

GEOG 2030: Environment, Justice and Society

Autumn 2023

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to contemporary themes in environment-society relations using power as an analytic. We examine the ways in which power relations shape environment-society relationships, with a focus on racism, settler colonialism and political economy. The course will introduce students to concepts for framing environment-society relations, including environmental racism, racial capitalism and necropolitics and consider a range of case studies and resistance movements from the global south (understood as a de-territorialized political- economic concept that includes the 'south' in the 'north'). Topics covered will include climate justice, resource sovereignty, disaster capitalism, and policing of Indigenous resistance movements. Students will be exposed to a range of investigative research techniques and tools and will learn a range of practical analytic skills.

Course objectives:

At the end of the course you should be able to:

- Distinguish between, and appropriately evaluate, different sources of information on environmental issues in the Global South.
- Identify and explain concepts from the course, as presented in lectures and podcasts and through readings and films;
- Critically apply these concepts in order to interpret current environmental change and conflict;
- Apply practical investigative research skills to understand environmental change and conflict

Course format:

The course will expose you to the course materials through a combination of lectures, films, podcasts, readings, activities, discussions, and guest lectures. This is a blended course and will include a series of small group activities (investigative skills workshops) that are synchronous but take place outside of the regular class setting. Over three subsequent Thursdays (from weeks 6 to 8) instead of attending class, students will meet in small, pre-assigned groups to complete a set of 3 workshop activities aimed at developing and applying practical investigative research skills. Workshops will culminate in a group deliverable that will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Students are encouraged to attend class regularly, prepare the readings in advance of each class, and come to class prepared to engage. Please note that attendance is considered a prerequisite to doing well in this course. Power point slides (without speaking notes) will be posted to course link but lectures will **not** be recorded (unless merited by exceptional public health circumstances). If you miss class, you are advised to borrow the notes of a reliable colleague.

Course readings, podcasts and videos:

All required materials will be available through course link (there is no text for this course)

Assignments:

15% Synchronous Investigative Skills Workshops (group): Weeks 6-8

55% Environmental Harm Analysis:

- 5% group contract (group): Monday Sept 25
- 10% power map OR annotation OR infographic (group): Friday Nov 24
- 20% podcast (group): Friday Sept 24
- 20% Analytic essay (individual): Friday Dec 1

30% Exam (December date TBC)

Course/ Department/ University policies

Note Taking: Students are responsible for taking their own notes during lectures. *Materials, such as power point slides, provided on the course D2L page are incomplete and are not intended to replace student notes.* I will not provide lecture material for missed lectures. Please coordinate with other students if you need notes for missed classes – a discussion board will be available on Course link to facilitate student communication.

Communication: As per university regulations, all students are required to check their uoguelph e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students. Please also check Course link regularly; important information will be made available here. For any questions related to course content or requirements, please use the discussion boards on Course link. For any individual/confidential concerns, please email your TA. If your TA cannot help you they will direct you to the instructor. I will respond to emails sent on weekdays within 24 hours; emails sent after 4pm Friday will

be responded to on Monday. You are also welcome (and encouraged!) to visit the instructor during her office hours or to make an individual appointment with your TA.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement: When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, **please advise your TA** in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration](#)

Late Policy:

In-Class Activities: If you miss one of these activities you will receive a mark of zero unless the Instructor excuses you from the activity ahead of time due to extenuating circumstances.

Assignments: Unless an extension is discussed well ahead of the due date, late penalties of 5%/earned grade/day (including weekends) will be assigned. Extensions may be granted in certain circumstances, and will usually require the student to produce valid medical (doctor's note) or personal (note from Counseling Services) documentation. Late assignments/exams will not be accepted once graded assignments have been returned officially to the class at large unless circumstances permit and alternative arrangements have been made.

Copies of out-of-class assignments: Keep paper and/or reliable electronic back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments (including those submitted on Courselink!): you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility:

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or refer to the [CSD website](#).

Academic Misconduct:

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of

their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the [Undergraduate Calendar](#).

Recording of Materials: Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Drop Date: The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is November 2, 2017. For [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses](#).