








SOCI/PSCI-248 Environmental Soc. Science II

Topic outline

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General

- [Announcements Forum](#)
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- [Environmental News and Discussion Forum](#)
-  [In-Class Question Grades File](#)

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1 -- Environmental Ethic -- January 9

Required Reading:

- Ben, A. Minteer. 2012. "[Geoengineering and Ecological Ethics in the Anthropocene](#)." *BioScience* 62(10):857-58. doi: 10.1525/bio.2012.62.10.2.
- Leopold, Aldo. 1949. "[Thinking Like a Mountain](#)." in *A Sand County Almanac, and Sketches Here and There*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press.
- Muir, John. 1894. "[A Wind-Storm in the Forests](#)." in *The Mountains of California*. New York,: The Century Co.

Concepts: Anthropocene; holocene; cultures of nature: pastoralism, modernism, the sublime; geoengineering; environmental ethic: preservationism, balance of nature; nature vs technology/machinery; nature vs the built environment

Questions:

- Are we losing our ability to accept nature on its own terms or with humility?
- Is environmentalism about saving nature or about saving an environment that suits the needs of humans?
- Are humans and their institutions separate from (and antithetical to) nature, or are they a part of nature?

Supplementary:

- Wilson, Alexander. 1992. "Nature at Home: A Social Ecology of Postwar Landscape Design." in *The Culture of Nature*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.
- Moore, Jason W. 2017. "[The Capitalocene, Part I: On the Nature and Origins of Our Ecological Crisis](#)." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 44(3):594-630. doi: 10.1080/03066150.2016.1235036.
- Steffen, Will, et. al. 2011. "[The Anthropocene: From Global Change to Planetary Stewardship](#)." *Ambio* 40(7):739. doi: 10.1007/s13280-011-0185-x.

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2 -- Nature Practices and Environmental Ethics -- January 16

Required Reading:

- Turner, James Morton. "[From Woodcraft to 'Leave No Trace': Wilderness, Consumerism, and Environmentalism in Twentieth-Century America](#)." *Environmental History* 7, no. 3 (2002 2002): 462-84.
- Lunn, Susan. 2017. "Nearly Half of National Park Ecosystems Rate as 'Fair' or 'Poor' in Parks Canada Report." *CBC News Online* January 26, 2017. Retrieved: 31 December, 2017 (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/parks-canada-report-condition-1.3952144>).
- Lovgreen, Tina. 2016. "'Glamping' in B.C. Reaches New Heights with Comforts Like Spa Tents." *CBC News Online* May 28, 2016. Retrieved: 31 December, 2017 (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/glamping-bc-trend-where-to-go-1.3603714>).

Concepts: environmental education; alienation from nature; relationship to nature: local vs distantiated; wilderness; commercialization of nature experience; ecotourism; glamping; mudding; gearhead woodcraft

Questions:

- What do different forms of outdoor recreation teach about environmental values?

- Do the most popular forms of outdoor recreation teach the wrong sort of environmental values? (Consider, for example, what John Muir would think of "glamping" or what Aldo Leopold would think of "mudding.")
- Is there an ideal kind of nature experience, and how could we use Canada's parks and protected areas to promote it?

Debate Resolution: "Woodcraft is a better way to appreciate nature than 'leave no trace'."

- [The Resolution Choice](#)
- [The Debate Choice](#)

3 -- Legal Solutions -- January 23

Required Reading:

- White, Rob. 2017. "[Criminological Perspectives on Climate Change, Violence and Ecocide](#)." *Current Climate Change Reports* 3(4):243-51. doi: 10.1007/s40641-017-0075-9.
- Lukacs, Martin. 2017. "Neoliberalism Has Conned Us into Fighting Climate Change as Individuals." *The Guardian* 17 July, 2017. Retrieved: 1 January, 2018 (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/true-north/2017/jul/17/neoliberalism-has-conned-us-into-fighting-climate-change-as-individuals>).

Concepts: ecocide; corporate crime; state-corporate crime;

Questions:

- Should environmental harms be conceptualized as crimes?
- In what sense is climate change violent crime? Why is it so rarely framed in this way?
- Can the major environmental harms of the 21st century be attributed to the most powerful players such as corporations and governments or are we all responsible?
- How effective are existing legal tools for addressing environmental crimes? In what ways can /should these tools be strengthened?

Supplementary:

- Dennis, Brady. 2017. "Judges Skeptical of Request to Dismiss 'Burdensome' Children's Climate Lawsuit." *The Washington Post* (December 11, 2017). Retrieved: 1 January, 2018 (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy->

[environment/wp/2017/12/11/judges-skeptical-of-request-to-dismiss-burdensome-childrens-climate-lawsuit/](#)).

