

POLI 3385 Politics of the Environment

Dalhousie University, Winter 2012

Thursdays, 2:35-5:25 pm, Sir James Dunn, Room 304

Instructor: Anders Hayden
Office and Hours: Thursday, 1:00-2:15 pm, or by appointment, Henry Hicks 352
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Course Description

This course examines competing perspectives on two over-riding questions:

- What are the key political and socio-economic causes of environmental problems?
- What types of political and socio-economic change are needed to achieve ecological sustainability? In other words, do lasting environmental solutions require radical changes in our political and socio-economic structure and consciousness, or are minor reforms to current practices enough?

Topics include:

- the debate over the severity of ecological crisis
- competing perspectives on ideas of limits to growth and sustainable development
- the links between poverty, North-South inequality, and environmental degradation
- controversies over the impact of population growth and how to respond to it
- the promise and limits of technological solutions to environmental problems
- the role of consumerism in ecological degradation
- global environmental regimes
- market-based environmentalism
- ecological modernization in theory and practice
- ecological critiques of capitalism

Course Format

The course will combine lectures and seminar discussion, along with student presentations and the occasional use of multimedia clips.

Expectations and Grading

You will have a choice of two grading options, depending on whether you choose to do a class presentation. See details on p. 2.

Option A (with presentation)		Option B (without presentation)	
Attendance and Participation	20%	Attendance and Participation	20%
Midterm	20%	Midterm	20%
Presentation	10%		
Research Paper	25%	Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%	Final Exam	35%
Total	100%	Total	100%

Attendance and Participation 20%

You are expected to attend *every* class (we only meet once a week, so each time you miss a class, you miss about 8 percent of the total class time.) You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class. You are also expected to participate actively and respectfully in group discussions—without dominating discussion in a way that prevents others from speaking.

You will receive 1 percentage point for each class that you attend (out of 13 in total). The remainder of the grade for this component will be based on your level of participation in class discussions.

Midterm 20%

A take-home midterm will be distributed on October 18 and will be due on October 25.

Presentations 10%

You have the option of doing a presentation on an environmental *politics* issue of your choice. Some suggested presentation and paper topics will also be provided. Presentations will be ten minutes in length (no more) and will be followed by questions and comments from the class. Be sure to practice and time your presentation beforehand – ten minutes is not a lot of time, so you will have to get straight to your key points.

Why would you choose to do a presentation if it is not required? It will be a good opportunity to gain practice with presentations and public speaking, which are important skills to have. It will also give five components to your total grade, rather than four, so there will be less at stake on your final exam. Above all, it will be a good opportunity to develop ideas for your research paper and receive feedback that can strengthen your paper and improve your mark.

Research Paper 25%

You will write a paper of 3,000 to 4,000 words. Papers are due on the last day of class, November 29.

A list of possible paper topics will be distributed in class. You are also free to propose your own topic, subject to approval of the instructor.

You have the *option* of submitting a 1-2 page proposal, plus an initial bibliography, by November 1 at the latest. If you submit the proposal earlier, you will have more time to incorporate the feedback into your final paper. You will not receive a grade for the proposal, but this is an opportunity to receive feedback as you develop your paper. This will also help to ensure that you begin work on your paper early in the semester and avoid a last-minute rush.

Final Exam 25% or 35%

The exam will take place during the exam period according to the schedule set by the Registrar's Office.

Late Penalties

Assignments received after the due date will be subject to a late penalty of 1% on the first day, an *additional* 2% on the second day, an *additional* 3% on the third day ... and an additional 5 % on the fifth and every subsequent day, unless appropriate written documentation such as a doctor's note is provided. (For example, a paper submitted six days late will receive a penalty of

20%, i.e. 1+2+3+4+5+5%). Please plan your work well ahead of time to avoid late penalties. The late penalties are phased in gradually to give you some extra flexibility. For example, if you need one more day to finish your paper, you may decide it is worth taking the small penalty to have a little extra time, but the penalties increase substantially as the delay grows longer.

