

Ecologia Política	2013/2014
Codi: 42406	
Crèdits: 6	

Titulació	Tipus	Curs	Semestre
4313784 Estudis Interdisciplinaris en Sostenibilitat Ambiental, Econòmica i Social	OT	0	1

Professor de contacte

Nom: Georgios Kallis

Correu electrònic: Georgios.Kallis@uab.cat

Utilització d'idiomes

Llengua vehicular majoritària: anglès (eng)

Prerequisites

If not native English speaker: valid IELTS (with a minimum score of 6.5) or TOEFL (minimum 550 paper based, 213 computer based, 79 web-based) score report or a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English or Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English.

The students must hold an undergraduate degree with relevance to environmental or urban studies.

Preferably with previous training in a social science (i.e., business, sociology, political science, economics)

Objectius

In this course we will explore the interdisciplinary field of Political Ecology. Political Ecology is a theoretical and methodological approach for the study of socio-ecological systems that focuses on conflict, power and the uneven distribution of environmental costs and benefits. This course will familiarize students with the key concepts and tools used by political ecologists. At the end of the course students should be able to do political ecology research themselves. They will also be introduced to profoundly new, critical, ways of looking at and understanding environmental problems and policies.

Training objectives of the course:

- Use social theory to analyse environmental problems
- Design case-study research and use qualitative research tools
- Understand the role of power in shaping environmental change

Competències

- Estudis Interdisciplinaris en Sostenibilitat Ambiental, Econòmica i Social
- Aplicar els coneixements d'economia ambiental i ecològica a l'anàlisi i a la interpretació de problemàtiques ambientals.
 - Comunicar oralment i per escrit en anglès
 - Que els estudiants siguin capaços d'integrar coneixements i enfrontar-se a la complexitat de formular judicis a partir d'una informació que, tot i ser incompleta o limitada, inclogui reflexions sobre les responsabilitats socials i ètiques vinculades a l'aplicació dels seus coneixements i judicis
 - Que els estudiants sàpiguen aplicar els coneixements adquirits i la seva capacitat de resolució de problemes en entorns nous o poc coneguts dins de contextos més amplis (o multidisciplinaris) relacionats amb la seva àrea d'estudi.
 - Que els estudiants tinguin les habilitats d'aprenentatge que els permetin continuar estudiant, en gran manera, amb treball autònom a autodirigit
 - Treballar en un context internacional i multidisciplinari

Resultats d'aprenentatge

1. Comunicar oralment i per escrit en anglès
2. Conèixer les diferències en l'acostament als problemes ambientals per part de l'ecologia política.
3. Desenvolupar una visió integradora de la relació economia, política i sistemes biofísics.
4. Que els estudiants siguin capaços d'integrar coneixements i enfrontar-se a la complexitat de formular judicis a partir d'una informació que, tot i ser incompleta o limitada, inclogui reflexions sobre les responsabilitats socials i ètiques vinculades a l'aplicació dels seus coneixements i judicis
5. Que els estudiants sàpiguen aplicar els coneixements adquirits i la seva capacitat de resolució de problemes en entorns nous o poc coneguts dins de contextos més amplis (o multidisciplinaris) relacionats amb la seva àrea d'estudi.
6. Que els estudiants tinguin les habilitats d'aprenentatge que els permetin continuar estudiant, en gran manera, amb treball autònom a autodirigit
7. Treballar en un context internacional i multidisciplinari

Continguts

1. Introduction to Political Ecology. What is political ecology and what does it study and how?
2. Environmental Degradation and Social Construction of the environment-
3. Ecological Distribution Conflicts. Introduction to the "environmentalism of the poor" thesis and the study of conflict at the commodity frontiers. What is "social metabolism" and how does it relate to conflict?
4. Social movements and Environmental Justice. What do we mean by environmental justice and which are the historical origins of the concept? Justice in what and for whom?
5. Conservation and control.
6. Accumulation by dispossession. Introduction to the Marxian approach to the analysis of socio-environmental change and the role of power and surplus value extraction. Primitive accumulation as a continuous strategy in the expansion of global capital. Privatization, neo-liberalism and capital accumulation.
7. Governmentality. Introduction to the Foucauldian approach to the analysis of socio-environmental change and to knowledge as a form of power. Post-structuralist political ecology.

Metodologia

Classes will follow a seminar format with a combination of teaching by the instructor and discussion in class of assigned readings. For each class we will read and discuss two articles. Typically one of them will be more theoretical, presenting the main concept to be discussed in this class, and the second will include a case-study, applying the concept in an environmental problem or conflict.

All students are expected to have read these articles in advance and write short commentaries (see assignments below). A group of 2 students will be responsible for synthesizing the commentaries of the week at the beginning of the class (5 minutes presentation). After this, a critical discussion of the key ideas of the articles will take place under the facilitation of the instructor. This might also include discussion in small groups, games, use of audiovisual material (movies, lectures by famous political ecologists, videos, etc).

Activitats formatives

Títol	Hores	ECTS	Resultats d'aprenentatge
Tipus: Dirigides			
Work in large group (classroom)	30	1,2	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
Work in small groups	6	0,24	1, 2, 3, 7
Tipus: Autònomes			

At home short assignment(s)	15	0,6	5
Readings	25	1	2, 3
Self-study	61	2,44	4, 5, 6

Avaluació

1. Weekly commentaries

For each class you should write a commentary on the readings of the week, responding to a set of questions that will be handed to you the week before. The commentary should be about 500 words long. Commentaries should be emailed not later than Sunday night before class to the student(s) responsible for presenting the commentaries. They will then have to edit all commentaries into a single document and send it back to class not later than Monday at 12 p.m.

