

GEOG 301: ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

Instructor: Dr. Kristian Saguin **Email:** kcsaguin@up.edu.ph **Office:** WF, 9-11:30; 2:30-5pm, FC 405

Course Description: The course explores a range of issues, ideas and debates in human-environment interactions from a variety of geographic perspectives. It is theoretical in orientation, emphasizing roots and evolution of ideas, but it also provides empirical case studies from around the world. It complements the academic and applied interests of students working on Philippine environmental issues.

Course Objectives: At the end of the course, you are expected to:

1. Understand how geographic research has contributed to knowledge about human-environment issues
2. Develop critical skills to examine environmental issues from a variety of geographic approaches
3. Appreciate the unique role of geographic perspectives in addressing local and global environmental issues

Course Requirements:

Final project and presentation (50%): The final output project can be in any format that will be most useful to the student, e.g., paper, thesis proposal, thesis chapter, literature review, annotated bibliography, etc. It must, however, tackle at least once concept and/or approach discussed in class. The project will be presented at the end of the course for comments from classmates and other invited guests. A one-page abstract that includes description, outline and other details of the proposed project should be submitted halfway through the course. The student should regularly discuss and consult with me at various stages of the project. Project = 35%; Presentation = 10%; Abstract = 5%.

Facilitation (20%) Students will facilitate at least two class discussions. A good facilitation requires preparation: read the materials beforehand, write down notes, and think of questions that will enable a productive discussion. The format of the discussion will depend on your style. Please make sure, however, to provide a short synthesis or introduction at the beginning of the session. Use the readings as a guide for discussion rather than as a canonical text.

Active Participation (30%) The course is structured in a seminar format wherein instructor and students actively engage with the readings. Reading prior to class and participating in discussions are the primary methods of learning in this class.

Grade Equivalents

1.0 = 90-100%	1.25 = 80-89%	1.5 = 70-79%	1.75=65-69	2.0 = 60-64%	2.25 = 57-59%
2.5 = 54-56%	2.75 = 52-53%	3.0 = 50-51%	4.0 = 41-49%	5.0 = 0-40%	No grade of INC

Readings and Course Materials: All of the course materials will be provided in pdfs and uploaded via UVLe. Enrol yourself with the key Geog301. We will be reading several journal articles and book chapters but the textbook we will be using extensively is:

Robbins, P. (2012) *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*, 2nd ed. Blackwell: Malden, MA.

Course Outline: Reading assignments are subject to change

WEEK	TOPIC	
Week 1: Jan 20	Course introduction: what is environmental geography? what is political ecology?	Castree 2011 Nature and society Robbins 2012 Ch 4 Political ecology emerges
Week 2: Jan 27	Ideas of nature: from human impacts on the environment to sionatures to the Anthropocene	Williams 1983 Nature Sundberg and Dempsey 2009 Culture/natures Castree et al 2014 Changing the intellectual climate Haraway et al 2015 Anthropologists are talking about the Anthropocene
Week 3: Feb 3	Challenging apolitical ecologies: against environmental determinism, neo-Malthusianism and tragedy of the commons	Robbins 2012 Ch 1 Political vs apolitical ecologies and Ch 2 Tree with deep roots (pp. 25-32) Radcliffe et al 2010 Environmentalist thinking and/in geography (read all except Part II) Vira 2015 Taking natural limits seriously McCarthy 2009 Commons
Week 4: Feb 10	Critical foundations 1: cultural ecology, land change science and natural hazards research	Robbins 2012 Ch 2 Tree with deep roots (pp. 33-48) Bassett and Fogelman 2013 The adaptation concept in climate change literature Turner and Robbins 2008 Land-change science and political ecology Mustafa 2009 Natural hazards
Week 5: Feb 17	Critical foundations 2: peasant/development studies, political economy and green Marxism foundations	Robbins 2012 Ch 3 The critical tools (pp. 49-63) Li 2014 Ch 1 of Land's End Introduction (pp. 1-20 only) Castree 2015 Capitalism and the Marxist critique of political ecology Robbins and Fraser 2003 A forest of contradictions or Bridge 2000 Production, nature and contradiction in the US copper industry
Week 6: Feb 24	Critical foundations 3: feminist, poststructuralist, postcolonial and posthumanist influences	Robbins 2012 Ch 3 The critical tools (pp. 63-81) Nightingale 2006 Work, gender and environment Winkel 2012 Foucault in the forests or Robbins 2012 Ch 6 Challenges in social construction Theriault 2015 A forest of dreams or Hovorka 2008 Chickens in an African city
Week 7: Mar 2	Methods, explanation and action in political ecology	Zimmerer 2015 Methods and environmental science in political ecology Robbins 2001 Fixed categories in a portable landscape Chowdhury and Turner 2006 Reconciling agency and structure in empirical analysis Sundberg 2015 Ethics, entanglement and political ecology
Week 8: Mar 9	Theme 1: Degradation and marginalisation Theme 2: Environmental conflict	Robbins 2012 Ch 8 Degradation and marginalization Davis 2005 Indigenous knowledge and the desertification debate or Collins 2009 The production of unequal risk in hazardscapes Robbins 2012 Ch 10 Environmental conflict Watts 2004 Petroleum conflict and the political ecology of rule in the Niger Delta
Week 9: Mar 16	Theme 3: Conservation and control	Robbins 2012 Ch 9 Conservation and control Holmes 2014 Political ecology, territoriality and resistance to a protected area in the Dominican Republic Buscher and Dressler 2012 The restructuring of community conservation in South Africa and the Philippines Lunstrum 2014 Green militarisation