Deadlines for Withdrawal from Course

For Fall-term classes, the deadline by which a student may withdraw is November 5. October 5 is the last date by which a student may drop a fall-term class without a W appearing on the transcript.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to be checked electronically for originality.

To ensure that you understand what plagiarism is, I suggest you take the following online quiz: <http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz.html> . You might find some surprises.

N.B. Almost every year that I have taught, I have had to penalize at least one student for plagiarism. In most cases, the violations appeared to be unintentional as the students did not understand the rules for the proper citation of others' work. **Don't let it happen to you—or me** (it's no fun for anybody).

If you have any questions about academic integrity and plagiarism, please ask.

Statement on Accommodation

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

Required Books and Coursepack

Chasek, Pamela S., David L. Downie, and Janet Welsh Brown. 2010. *Global Environmental Politics*, 5th edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. [Bookstore]

Dryzek, John. 2005. *Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses* (2nd edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Bookstore]

Worldwatch Institute. *State of the World 2010*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. [available in print, pdf, or kindle format from <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/7158>]

A coursepack will also be available from Julia's Photocopy, 1525 Lemarchant Street.

Weekly Themes and Readings

N.B. You can find the required readings either in the required books, through links on the course website on BbLearn, or in the coursepack. Class schedule is subject to change.

If you have difficulties accessing any of the recommended readings, please contact me.

September 6: Introduction

What do the data show about the main global environmental trends?

What are the political implications and the range of possible political responses?

Required:

Rockström, Johan et al. 2009. "A safe operating space for humanity." *Nature* 461(7263):472-475. [BbLEARN]

Chasek, Downie, and Brown. "The Emergence of Global Environmental Politics." Pp. 1-19 in *Global Environmental Politics*.

Speth, James Gustave. 2012. "American passage: Towards a new economy and a new politics." *Ecological Economics* (forthcoming). [BbLEARN]

UNEP. 2012. "World Remains on Unsustainable Track Despite Hundreds of Internationally Agreed Goals and Objectives." Press Release, June 6. Nairobi: United Nations Environment Programme. http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/geo5/GEO5-Global_PR_EN.pdf

(To see the full GEO-5 report, go to:

http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/geo5/GEO5_report_full_en.pdf).

Recommended:

Dryzek, Chapter 1, "Making Sense of the Earth's Politics."

Speth, James Gustave. 2008. Chapter 1, "Looking into the Abyss." Pp. 17-45 in *The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

September 13: The Politics of Global Limits

Is the expansion of human activity on a collision course with ecological limits?
Can markets and human ingenuity allow the global economy to grow indefinitely?

Required:

Dryzek. Chapter 2, "Looming Tragedy: Survivalism,"
Chapter 3, "Growth Forever: The Promethean Response."

Simon, Julian. 1995. "The State of Humanity: Steadily Improving." *Cato Policy Report* 17.5 (September / October): http://www.cato.org/pubs/policy_report/pr-so-js.html (N.B. In this article, focus on the key elements of the Promethean argument about how environmental challenges can be overcome) [BbLEARN]

Victor, Peter. 2010. "Questioning economic growth." *Nature* 468(7322):370-371. [BbLEARN]

September 20: Sustainable Development

Does sustainable development represent a viable middle ground between the survivalist and Promethean perspectives?
What does sustainable development really mean?
How does inequality between the global North and South complicate efforts to find political solutions to global environmental problems?

Required:

Dryzek. Chapter 7, "Environmentally Benign Growth: Sustainable Development."

World Commission on Environment and Development. 1987. "Towards Sustainable Development." Excerpt from *Our Common Future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Pp. 211-221 in *Green Planet Blues*. [coursepack]

Chasek, Downie, and Brown. "Paradigm Shifts and Environmental Politics." Pp. 30-48.
"North-South Inequalities and the Environment" and "Environment and Development." Pp. 319-342 in *Global Environmental Politics*.