- Kramer, Ronald C. 2013. "[Carbon in the Atmosphere and Power in America: Climate Change as State-Corporate Crime](#)." *Journal of Crime and Justice* 36(2):153-70. doi: 10.1080/0735648X.2012.752252.

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4 -- Technological Solutions: System Effects -- January 29

Required Reading:

- Szerszynski, Bronislaw, Matthew Kearnes, Phil Macnaghten, Richard Owen and Jack Stilgoe. 2013. "[Why Solar Radiation Management Geoengineering and Democracy Won't Mix](#)." *Environment and Planning A* 45(12):2809-16. doi: 10.1068/a45649.

Concepts: artefacts with politics; systems thinking; social and earth systems; unintended consequences; goeforming

Questions:

- What are the potential unintended social and political consequences of global scale geoengineering?
- What are the potential unintended earth systems consequences of global scale geoengineering?

Supplementary:

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5 -- Climate Change Risks vs Geoengineering Risks -- February 6

Required Reading:

- Davies, G. 2010. "[Framing the Social, Political, and Environmental Risks and Benefits of Geoengineering: Balancing the Hard-to-Imagine against the Hard-to-Measure](#)." *Tulsa Law Review* 46(2):261–82.

Concepts: risk assessment; climate change effects; moral hazard

Questions:

- How great are the risks of climate change? How likely are we to overcome those risks without geoengineering?
- How great are the risks of geoengineering?
- How do we assess the magnitude of risks?

Supplementary:

- Shepherd, John et. al. 2009. "Geoengineering the Climate: Science, Governance and Uncertainty." London: The Royal Society. Retrieved 30 December, 2017. (https://royalsociety.org/~media/Royal_Society_Content/policy/publications/2009/8693.pdf).
- Group, ETC. 2010. *Geopiracy: The Case against Geoengineering*. Ottawa: ETC Group
- Group, ETC. 2009. "The Emperor's New Climate: Geoengineering as 21st Century Fairytale." 1 September, 2009. Retrieved: 28 August 2009 (http://www.etcgroup.org/en/materials/publications.html?pub_id=762).

Debate Resolution: "Governments should agree to ban solar radiation management geoengineering."

- [The Resolution Before Choice](#)
- [The Debate Choice](#)
- [The Resolution After Choice](#)

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6 -- Environmental Governance: National -- February 13

Required Reading:

- Girard, April L, Suzanne Day, and Laureen Snider. 2010. "[Tracking Environmental Crime through CEPA: Canada's Environment Cops or Industry's Best Friend?](#)" *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 35(2):219-41.

Concepts: neoliberalism; the penal state; deregulation

Questions:

- Why does the neoliberal "tough on crime" trend not apply to corporations?
- How can and should the Canadian government re-regulate environmental crime?

Recommended:

- Nikiforuk, Andrew. 2017. "Time to Reform Our 'Captured' National Energy Board, Says Expert." *The Tyee* 9 February, 2017. Retrieved: 1 January, 2018 (<https://thetyee.ca/News/2017/02/09/Reform-National-Energy-Board/>).
- Cayley-Daoust, Daniel, and Richard Girard. 2012. *Big Oil's Oily Grasp: The making of Canada as a Petro-State and how oil money is corrupting Canadian politics*. Ottawa: Polaris Institute.
- Burck, Jan, Franziska Marten and Christoph Bals. 2014. *Climate Change Performance Index Report 2017*. Bonn: Germanwatch.
- Woynillowicz, Dan, Chris Severson-Baker, and Marlo Reynolds. 2005. *Oil Sands Fever: The Environmental Implications of Canada's Oil Sands Rush*. Drayton Valley: The Pembina Institute.
- May, Elizabeth. 2012. "Bill C-38: the Environmental Destruction Act" *The Tyee*.
- Powell, Brenda Heelan. *An Overview of Bill C- 38*.
-  [Environmental Deregulation in Canada File](#)
- [Research Proposal Assignment](#)

Reading Week

Reading Week

7 -- Environmental Governance: UNFCCC -- February 28

Required Reading:

- Lukacs, Martin. 2015. "[Trudeau's climate rhetoric is riveting. So what about the reality?](#)" *The Guardian*, 3 December, 2105. Retrieved 31 December, 2015 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/true-north/2015/dec/03/trudeau-climate-rhetoric-is-riveting-so-what-about-the-reality>.
- Taylor, Lenore 2015. "[Paris climate deal might just be enough to start turning the tide on global warming](#)" *The Guardian*, 12 December 2015. Retrieved 31 December, 2015 <http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/dec/13/paris-climate-deal-gives-even-a-cynic-grounds-for-optimism>.

Concepts: UNFCCC; common but differentiated responsibilities; targets and timetables; clean development mechanism; ratification; intergovernmental treaties; international law

Questions:

- How much power do intergovernmental treaties have to influence the actions of nation states?
- How essential is UNFCCC process to solving the climate change crisis?
- Why has the UNFCCC process been less effective than the the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer?

