zimbabwe's Eastern Highlands: Political Ecology, Ethnography, and Peasant Resource Struggles." Economic Geography 69(4): 380-401.

****Political Ecology Working Group***

The Political Ecology Working Group of UC Santa Cruz is a graduate student-led forum for the discussion of the foundational work and innovative research in the broadening field of political ecology. We define political ecology to be a critical recognition and exploration of the dynamics, properties, and meanings of 'politicized environments'. The format consists of a combination of weekly readings, speakers, and graduate student presentations. The group explores and debates the core issues of the field with the goal of strengthening and sharpening political ecology's conceptual, methodological, and theoretical tools for creating a more sustainable and just society. The broad foci of the group includes an inquiry of human/environment relations through the lenses of gender, race, class, livelihoods, hazards, resistance and resilience, environmental discourses and social movements, agroecology and food, health and embodiment, governance, science and technology, urban/rural issues, climate change, geographies of ethics and morality, and the polyvalent connections between production and consumption.

While mainly a forum for discussion, we are also concerned with creating real and practical links to resource dependent communities in both the global South and North. We wish to establish ties to progressive NGOs engaged in development, as well as with other research groups at UCSC and other institutions.

Graduate student professional development will be emphasized through presentation of works in progress and conference papers and a pragmatic interest in research proposal writing and critique. Future output will include individual and multi-authored working papers and workshops centered around the group's research foci.

Working Group Processes

The Working group is a democratically run collective and seeks to foster a collegial yet critical atmosphere in and around the weekly discussion meetings. Each meeting is facilitated by a member (or members) of the group who provides a short review of the material for the week. The review includes discussion questions, critique, and the ties that the material makes to other literatures and scholarly work. These short reviews should be made available before the meeting through email or the day of the discussion. Papers, when available, will be in electronic format and disseminated to the group on a future web page or will be available from a master set. Future syllabi will be generated in the previous quarter with input from all members as to focus and substance. Previous syllabi are available for review of the thematic trajectory the group.