Highly Recommended – Readings on Recent Rio Plus 20 Summit:

Monbiot, George. 2012. "After Rio, we know. Governments have given up on the planet." *The Guardian*, June 26, p. 29. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jun/25/rio-governments-will-not-save-planet/print>

Haas, Peter. 2012. "Assessing Rio Plus 20." *e-International Relations*, August 6. <http://www.e-ir.info/2012/08/06/assessing-rio-plus-20/>

Unmüßig, Barbara, Wolfgang Sachs and Thomas Fatheuer. 2012. "A Critique of the Green Economy. Toward Social and Environmental Equity." Berlin: Heinrich Böll Foundation. http://www.boell.org/downloads/Critique_of_the_Green_Economy.pdf (Chapters 2 and 3 especially relevant).

Recommended:

Brand, Ulrich. 2012. "Green Economy – the Next Oxymoron? No Lessons Learned from Failures of Implementing Sustainable Development. *GAIA* 21(1):28-32. http://www.openscience4sustainability.at/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/GAIA-2012_brand_green-economy.pdf

Chasek, Downie, and Brown. "Trade and Environment." Pp. 342-364 in *Global Environmental Politics*.

Dale, Ann. 2009. "Post-Brundtland 2007: Governance for Sustainable Development as if It Mattered." In *Innovation, Science, Environment: Charting Sustainable Development in Canada, 1987-2007*, edited by G. Toner and J. Meadowcroft. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Meadowcroft, James and Glen Toner. 2009. "Engaging with Sustainable Development: Setting the Canadian Experience in Context." In *Innovation, Science, Environment: Charting Sustainable Development in Canada, 1987-2007*, edited by G. Toner and J. Meadowcroft. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Onestini, Maria. 2012. "Development to Green Economy Discourse: Latin America and the Winding Road to Rio+20 : From Sustainable." *The Journal of Environment Development* 2012 21(1):32-35.

Spash, Clive. 2012. "Green Economy, Red Herring." *Environmental Values* 21 (2012): 95–99.

United Nations Secretary-General High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability. 2012. *Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing*. New York: United Nations.

September 27: Poverty and the Environment

Is poverty a key cause of environmental degradation?

Can the poor afford to care about the earth?

How does an "environmentalism of the poor" differ from environmental politics in wealthy nations?

Required:

Reilly, W.K. 1990. "The Green Thumb of Capitalism: The Environmental Benefits of Sustainable Growth." *Policy Review* Fall: 16-21. <http://tinyurl.com/7olhqwp> (N.B. Only pages 1-6 of the pdf file are required. Read this article mainly for the argument on the relationship between poverty and environment rather than for the facts and figures, some of which are outdated). [BbLEARN]

Roberts, J. Timmons and Nikki Demetria Thanos. 2003. Chapter 4, "Hazards of an Urban Continent." *Trouble in Paradise: Globalization and Environmental Crises in Latin America*. New York: Routledge. (N.B. You may skip pages 108-111 and 116-122) [Coursepack]

Narain, Sunita. 2009. "A Million Mutinies." *New Internationalist*, January. <http://www.newint.org/features/2009/01/01/climate-justice-resistance/> [BbLEARN]

Lewis, Tammy L. 2009. Chapter 17, "Environmental Movements in the Global South." Pp. 244-254 in *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*, edited by K.A. Gould and T.L. Lewis. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Coursepack]

Brechin, Steven R. and Medani Bhandari. 2011. "Perceptions of climate change worldwide." *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change* 2(6):871-885. [BbLEARN]

Vidal, John. 2011. "Wangari Maathai obituary: Kenyan winner of the Nobel peace prize for environmental efforts to help the poorest." *The Guardian*, September 27, p. 40.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/sep/26/wangari-maathai/print> [BbLEARN]

Vidal, John. 2012. "'We have seen the enemy': Bangladesh's war against climate change." *The Guardian*, May 9. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/may/09/bangladesh-war-against-climate-change/print> [BbLEARN]

In-class video on Curitiba, Brazil if time permits.