2. Group project

Groups of 2-3 students should work to present an analysis of an environmental conflict in the last class. The presentation should last 10 minutes; all members of the group should be involved in the presentation. The presentation should focus on an environmental conflict of interest and present basic data about the conflict (geography, history, social and environmental impacts involved, etc), the main actors involved in the conflict, their interests, values and "languages" (narratives about the conflict) and explain the institutional and social arenas through which the conflict is mediated. A good project should use one of the main concepts of political ecology presented in the course to explain the conflict and challenge "mainstream" views about it.

3. Final exam

The final course assignment is a take-home exam to be completed within the same day consisting of short answers to questions and essays on selected topics related to the content of the course.

The final grade will be derived 70% from the exam and 30% from the group project. The weekly commentary will not be graded, but 1 point will be subtracted from the final grade for each commentary not delivered in time (i.e. if you do not deliver two commentaries during the course, the maximum grade you can get will be 8, and not 10). Exemptions apply for exceptional circumstances (e.g. serious illness) and with prior information and consent of the instructor.

Activitats d'avaluació

Títol	Pes	Hores	ECTS	Resultats d'aprenentatge
Final exam	70%	3	0,12	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Group project	30%	10	0,4	1, 4, 5, 7

Bibliografia

The list of references below is exhaustive and includes numerous recommended suggested readings for students. A shorter and selected list of references with weekly obligatory readings will be given to the students at the beginning of the class in the Fall.

www.politicaecology.eu

Robbins, P., 2004. What is Political Ecology? The hatchet and the seed. Chapter 1 in Political Ecology, Blackwell (Chapters 2, 3 and 4 should also be read at some point during the course as they will be part of the examined material).

Martinez-Alier, J., Kallis, G., Veuthey, S., Walter, M. and L. Temper, 2010. Social metabolism, ecological distribution conflicts and valuation languages, *Ecological Economics*, 70 (2): 153-158.

Heynen N. C., Kaika M., and Swyngedouw E., 2006. Urban political ecology: Politicizing the production of urban natures. In Heynen N. C., Kaika M., and Swynge-douw E. (eds), *In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political*

Ecology and the Politics of Urban Metabolism. Routledge, Oxford, pp. 1-20

Robbins, P., 2004. Destruction of nature: Human impact and environmental degradation. Chapter 5 in Political Ecology, Blackwell

Robbins, P., 2004. Construction of nature: environmental knowledges and imaginaries. Chapter 6 in Political Ecology, Blackwell

Sletto B, 2008, The Knowledge that Counts: Institutional Identities, Policy Science, and the Conflict Over Fire Management in the Gran Sabana, Venezuela World Development 36(10) 1938-1955

Robbins, P., (2004), Environmental Conflict, Chapter 9 in Political Ecology, Blackwell

Otero, I., Kallis, G., Aguilar, R., Ruiz, V., 2011. Water scarcity, social power and the production of an elite suburb. The political ecology of water in Matadepera, Catalonia, Ecological Economics.

Robbins, P., 2004., Degradation and Marginalization, Chapter 7 in Political Ecology, Blackwell

Collins, T.W., 2010. Marginalization, facilitation and the production of unequal risk, The 2006 Paso del Norte Floods, Antipode, 42: 258-288

Robbins, P., 2004. Conservation and Control, Chapter 8 in Political Ecology, Blackwell

Neumann, R., 2001. Africa's last wilderness, Reordering space for political and economic control in colonial Tanzania. Africa, 4: 641-665.

Robbins, P., 2004. Environmental identity and movements, Chapter 10 in Political Ecology, Blackwell

Pellow, D. 2011. Politics by other greens: The importance of transnational environmental justice movement networks. In J. Agyeman and J. Carmin (eds.), Environmental Inequalities Beyond Borders: Local Perspectives on Global Injustices.

Mouffe C. 2005. Introduction and chapter 1 from On the political. Thinking in Action. Routledge.

Swyngedouw E. 2009. Impossible Sustainability and the post-political Condition. In Making strategies in spatial planning. Knowledges and values (edited by Cerreta M. et al.).

Gramsci, Antonio. Selections from Prison Notebooks

Ekers, M., 2009. The political ecology of hegemony in depression-era British Columbia, Canada: Masculinities, work and the production of the forestscape. Geoforum. 40 (3): 303-315

Marx, Karl, Selections: from Capital, Volume I: chapter 26 - Primitive Accumulation.

De Angelis M. 2001. Marx and primitive accumulation: The continuous character of capital's "enclosures". <http://www.thecommoner.org>

Perelman, Michael. 2007. Primitive Accumulation from Feudalism to Neoliberalism. Capitalism, Nature, Socialism 18:2: 44-61.

Prudham, S., 2007. The fictions of autonomous invention: accumulation by dispossession, commodification, and life patents in Canada, Antipode 39(3): 406-429.

Johnson, L. 2012. The fearful symmetry of Arctic climate change: accumulation by degradation, Environment and Planning D.

Foucault, M. Governmentality. From The Foucault effect: studies in governmentality.

Cadman, L. 2012. How (not) to be governed. Foucault, critique and the political. Environment and Planning D.

Bryant, R.L., 2002. Non-governmental Organizations and Governmentality: 'Consuming' Biodiversity and

Indigenous People in the Philippines, *Political Studies*, 50(2): 268-292.

Martinez-Alier J., Healy H., Temper L., Walter M., Rodriguez-Labajos B., Gerber J.-F., Conde M., 2011. Between science and activism: learning and teaching ecological economics with environmental justice organisations. *Local Environment* 16 (1): 17-36.

D'Alisa G., Burgalassi D., Healy H., Walter M., 2010. Conflict in Campania: waste emergency or crisis of democracy. *Ecological Economics* 70 (2): 239-249