

CONTEMPORARY THEORY (ANG 6286):  
THE POLITICS OF NATURE

Spring 2012 (Little 109)

Class Time: T (7): 1:55-2:45; TH (7/8): 1:55-3:50

Instructor: Michael Heckenberger

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Office Hours: T:12:30-1:30; TH: 11:45-1:45;

TA: Meghann O'Brien ([mco75e@ufl.edu](mailto:mco75e@ufl.edu)): office hours : tba

TA : Scott McCrae ([smacrae@ufl.edu](mailto:smacrae@ufl.edu)); office hours : tba

This course is an advanced survey of critical political ecology. Some already classic monographs and overviews set the agenda, in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, complemented with current (2009-2011) readings to be selected based on the specific composition of the course. Six books are required, with the intent of establishing a physical archive for students.

Readings:

1. *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction* (2004); Paul Robbins; Blackwell.
2. *Critical Political Ecology: The Politics of Environmental Science* (2003)  
Tim Forsyth; Routledge,
3. *Critical Ecologies: The Frankfurt School and Contemporary Environmental Crisis* (2011); Andrew Biro; University of Toronto.
4. *The Politics of Nature* (2004); Bruno Latour; Harvard.
5. *Environmentality: Technologies of Government and the Making of Subjects* (2005); Arun Agrawal; Duke.
6. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection* (2004); Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing; Princeton.

Weekly Course Outline:

1. Introduction (Biersack 1999; Hollings and Gunderson; Latour 2004)

PART I: THE NEW ECOLOGIES

2. Symbolic Ecology and Indigenous Knowledge (UN Charter; Posey 2001; Descola 1996)
3. Historical Ecology: Domesticated Landscapes & Cultural Heritage (Fairbanks; Heckenberger et al. 2003, 2008)
4. Political Ecology: Ecology, Power, and Governmentality (Schmink & Woods, Robbins, Forsyth)

#### PART II: CRITICAL POLITICAL ECOLOGY

5. Critical Perspectives: An Introduction (Robbins; Forsyth):
6. *Critical Ecologies* (Biro)
7. Tools of Political Ecology: Scale and Perspective (Robbins; Forsyth)
8. Political Ecology in Action: States, Stakeholders, and Voice (Robbins; Forsyth):
9. Ecology as Critique: Alternative Modernities & Advanced Marginality (Forsyth):
10. *The Politics of Nature* (Latour)

#### PART III: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

11. *Environmentality* & Governmentality (Agrawal)
12. *Friction* & Globalization (Tsing)
13. Grass-roots Participation (selected readings from Pound et al. 2003, *Managing Natural Resources for Sustainable Livelihoods: Uniting Science and Participation*, Earthscan)
14. The New Dynamics of Knowledge Production (Chapin 2005; Gibbons et al. 1994; Nowotny et al. 2001; Heckenberger 2007, 2009)

15-16. Conclusions

Evaluation is based on attendance and participation (10%), in class lead discussion (10%) and a final research project/paper (80%).

Please note that there are new policies for calculating grade point averages. See <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> for details. Also note that a grade of C- does not count for credit in major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or college basic distribution credit (for further information regarding minus grades go to: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>).

Academic Honesty, Student Responsibilities, Student Conduct Code: Students are required to do their own work on exams. The penalty for cheating is to receive no points for that exam and the incident will be reported to the Student Honor Court. The student is responsible to review the UF Student Responsibilities Guidelines, available online.

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who then must provide this documentation to the instructor.