Recommended:

Agarwal, Anil and Sunita Narain. 2000. "Redressing Ecological Poverty Through Participatory Democracy: Case Studies from India." Political Economy Research Institute Working Paper #36. University of Massachusetts Amherst. http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/working_papers/working_papers_1-50/WP36.pdf

Dunlap, Riley E. and Richard York. 2008. "The Globalization of Environmental Concern and the Limits of the Post-Materialist Explanation: Evidence from Four Multinational Surveys." *Sociological Quarterly* 49:529-563.

Duraiappah, A.K. 1998. "Poverty and environmental degradation: A review and analysis of the nexus." *World Development* 26(12):2169-2179.
http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/annet/sum/SUM1000/h09/pensumartikler2009/Duraiappah_1998_World-Development.pdf

Durning, Alan B. 1989. *Worldwatch Paper #92: Poverty and the Environment: Reversing the Downward Spiral*. World Watch Institute. Pp. 5-6, 40-54.

Guha, Ramachandra. 1997. Chapter 3, "Poverty and the Environment: A Critique of the Conventional Wisdom." Pp.46-76 in *Varieties of Environmentalism*, edited by Ramachandra Guha and Joan Martinez-Alier. London: Earthscan.

Swinton, Scott M et al. 2003. "Poverty and Environment in Latin America: Concepts, Evidence and Policy Implications." *World Development* 31(11):1865-1872.
ftp://ftp.ciat.cgiar.org/Agroecosystems/bfp_andes/WP1/Lit%20rev/Poverty/Poverty%20General/Poverty%20and%20Environment%20in%20Latin%20America.pdf

October 4: The Politics of Population

Are there too many of us? If so, what should be done?

How important is population relative to other drivers of environmental degradation?

Why is the population debate such a political minefield, internationally and domestically?

Whose interests and ideologies are served/threatened by a focus on population?

Required:

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162(3859):1243-1248.
[BbLEARN]

UNFPA. 2011. *State of World Population 2011*. New York: United Nations Population Fund. Pp. 1-7, 43-64, 93-100, (101-109 optional). <http://foweb.unfpa.org/SWP2011/reports/EN-SWOP2011-FINAL.pdf> [BbLEARN]

Bates, Diane C. Chapter 9, "Population, Demography, and the Environment." Pp. 107-124 in *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*, edited by K.A. Gould and T.L. Lewis. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Coursepack]

Sen, Amartya. 2001. "Gender Equity and the Population Problem." *International Journal of Health Services* 31(3):469–474. [BbLEARN]

McDougall, Rosamund. 2010. "Too many people: Earth's population problem." London: Optimum Population Trust. http://populationmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/population_problem.pdf [BbLEARN]

Monbiot, George. 2011. "Population is just a sidekick to the real big baddie – consumption." *The Guardian*, October 27. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/georgemonbiot/2011/oct/27/population-consumption-threat-to-planet> [BbLEARN]

Angus, Ian and Simon Butler. 2011. "Is the environmental crisis caused by the 7 billion or the 1%?" *Grist*, October 26. <http://www.grist.org/population/2011-10-26-is-the-environmental-crisis-caused-by-7-billion-or-the-1-percent> [BbLEARN]

Recommended:

Malthus, Thomas. 1798/1985. *An Essay on the Principle of Population*. New York: Penguin. Chapters 1 and 2. Pp. 63-79. These chapters are available online at:
<http://www.edstephan.org/malthus/malthus.1.html>
<http://www.edstephan.org/malthus/malthus.2.html>

Whitty, Julia. 2010. "The Last Taboo: What unites the Vatican, lefties, conservatives, environmentalists, and scientists in a conspiracy of silence?" *Mother Jones*, May-June, pp. 26-45. <http://motherjones.com/environment/2010/05/population-growth-india-vatican>

October 11: Technology and Environmental Politics

Is technology at the root of our environmental problems or the main hope for solutions?