Debate Resolution: “The outcome of the Paris Summit should increase our optimism about global solutions to climate change.”

Supplementary:

- Bagley, Katherine. 2015. "[Obama Rejects Keystone XL on Climate Grounds, Right Here, Right Now](#)." *InsideClimate News*, November 6, 2015. Retrieved 31 December, 2015 <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/06112015/keystone-xl-pipeline-obama-transcanada-climate-change>.
- CBC News. 2015. "[Alberta's climate change strategy targets carbon, coal, emissions](#)." *CBC News Online*, November 23, 2015. Retrieved 31 December, 2015 <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-climate-change-newser-1.3330153>.
- Gilchrist, Emma. 2015. "[Job growth in Canada's booming clean energy sector outpaced every other sector in 2013](#)." *DeSmogBlog*, September 17, 2015. Retrieved 31 December, 2015 <http://www.desmog.ca/2015/09/17/canada-s-booming-clean-energy-sector-outpaced-job-growth-every-other-sector-report>.
- Martin, Chris. 2015. "[Fossil-fuel divestment movement exceeds \\$2.6 trillion](#)." *Tar Sands Solution Network*, September 28th 2015. Retrieved 31 December, 2015 <http://tarsandsolutions.org/in-the-media/fossil-fuel-divestment-movement-exceeds-2.6-trillion>.

8 -- Global Civil Society -- March 6

Required Reading:

- Bäckstrand, Karin, Jonathan W. Kuyper, Björn-Ola Linnér and Eva Lövbrand. 2017. "[Non-State Actors in Global Climate Governance: From Copenhagen to Paris and Beyond](#)." *Environmental Politics* 26(4):561-79. doi: 10.1080/09644016.2017.1327485.

Concepts: civil society; global civil society; non-state actors

Questions:

- How can non-state actors shape intergovernmental environmental treaties?

- How can a well-organized global civil society affect national environmental governance?

Supplementary:

- Finger, Matthias. 1994. "[Environmental NGOs and the UNCED Process.](#)" in *Environmental NGOs in World Politics*, edited by Thomas Princen and Matthias Finger. New York: Routledge.
- Fisher, Dana R. 2010. "COP-15 in Copenhagen: How the Merging of Movements Left Civil Society Out in the Cold." *Global Environmental Politics* 10(2):11-17.
- Lund, Emma. 2013. "[Environmental diplomacy: comparing the influence of business and environmental NGOs in negotiations on reform of the clean development mechanism.](#)" *Environmental Politics* 22(5):739–59.
- Hadden, Jennifer. 2014. "[Explaining Variation in Transnational Climate Change Activism: The Role of Inter-Movement Spillover.](#)" *Global Environmental Politics* 14(2):7-25.

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9 -- Social Movements -- March 13

Required Reading:

- Powless, Ben. 2012. "[An Indigenous Movement to Confront Climate Change.](#)" *Globalizations* 9(3):411-24.

Concepts: indigeneity; colonialism; social movement; direct action; civil disobedience; sovereignty; democracy

Questions:

- What is the connection between social movements and democracy?
- How do social movements influence government policy?

Supplementary:

- Sweeney, Sean, and Lara Skinner. 2014. "[Global Shale Gas and the Anti-Fracking Movement: Developing Union Perspectives and Approaches.](#)" *TUED Working Paper #1*, June, 2014. Retrieved 31 December, 2015
<http://unionsforenergydemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/TUED-working-paper-1-Final.pdf>.

- Haluza-Delay, Randolph. 2015. "Alberta Internalizing Oil Sands Opposition." in *Protest and Politics: The Promise of Social Movement Societies*, edited by Howard Ramos and Kathleen Rodgers. Vancouver: UBC Press.
- Worth, Jess. 2014. "Getting Europe out of the Tar Sands: The Rise of the UK Tar Sands Campaign." Pp. 207-16 in *A Line in the Tar Sands: Struggle for Environmental Justice*, edited by Toban Black, Anthony Weis, Steve D'Arcy, and Joshua Kahn Russell. Toronto: Between the Lines Press.
- Foytlin, et. al. 2014. "Gulf Coast Resistance and the Southern Leg of the Keystone XL Pipeline." Pp. 207-16 in *A Line in the Tar Sands: Struggle for Environmental Justice*, edited by Toban Black, Anthony Weis, Steve D'Arcy, and Joshua Kahn Russell. Toronto: Between the Lines Press
- Tokar, Brian. 2014. "Tar Sands, Extreme Energy, and the Future of the Climate Movement." Pp. 211-321 in *A Line in the Tar Sands: Struggle for Environmental Justice*, edited by Toban Black, Anthony Weis, Steve D'Arcy, and Joshua Kahn Russell. Toronto: Between the Lines Press.
- Mckibben, Bill 2014. "Expanding the Fossil Fuel Resistance." Pp. 279-85 in *A Line in the Tar Sands: Struggle for Environmental Justice*, edited by Toban Black, Anthony Weis, Steve D'Arcy, and Joshua Kahn Russell. Toronto: Between the Lines Press.
- McCreary, Tyler 2014. "Beyond Token Recognition: The Growing Movement against the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project." Pp. 146-59 in *A Line in the Tar Sands: Struggle for Environmental Justice*, edited by Toban Black, Anthony Weis, Steve D'Arcy, and Joshua Kahn Russell. Toronto: Between the Lines Press.
- Evans, Geoff. 2010. "A Rising Tide: Linking Local and Global Climate Justice." *The Journal of Australian Political Economy* 66:199-221.

