



## DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

# KNOWLEDGE, ETHICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING

ESTC36

FALL 2017

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Instructor: Saul Cohen  
Email: saul.cohen@utoronto.ca  
Lecture: Monday 9:00 – 11:00, MW 140  
Office: MW379  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11 – 12 or by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

As our environmental predicament seems to worsen it is becoming more crucial to find a consensus on addressing local and global environmental problems. However, it feels as these goals are becoming more and more difficult to achieve. This course is an attempt to shed light on this particular dilemma. First, it examines the different types and positionings of environmental knowledges and how they are impacted by culture, history and politics. Then we examine the interaction between the diverse and complex array of actors in environmental issues and the ethical considerations of intervening in the environment and the lives of various peoples. Finally, we address the possibilities and limitations of finding consensus and solutions through various decision-making processes. By the end of the course students will have an in-depth understanding of the recurrent historical patterns and the site-specific complexity of engaging with nature and the environment and the subsequent ethical ramifications.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Participation (10%)**

Participation in the lectures is a crucial component of the course. Students should come to lectures and tutorials on time, be prepared and actively listen and participate in the activities. Please keep all comments and discussions respectful and considerate. Any student displaying behaviour deemed to be disruptive by the professor will be asked to leave the lecture/tutorial and may be subject to additional disciplinary action. Evaluation will be based on: demonstrating knowledge of readings, making comments, answering questions, active listening, engaging in discussions and demonstrating an ability to engage with the course material. In addition, students will be asked to hand in activity sheets in certain classes which although not graded will help constitute your participations grade.

2. **In-Class Mid-Term Test (25%) – Week 7 (October 30)**

The mid-term test will take place in class and will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short, long answer and essay questions.

3. **Case Study Preliminary Discussion (5%) due Week 3 (October 25)**  
**Case Study Critique (25%) due Week 10 (Friday, November 24 @ 5pm)**

Using course readings and material, students will critique an environmental case study. The paper will be 7 – 10 pages.

4. **Final Exam** (35%), Time and Location TBA

The final exam will take place in the final exam session and will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short, long answer and essay questions.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS:**

1. Igoe, Jim (2017) *The Nature of Spectacle*
2. Course reader from the bookstore
3. Journal, newspaper and magazine articles available from the course website (see

**COURSE POLICIES**

**1. Attendance**

Attendance in all classes is mandatory. Classes are a combination of discussion, activities and lecturing. All three aspects are equally important toward gaining a strong foundation in the material and a better understanding of the course themes. I do not provide PowerPoint slides or lectures notes and exams questions emerge from the classes in an organic fashion. Students that are not able to attend lectures due to work or other requirements are advised against taking the course. Students that occasionally miss class must get lecture notes from someone who attended the class and should come to office hours if they have specific questions about the missed material.

**2. Laptop and Mobile Phone Use in Class**

It is strongly advised that students do not bring laptops to class. Research shows that typing notes is significantly less effective than writing notes. For this course, understanding the material is much more important than typing everything that is said in class. Laptops are also a great distraction. The temptation to go on-line is often too great. Browsing the internet is not permitted during lectures. Everyone is impacted by your decision to surf the web, go on social media, watch videos, etc. First, it is distracting to the professor. It is very obvious when students are not engaged in the lecture and are chatting or watching something on their laptops that is unrelated to the course material. Second, it is rude and distracting to your fellow students. Many students get frustrated by students who surf the web during class. It also does not make sense to come to class only to peruse the web. If you have issues with distraction and attention, anxiety, screen addiction, etc. then speak to me or a counselling service to address these issues. **Students that are on their laptops for non-course related reasons will be asked to leave the class.**

**3. Assignment submission and late penalties**

- Assignments handed in late will be assessed a late penalty of 3% per day, including weekends. Each weekend day counts as one day late. The reasons for this strict policy are that the due dates are given well in advance and the instructors want to ensure fairness in grading practices for all students.
- If assignments will be submitted late because of medical reasons, please follow the appropriate procedure and get the appropriate documentation. **Please inform the instructor in advance** if you anticipate that your assignment will be late on account of medical reasons.
- Assignment extensions for non-medical reasons are given only in extenuating circumstances and on a case-by-case basis. In the event of non-medical extenuating circumstances, students should provide supporting documentation from their college registrar's office or Accessibility Services.
- Extensions are not given close to the due date unless a student can demonstrate that they are very close to finishing their assignment.

#### **4. Unauthorized video or audio recording in classrooms is prohibited**

For reasons of privacy as well as protection of copyright, unauthorized video or audio recording in classrooms is prohibited. This is outlined in the Provost's guidelines on *Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology* (<http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/policy/use.htm>).

#### **5. University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters**

It is the responsibilities of all students to read the University's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (August 1995) (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). Students are required to behave in a manner that is compliance with the regulations outlined in this documents.

#### **6. Academic Integrity Statement**

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently.

According to Section B of the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (August 1995), which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students:

- To use someone else's ideas or words in their own work without acknowledging that those ideas/words are not their own with a citation and quotation marks, i.e. to commit plagiarism;
- To include false, misleading or concocted citations in their work;
- To obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment;
- To provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student completed work;
- To submit their own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructor;
- To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University. This includes, but is not limited to, doctor's notes; and
- To use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam.

There are other offences covered under the *Code*, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect.