Why is technology so central to mainstream environmental politics?

Who controls most key technological decisions?

How can governments influence future technological innovation?

What key issues does the focus on technological solutions sidestep or avoid?

Required:

Commoner, Barry. 1992. Introduction and Chapter 1, "At War With the Planet." *Making Peace With the Planet*. New York: New Press. [Coursepack]

Hawken, Paul, Amory Lovins and L. Hunter Lovins. 1999. *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*. Little, Brown & Co. Preface and Chapter 1 "The Next Industrial Revolution." <http://www.natcap.org/sitepages/pid20.php> [BbLEARN]

McDonough, William and Michael Braungart. 2002. "The Extravagant Gesture: Nature, Design, and the Transformation of Human Industry." Pp. 13-32 in *Sustainable Planet: Solutions for the Twenty-first Century*, edited by Juliet B. Schor and Betsy Taylor. Boston: Beacon Press. [Coursepack]

Jänicke, Martin and Stefan Lindemann. 2010. "Governing environmental innovations." *Environmental Politics* 19(1):127-141. [BbLEARN]

Corporate Watch. 2008. Summary, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2, pp. 2-14. "Techno-fixes: A Critical Guide to Climate Change Technologies." London: Corporate Watch.
<http://www.corporatewatch.org/download.php?id=88> [BbLEARN]

Recommended:

Commoner, Barry. Chapter 2 and 3.

Feenberg, Andrew. 1996. "The Commoner-Ehrlich Debate." Pp.257-283 in *Minding Nature: The Philosophers of Ecology*, edited by D. Macauley. New York: Guilford Press.

Gould, Kenneth A. 2009. Chapter 8, "Technological Change and the Environment." Pp. 95-106 in *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*, edited by K.A. Gould and T.L. Lewis. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Lovins, L. Hunter, and Boyd Cohen. 2011. Chapter 3, "Both Are Better." Pp. 57-94 in *Climate Capitalism: Capitalism in the Age of Climate Change*. New York: Hill and Wang.

McDonough, Michael (as told to Bruce Sterling). 2000. "Newer York, New York." *Wired* January.
http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.01/futuretekture_pr.html

Lovins, Amory B. 2011. *Reinventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for the New Energy Era*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green.

October 18: The Politics of Consumption (I)

Is the (North) American dream an ecological nightmare?

What are the implications of the spread of consumerist lifestyles to new parts of the globe?

Why is consumerism such a powerful social and political force?

Are there governance solutions to the driving factors behind global overconsumption?

Assadourian, Erik. 2010. "The Rise and Fall of Consumer Cultures." Pp. 3-20 in *State of the World 2010*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Dauvergne, Peter. 2010. "The Problem of Consumption." *Global Environmental Politics* 10(2):1-10. [BbLEARN]

Cross, Gary. 2000. Chapter 1 in *An All-Consuming Century: Why Commercialism Won in Modern America*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. [Coursepack]

Hamilton, Clive. 2010. "Consumer Self." Pp. 66-94 in *Requiem for a Species*. London: Earthscan. [Coursepack]

Jackson, Tim. 2005. "Live Better by Consuming Less?: Is There a 'Double Dividend' in Sustainable Consumption?" *Journal of Industrial Ecology* 9(1-2):19-36. [BbLEARN]

Recommended:

Gardner, Gary and Erik Assadourian. 2004. "Rethinking the Good Life." Pp. 164-180 in *State of the World 2004: The Consumer Society*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Myers, Norman and Jennifer Kent. 2003. "New consumers: The influence of affluence on the environment." *PNAS* 100(8):4963-4968.

October 25: The Politics of Consumption (II)

What are the different visions of a politics of "sustainable consumption"?