WEEK	TOPIC	
Week 10: Apr 6	Theme 4: Environmental subjects and identities Theme 5: Political objects	Robbins 2012 Ch 11 Environmental subjects and identities Robbins and Sharp 2003 The moral economy of the American lawn Robbins 2012 Ch 12 Political objects and actors Weisser 2015 Efficacious trees and the politics of forestation in Uganda
Week 11: Apr 13	Resilience and vulnerability	Adger and Brown 2009 Vulnerability and resilience to environmental change or Manyena 2006 The concept of resilience revisited Grove 2014 Agency, affect and the immunological politics of disaster resilience Goulden et al 2013 Limits to resilience from livelihood diversification and social capital in lake social-ecological systems Evans 2010 Resilience, ecology and adaptation in the experimental city
Week 12: Apr 20	Urban natures	Kennedy et al 2015 Energy and material flows of megacities Kaika and Swyngedouw 2011 The urbanisation of nature Shillington 2013 Household urban agriculture and socionatural metabolism in Managua or Ghertner 2012 Middle-class discourses of a slum-free Delhi or Ranganathan 2015 Storm drains as assemblages Kanai 2014 On the peripheries of planetary urbanisation or Ernstson and Sorlin 2013 Ecosystem services as technology of globalisation
Week 13: Apr 27	Environmental governance	Bridge and Perrault 2009 Environmental governance or Lemos and Agrawal 2008 Environmental governance Bryant 2009 NGOs, politics and the environment Blackstock et al 2015 Participatory research to influence participatory governance Takeda and Ropke 2010 Power and contestation in collaborative ecosystem-based management or Pulhin and Dressler 2009 The politics of community-based forest management
Week 14: May 4	Countermapping and indigenous peoples	Bryan 2009 Knowledge, space and power in indigenous politics or Bryan 2011 Participatory mapping, indigenous rights and neoliberalism Sletto 2009 Reborderings, fire management and productions of authenticities in indigenous landscapes Wainwright and Bryan 2009 Cartography, territory, property Li 2004 Environment, indignity and transnationalism or Coombes 2007 Indigeneity, self-determination and institutional ambivalence

WEEK	TOPIC	
Week 15: May 11	Coastal resource management and tourism	<p>St. Martin 2001 Making space for community resource management in fisheries</p> <p>Fabinyi et al 2010 Social complexity, ethnography and CRM in the PH</p> <p>Fabinyi 2010 The intensification of fishing and the rise of tourism</p> <p>Quist and Nygren 2015 Contested claims over space and identity between fishers and the oil industry</p> <p>Duffy and Moore 2010 Neoliberalizing nature? Elephant-back tourism in Thailand and Botswana</p>

Class Policies:

Attendance. You are allowed a maximum of 3 excused/unexcused absences. Please inform me if you know you will miss class beforehand.

Tardiness. Please come to class on time (i.e., not later than 6:15 pm). Late submissions will be deducted 10% of total score for every weekday missed.

Academic Honesty: I do not tolerate any form of dishonesty, whether cheating, plagiarism or submitting other's work. Consult with me if you have any questions regarding citations, writing and other related matters. You can also check many online resources on how to cite and avoid plagiarism (e.g. university writing center websites).

Class Behavior: Please keep your cell phones in your pockets or elsewhere during class hours. I will, however, allow use of laptops during classes. Remember to exercise basic forms of courtesy to your instructor and classmates.

Other Issues: I strongly encourage you to email me or meet me during office hours if you have any other concerns or problems with the course.