

Ecologia Política

2015/2016

Codi: 42406

Crèdits: 6

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

Professor de contacte

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Equip docent

Diego Andreucci

Utilització de llengües

Llengua vehicular majoritària: anglès (eng)

Prerequisits

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

- 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 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 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 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 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.
5. 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
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). In each class 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	7
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 two questions that will be handed to you the week before. The commentary should be about 500 words long, 250 words for each question. You will hand in the assignment to the instructor at the beginning of each class. The instructor or the teaching assistant, will read and grade your papers and give them back to you next week. The assignments will be graded from 1 to 10. For those whose average in the assignments is greater than their average in the exam, the weekly assignment will count as 30% of their overall grade. For the rest it won't be taken into account. Students are responsible to hand in the assignment for each class, unless they inform the instructor accordingly and get a postponement of the deadline. Assignments delivered after the deadline will not be graded. Failure to deliver two or more assignments will lead to a subtraction of one point from the final course grade.

2. 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.

Activitats d'avaluació

Títol	Pes	Hores	ECTS	Resultats d'aprenentatge
Final exam	70%	3	0,12	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Weekly assignments	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

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- 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
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- 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.).
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- 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.
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- 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