Are there politically viable alternatives to high-consumption lifestyles in wealthy nations?

Maniates, Michael. 2001. "Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?" *Global Environmental Politics* 1(3):31-52. [BbLEARN]

Seyfang, Gill. 2009. "Sustainable Consumption: A Mainstream Agenda." Chapter 2 in *The New Economics of Sustainable Consumption. Seeds of Change*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. [Coursepack]

Seyfang, Gill. 2007. "Growing sustainable consumption communities: The case of local organic food networks." *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 27(3/4):120-134. [BbLEARN]

Andrews, Cecile and Wanda Urbanska. 2010. "Inspiring People to See That Less is More." Pp. 178-184 in *State of the World 2010*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

De Graaf, John. 2010. "Reducing Work Time as a Path to Sustainability." Pp. 173-177 in *State of the World 2010*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

In-class video: "Visualizing a Plenitude Economy." Center for a New American Dream. (Based on Juliet Schor's *Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth*.)

Recommended:

Bordwell, Marilyn. 2002. "Jamming Culture: Adbusters Hip Media Campaign against Consumerism." Pp. 237-253 in *Confronting Consumption*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Fuchs, Doris A. and Sylvia Lorek. 2005. "Sustainable Consumption Governance: A History of Promises and Failures." *Journal of Consumer Policy* 28:261-288.

Maniates, Michael. 2002. "In Search of Consumptive Resistance: The Voluntary Simplicity Movement." Pp. 199-235 in *Confronting Consumption*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

O'Rourke, Dara. 2005. "Market Movements: Nongovernmental Organization Strategies to Influence Global Production and Consumption." *Journal of Industrial Ecology* Volume 9, Number 1-2:115-128.

Schor, Juliet B. 2001. "The Triple Imperative: Global Ecology, Poverty and Worktime Reduction." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* XLV: 2-16.

Schor, Juliet B. 2010. Chapter 4, "Living Rich on a Troubled Planet." Pp. 99-143 in *Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth*. New York: Penguin Press.

November 1: Global Environmental Regimes

What are the key political challenges in establishing global regimes to address ecological problems?

What are the key ingredients of an effective environmental regime?

Required:

Chasek, Downie, and Brown. Pp. 117-140, 160, 164-178 in Chapters 3 and 4, "The Development of Environmental Regimes..."

Chapter 6, "Effective Environmental Regimes: Obstacles and Opportunities," Pp. 271-318

Highly Recommended:

Chasek, Downie, and Brown. Pp. 179-200 on “Climate Change” and/or remaining cases of environmental regimes in chapters 3-5 that are of particular interest to you.

November 8: Ecological Modernization

Is modern society adapting to the environmental challenge?

Is further modernization of industrial capitalism the solution?

How are some governments trying to link environmental policies to their economic-growth strategy?

What are the limits of ecological modernization and the pursuit of “green growth” as a political strategy?

Required:

Dryzek, Chapter 8. “Industrial society and beyond: ecological modernization.” Pp.162-180.

Mol, Arthur P.J. and Martin Jänicke. 2009. “The Origins and Theoretical Foundations of Ecological Modernisation Theory.” Pp. 17-27 in *The Ecological Modernisation Reader: Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice*, edited by A.P.J. Mol, D.A. Sonnenfeld, and G. Spaargaren. Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge. [Coursepack]

Huber, Joseph. 2009. “Ecological Modernization: Beyond Scarcity and Bureaucracy.” Pp. 42-55 in *The Ecological Modernisation Reader: Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice*, edited by A.P.J. Mol, D.A. Sonnenfeld, and G. Spaargaren. Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge. [Coursepack]

Paterson, Matthew. 2001. “Climate Policy as Accumulation Strategy: The Failure of COP6 and Emerging Trends in Climate Politics.” *Global Environmental Politics* 1(2):10-17. [BbLEARN]

York, Richard and Eugene A. Rosa. 2003. “Key challenges to ecological modernization theory.” *Organization & Environment* 16 (September): 273-288. [BbLEARN]