\* = articles to be downloaded

Week 1 (Sept 11)	<b>Introduction and Course Overview</b>
	<b>PART 1: ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE</b>
Week 2 (Sept 18)	<p><b>Is there an environmental knowledge or are there knowledgeS? The cultures of the environment.</b></p> <p>Ingold, Tim. 2000. From trust to domination: An alternative history of human-animal relations. In <i>The perception of the environment: Essays on livelihood, dwelling and skill.</i>, ed. Tim Ingold, 61-76. London: Routledge.</p> <p>*Dove, Michael R. 1993. Uncertainty, humility, and adaptation in the tropical forest: The agricultural augury of the Kantu'. <i>Ethnology</i> 32, (2): 145-67.</p> <p>Knight, John. 1996. When timber grows wild: The desocialization of Japanese mountain forests. In <i>Nature and society: Anthropological perspectives.</i>, eds. Philippe Descola, Gísli Pálsson, 221-239. New York: Routledge.</p>
Week 3 (Sept 25)	<p><b>Is nature the same today as it was in the past? The histories of the environment.</b></p> <p>Cronon, William. 1995. The trouble with wilderness; or, getting back to the wrong nature. In <i>Uncommon ground: Toward reinventing nature.</i>, ed. William Cronon, 69-90. New York: W.W. Norton &amp; Co.</p> <p>Slater, Candice. 2000. Justice for whom? Contemporary images of Amazonia. In <i>People, plants, and justice: The politics of nature conservation.</i>, ed. Charles Zerner, 67-82. New York: Columbia University Press.</p> <p>Taylor, Michael. 2003. 'Wilderness', 'development', and san ethnicity in contemporary Botswana. In <i>San and the state: Contesting land, development, identity and representation.</i>, ed. Thekla Hohmann, 255-279. Köln: Köppe.</p>
Week 4 (Oct 2)	<p><b>Can nature be politicized? The politics of the environment.</b></p> <p>Fairhead, James, and Melissa Leach. 1996. Rethinking the forest-savanna mosaic: Colonial science and its relics in west Africa. In <i>The lie of the land: Challenging received wisdom on the African environment.</i>, eds. Melissa Leach, Robin Mearns, 105-121. Oxford; Portsmouth.</p> <p>Zerner, Charles. 1996. Telling stories about biodiversity. In <i>Valuing local knowledge: Indigenous people and intellectual property rights.</i>, eds. Stephen B. Brush, Doreen Stabinsky, 68-101. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.</p> <p>Neumann, Roderick. 2001. Disciplining peasants in Tanzania: From state violence to self-surveillance in wildlife conservation. In: <i>Violent Environment.</i>, eds. Peluso, Nancy .L. and Michael. Watts, 305-327. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.</p>
	<b>READING WEEK</b>
	<b>PART 2: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS</b>
Week 5 (Oct 16)	<p><b>Can there be an ethical environmental market? The new environmental economics. Part 1.</b></p> <p>*Chapin, Mac. 2004. A Challenge to Conservationists. <i>World Watch</i> November/December 2004:17-21</p> <p>Igoe, Jim (2017) <i>The Nature of Spectacle</i>. Introduction, Chapter 1 – 3</p>

Week 6 (Oct 23)	<b>Can there be an ethical environmental market? Part 2.</b> Igoe, Jim (2017) <i>The Nature of Spectacle</i> . Chapter 4 – 6
Week 7 (Oct 30)	<b>Mid-Term Test (In-Class)</b>
	<b>PART 3: ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING</b>
Week 8 (Nov 6)	<b>Who gets to decide 1? The global</b>  *Brosius, J. Peter. 1999. Green dots, pink hearts: Displacing politics from the Malaysian rain forest. <i>American Anthropologist</i> 101, (1): 36-57  *Goldman, Michael. 2001. The birth of a discipline: Producing authoritative green knowledge, World Bank-style. <i>Ethnography</i> 2, (2): 191-218.  *Wolmer, William. 2003. Transboundary conservation: The politics of ecological integrity in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. <i>Journal of Southern African Studies</i> 29:261-78.
Week 9 (Nov 13)	<b>Who gets to decide 2? The grassroots</b>  *Blaike, Piers (2006) Is Small Really Beautiful? Community-based Natural Resource Management in Malawi and Botswana. <i>World Development</i> 34 (11): 1942–1957  *Subramanian A. 2003. Community, Class and Conservation: Development Politics on the Kanyakumari Coast. <i>Conservation and Society</i> 1:177-208  TBA
Week 10 (Nov 20)	<b>Who gets to decide 3? The indigenous</b>  *Conklin, Beth and Graham, Laura. 1995. The Shifting Middle Ground: Amazonian Indians and Eco-politics. <i>American Anthropologist</i> 97(4): 695-710.  *Stuart Kirsch , "Lost Worlds: Environmental Disaster, "Culture Loss," and the Law," <i>Current Anthropology</i> 42, no. 2 (April 2001): 167-198.  TBA
Week 11 (Nov 27)	<b>Decision-making through participation, assemblages and development</b>  *Li, Tania M. 2007 Practices of assemblage and community forest management. <i>Economy and society</i> , 36(2): 263-293.  *Walley, Christine J. 2002. `They scorn us because we are uneducated!': Knowledge and power in a Tanzanian marine park. <i>Ethnography</i> 3, (3) (September): 265-98.  TBA
Week 12 (Dec 4)	<b>Conclusions, Review and Test Preparation</b>