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. This year's focus will be on food systems as a lens through which global capitalism, inequality, and environmental change can be studied.
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 and Marxist perspective. While each year the course may emphasize particular themes (such as food, waste, or urban ecologies), the central objective remains to critically analyse how power and inequality shape ecological relations under capitalism.

References	Alkon A. and Agyeman J. (eds) (2011). Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (Selected chapters) Borras Jr., S. M., Moreda, T., Alonso-Fradejas, A., & Brent, Z. W. (2018). Converging social justice issues and movements: implications for political actions and research. Third World Quarterly, 39(7), 1227–1246. https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2018.1491301 Crutzen, P.J., Stoermer, E.F. (2021). The 'Anthropocene' (2000). In: Benner, S., Lax, G., Crutzen, P.J., Pöschl, U., Lelieveld, J., Brauch, H.G. (eds) Paul J. Crutzen and the Anthropocene: A New Epoch in Earth's History. The Anthropocene: Politik—Economics—Society—Science, vol 1. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82202-6_2 D'Alisa, G., & Demaria, F. (2024). Accumulation by contamination: Worldwide cost-shifting strategies of capital in waste management. World Development, 184, 106725. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106725 Edelman,?? M.?? (2005).?? Bringing?? the?? Moral?? Economy?? back?? in?? …?? to?? the?? Study?? of?? 21st-Century?? Transnational?? Peasant?? Movements,?? Social?? Movement?? Studies.?? American?? Anthropologist??,?? 107(3),?? 331-345 Escobar, A. (1998). Whose knowledge, whose nature? Biodiversity, conservation, and the political ecology of social movements. Journal of Political Ecology, 5(1), 53–82. https://doi.org/10.2458/v5i1.21397 Foster, J. B. (1999). Marx's theory of metabolic rift: Classical foundations for environmental sociology. American Journal of Sociology, 105(2), 366–405. https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/210315 Friedmann, H., & McMichael, P. (1989). Agriculture and the state system: The rise and decline of national agricultures, 1870 to the present. Sociologia Ruralis, 29(2), 93–117. Haraway, D. (2015). Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Chthulucene: Making kin. 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Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction to the Course & Political Ecology
2	Critical and Marxist Perspectives and the Metabolic Rift
3	Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene: Competing Frameworks for the Ecological Crisis
4	Food Regimes and World Economy
5	Food and Social Justice: Class, Race, Gender
6	Hunger and the Paradox of Plenty: The (Post-)Political Nature of Food Crises
7	Seeds in the Political Ecology of Food: From Commons to Commodities
8	Agroecology and Food Sovereignty
9	Urban Political Ecology of Food and Insecurity
10	Political Ecology of Waste Management: Capital Accumulation, Dispossession, (Un)sustainable Development
11	Field Trip (Location TBA)
12	Workshop and Peer Coaching: Preparing Digital Projects
13	Student Digital Projects / Presentations I
14	Student Digital Projects / Presentations II + Conclusion and Feedback