Jackson, Tim. 2009. “The Myth of Decoupling.” Pp. 47-57 in *Prosperity without growth? The transition to a sustainable economy*. London: Sustainable Development Commission. http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications/downloads/prosperity_without_growth_report.pdf [BbLEARN]

Jänicke, Martin. 2008. “Ecological modernisation: new perspectives.” *Journal of Cleaner Production* 16:557-565. [BbLEARN]

Recommended:

Barlow, Maude and Mary Corkery. 2008. “It's time for a green New Deal.” *Rabble*, January 26. <http://www.rabble.ca/news/its-time-green-new-deal>

Cox, Stan. 2004. “From Here to Economy.” *Grist Magazine*, April 27. <http://www.alternet.org/story/18518/>

Gonzalez, George. 2005. “Urban Sprawl, Global Warming and the Limits of Ecological Modernisation.” *Environmental Politics* 14(3):344-362.

Schnaiberg, Allan, David N. Pellow, and Adam Weinberg. 2003. “The Treadmill of Production and the Environmental State.” Pp. 412-425 in *Environment, Energy, and Society: Exemplary Works*, edited by

Craig R. Humphrey, Tammy L Lewis, and Frederick H. Buttel. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning.

York, Richard. 2008. "De-Carbonization in Former Soviet Republics, 1992–2000: The Ecological Consequences of De-Modernization." *Social Problems* 55:370-390.

November 15: Is Capitalism Sustainable? Radical Critiques of Endless Growth & Accumulation

Why do critics believe capitalism is inherently anti-ecological, and that global equity and ecological sustainability require a transformation in our political-economic system?

Do eco-socialists and social ecologists propose viable alternatives for long-term change and more immediate reforms?

What can we learn from existing examples that reflect eco-socialist ideas?

Required:

Magdoff, Fred and John Bellamy Foster. 2010. "What Every Environmentalist Needs to Know About Capitalism." *Monthly Review* 61(10): <http://monthlyreview.org/100301magdoff-foster.php> [BbLEARN]

Foster, John Bellamy, Brett Clark, and Richard York. 2010. "Capitalism and the Curse of Energy Efficiency: The Return of the Jevons Paradox." *Monthly Review* 62(6): <http://monthlyreview.org/2010/11/01/capitalism-and-the-curse-of-energy-efficiency> [BbLEARN]

Foster, John Bellamy. 2009. "Envisioning Ecological Revolution." Pp. 253-264 in *The Ecological Revolution: Making Piece With the Planet*. New York: Monthly Review Press. <http://links.org.au/node/1066> [BbLEARN]

Löwy, Michael. 2005. "What Is Ecosocialism?" *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 16(2):15-24. [BbLEARN]

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November 22: Market-Based Environmentalism

Do market-based approaches represent a pragmatic response to core environmental challenges, or simply reflect the interests and ideologies of business and conservative political actors? What are the main challenges in applying market-based ideas to global environmental problems such as climate change?

Required:

Dryzek, Chapter 6, "Leave it to the market." Pp. 121-142.

Anderson, Terry L. and Donald R. Leal. 2001. *Free Market Environmentalism*. New York: Palgrave. Chapter 1, "Visions of the Environment" and Chapter 2, "Rethinking the Way We Think." [Coursepack]

Beder, Sharon. 2001. "Neoliberal Think Tanks and Free Market Environmentalism." *Environmental Politics* 10(2):128-33. [BbLEARN]

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Hillman, Mayer. 2004. "A Modest Proposal to Save the Planet." *The Independent*, May 27. <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/a-modest-proposal-to-save-the-planet-564794.html> . *Required reading up to the heading "Current Habits."* *Remainder of the article is optional.* [BbLEARN]

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Blumm, Michael. 1992. "The Fallacies of Free Market Environmentalism."
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November 29: Review and Reflection

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