

## Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
SP493	Political ecology	5	3	0	0	3	6

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	English
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	This course examines the relationship between society and the environment from critical and Marxist perspectives. It explores how power, politics, and ideology shape the ways in which people interact with nature and how these interactions affect both social and ecological systems. The course also focuses on the unequal distribution of environmental risks and benefits, the role of the state, and social movements in environmental governance.
Content	Overall, the course aims to provide students with a critical understanding of the relationship between society and the environment, and to equip them with the knowledge and skills to engage in environmental politics and advocacy from a critical perspective.
References	<p>Robbins, P. (2012). Political ecology: a critical introduction, Malden (MA), Wiley-Blackwell.*</p> <p>Borras Jr, S. M., Moreda, T., Alonso-Fradejas, A., &amp; Brent, Z. W. (2020). (2018) Converging social justice issues and movements: implications for political actions and research, Third World Quarterly, 39:7, 1227-1246.</p> <p>Crutzen, P. and E. F. Stoermer (2000). "The 'Anthropocene'" Global Change Newsletter 41.</p> <p>D'Alisa, G., &amp; Demaria, F. (2024). Accumulation by contamination: Worldwide cost-shifting strategies of capital in waste management. World Development, 184, 106725.</p> <p>Escobar, A. (1998). Whose knowledge, whose nature? Biodiversity, conservation, and the political ecology of social movements. Journal of political ecology, 5(1), 53-82.</p> <p>Ernstson, H., &amp; Swyngedouw, E. (Eds.). (2018). Urban political ecology in the anthropo-obscene: Interruptions and possibilities, NY, Routledge.</p> <p>Foster, J. B. (1999). Marx's theory of metabolic rift: Classical foundations for environmental sociology. American Journal of Sociology, 105(2), 366-405.</p> <p>Haraway, D. (2015). Anthropocene, capitalocene, plantationocene, chthulucene: Making kin. Environmental humanities, 6(1), 159-165.</p> <p>Huber, M. (2017). Reinvigorating class in political ecology: nitrogen capital and the means of degradation. Geoforum, 85, 345-352.</p> <p>Martinez-Alier, J. (2002). The Environmentalism of the poor: a study of ecological conflicts and valuation. Edward Elgar Publishing.</p> <p>Martínez-Alier, J. (2012). Environmental justice and economic degrowth: an alliance between two movements. Capitalism Nature Socialism, 23(1), 51-73.</p> <p>Marx, K., &amp; Engels, F. (1978). The German ideology (Part I, Chapter 3). International Publishers.</p>

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Moragues-Faus, A., & Marsden, T. (2017). The political ecology of food: Carving 'spaces of possibility' in a new research agenda. *Journal of rural studies*, 55, 275-288.

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Scheidel, A. et al. (2020). Environmental conflicts and defenders: A global overview. *Global Environmental Change*, 63, 102104.

Swyngedouw, E. (2011). Whose environment?: the end of nature, climate change and the process of post-politicization. *Ambiente & sociedade*, 14, 69-87.

Swyngedouw, E. (2010). Impossible sustainability and the post-political condition. *Making strategies in spatial planning: Knowledge and values*, 185-205.

Tilzey, M. (2018). *Political ecology, food regimes, and food sovereignty: Crisis, resistance, and resilience*. Cham, Palgrave.

Watts, M. J. (2015). The origins of political ecology and the rebirth of adaptation as a form of thought. In T. A. Perreault, G. Bridge, & J. McCarthy (Ed.), *The Routledge handbook of political ecology* (ss. 19-50). London?; New York, NY: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

Zimmerer, K. S., & Bassett, T. J. (Eds.). (2003). *Political ecology: an integrative approach to geography and environment-development studies*. Londres – NY, Guilford Press.

## Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction to the Course
2	Introduction to Political Ecology and Key Concepts
3	Critical and Marxist Perspectives on Nature and Society
4	The Anthropocene and the Environmental Crisis
5	Environmental Resistance
6	Environmental Governance and the State
7	(Post-)Politics of the Environment
8	Environmental Justice, Class, Race and Gender
9	Political Ecology of Energy and Extractivism
10	Political Ecology of Food and Hunger: Inequalities in Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Week	Weekly Contents
11	Political Ecology of Waste Management: Capital Accumulation, Dispossession, (Un)sustainable Development
12	Field Trip (Location TBA)
13	Presentations
14	Conclusion and synthesis