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10 – Valuing Nature: Full Cost Accounting -- March 20

Required Reading:

- Epstein, Paul R. et.al. "[Full Cost Accounting for the Life Cycle of Coal](#)." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 1219, no. 73–98 (2011).

Concepts: full cost accounting, externalities, ecosystem services, life cycle analysis, commodification, biodiversity loss, pollution, acid rain, human health costs, market solutions, biocentrism, anthropocentrism

Questions:

- What are externalities and how do they distort market signals and undermine market solutions to environmental problems?
- How is it possible to put a price on human and ecosystem health?

- Environmental costs are often unequally distributed (geographically, along lines of social power, temporally). How should full cost accounting deal with the question: costs for whom?
- What is the role of social science in full cost accounting?
- What is the role of the physical sciences in full cost accounting?
- What is (or should be) the role of civil society in full cost accounting?
- How is full cost accounting meant to affect decision-making? Whose (i.e. which actors -- see above) decision-making is it meant to affect?

Supplementary:

- Balmford, Andrew, et. al. 2011. "Bringing Ecosystem Services into the Real World: An Operational Framework for Assessing the Economic Consequences of Losing Wild Nature." *Environmental Resource Economics* 48:161–75.
- Robards, Martin D., Michael L. Schoon, Chanda L. Meek, Nathan L. Engle. 2011. "The importance of social drivers in the resilient provision of ecosystem services." *Global Environmental Change* 21:522–29.

11 – Valuing Nature: Neoliberal Nature -- March 27

Required Reading:

- Robertson, Morgan. 2006. "[The Nature that Capital Can See: Science, State, and the Market in the Commodification of Ecosystem Services.](#)" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 24:367-87.
- Monbiot, George. 2014. "Put a Price on Nature? We Must Stop This Neoliberal Road to Ruin " *The Guardian*, 4 July. Retrieved August 3, 2017(<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/georgemonbiot/2014/jul/24/price-nature-neoliberal-capital-road-ruin>).

Concepts: neoliberalism; market solutions; circular economy; commodification of nature

Debate Resolution: “In order to solve our environmental problems, we must assign a monetary value to all externalities.”

Supplementary:

- Kill, Jutta. 2015. "[Economic Valuation and Payment for Environmental Services: Recognizing Nature's Value or Pricing Nature's Destruction?](#) ." September 2015. Retrieved 31 December, 2015 https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/e-paper_151109_e-paper_economicvaluenature_v001.pdf.

- Long, Stephanie, Ellen Roberts, and Julia Dehm. 2011. "Climate Justice Inside and Outside the UNFCCC: The Example Of REDD." *The Journal of Australian Political Economy* 66:222-45.
- Gustavson, Kent and Elizabeth Kennedy. 2010. "Approaching Wetland Valuation in Canada." *Wetlands* 30(6):1065-76. doi: 10.1007/s13157-010-0112-0.
- Robertson, Morgan. "[Measurement and Alienation: Making a World of Ecosystem Services](#)." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 37, no. 3 (2012): 386-401.
- [The Resolution Choice](#)
- [The Debate Choice](#)

12 – De-commodified Economics -- April 3

Required Reading:

- Nørgård, Jørgen S. 2011. "[Happy degrowth through more amateur economy](#)." *Journal of Cleaner Production* 38:61-70.

Concepts: degrowth; overconsumption; productivity paradox; intrinsic vs extrinsic motivation for work; human well-being

Debate Resolution: "We, the students of Soc 248, support a societal transition toward an 'amateur' economy."

Supplementary:

- Demaria, Federico , François Schneider, Filka Sekulova, and Joan Martinez-Alier. 2013. "[What is Degrowth? From an Activist Slogan to a Social Movement](#)." *Environmental Values* 22:191–215.
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2012. "[Towards the circular economy 1](#)." Retrieved 31 December, 2015
<http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/Ellen-MacArthur-Foundation-Towards-the-Circular-Economy-vol.1.pdf>.
- [The Resolution Choice](#)
- [The Debate Choice](#)

Review