

ANTHROPOLOGY/INDIGENOUS STUDIES 2203G-001

Indigenous Peoples, Globalization and the Environment

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2021



The Ok Tedi Mine [photo credit: CMCA Review]



A village logging crew [photo credit: Dan Jorgensen]

Instructor: Dan Jorgensen

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Office Hours, Online Check-ins: TBA on course OWL site

Acknowledgement: *Western University is located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, and the Leni-Lunaape peoples. The local First Nations communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee-Delaware Nation.*

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online. It is *asynchronous*, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Calendar Course Description: An examination of natural resource development emphasizing the interplay between indigenous people, the state and transnational developers. Topics include: environmentalism and livelihood; land rights; corporate power and state policies; common property and community-based resource management; NGOs in environmental politics; sustainability and the greening of development.

Antirequisites: ANTHROPOLOGY 2203F/G, INDIGENOUS STUDIES 2203F/G.

Prerequisites: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record.

The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

This course is built around a field known as political ecology, which draws upon several disciplines – anthropology, geography, political science, economics, ecology – that share an interest in the linkage between processes of globalization and changing environmental use. Our point of departure will be the fact that globalization involves an interplay between indigenous people and non-local ("global") actors, who bring different kinds of power and interest to bear on human relations with the natural world. Non-local actors may include transnational resource companies, but other examples include environmental NGOs, government (or the state) at various levels, the World Bank or agencies of the UN. The issues we will pursue often turn on the political relationship between these various players ("stakeholders") in relation to the environment.

The beginning of the course will introduce some general ideas concerning globalization and the environment, and how globalization figures in local people's environmental use. After that we will turn our attention to different kinds of conservation projects and the interplay between various actors in relation to the politics of forest use in South and Southeast Asia. Following that we will look at mining on a resource frontier in Papua New Guinea and oil exploitation in the Amazon basin. In the second half of the course we come closer to home with a look at Canada's oil and gas projects in relation to First Nations people. The course concludes with an overview of the situation of indigenous peoples in environmental politics at local, national and global scales.

The full course outline, including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings, will be available on the course OWL site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Place global environmental issues within concrete contexts in the developing world to understand "the environmentalism of the poor".
- Identify ways in which globalization affects environmental use with specific reference to:
 - Mineral resource development
 - Logging and forestry
 - Conservation
- Analyze environmental politics in terms of the interrelation between:
 - indigenous peoples
 - the state
 - corporations
 - multilateral institutions and civil society groups
- Undertake independent library research to develop evidence-based arguments about the relation between changing environmental use and the situation of indigenous peoples.

Course Materials:

The following books are required reading and will be available for purchase in the Bookstore. For more information, please consult their website. [The Bookstore at Western](#).

Cepek, M. (2018) *Life in Oil: Cofán Survival in the Petroleum Fields of Amazonia*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Jacka, J. (2015) *Alchemy in the Rainforest: Politics, Ecology, and Resilience in a New Guinea Mining Area*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

Evaluation and Assignments:

Grades will be based on discussion forum postings, a review essay, and a comparative research essay, as follows:

Discussion Forum Postings (weeks 1 to 6) – 20%
Discussion Forum Postings (weeks 8 to 13) – 20%
Review essay – 25% (due February 10)
Comparative research essay – 35% (due April 12)

Discussion Forum Postings #1 (weeks 1 to 6) – 20%

Discussion Forum Postings #2 (weeks 8 to 13) – 20%

The purpose of the online discussions is to make the learning process interactive and collaborative: The discussions provide us with the opportunity to learn from and with each other. Every student must participate in the forums on the OWL course site.

All students are required to make **at least 2 substantial contributions** to the discussion forums **each week**. The contributions should be well-developed comments and questions, not only 2 or 3 sentences, but no longer than 2 paragraphs (per contribution). I am looking for thoughtful, well-supported, clear, and coherent postings. Your postings should provide evidence that you have read, understood and thought about the book chapters and journal articles. Contributions may include: comments on the readings and films; discussions of the concepts and theoretical approaches presented in the readings; questions that you think might be useful for reflecting on the arguments made by the authors; and critical reflections on your experiences with issues discussed in this course.

Your contributions can be original postings and/or responses to other participants' questions. "Original postings" refers to postings that are not branches from other messages, and they should include questions to facilitate discussions.

You are encouraged to make contributions throughout the week. **You should have completed your weekly postings by Friday 6:00pm (EST); exception:** postings for week 1 are due Friday, January 15, 2021. There is no penalty for late submission of postings. However, **forums will be locked 3 days after the respective due dates at 7:00pm EST; exception:** the forum of week 12 will be locked on Thursday, April 1, 2021 (at 7:00pm EST). Once a forum is locked, you cannot make any contributions to that forum. It is therefore imperative that you submit postings within 3 days if you miss a due date (except in cases where academic accommodation has been granted). You are not allowed to submit more than 5 postings per forum.

Your mark for the forum postings will be based on both the quality and quantity of your online participation. You will receive two marks for the discussion forum postings: the first mark (evaluating postings for weeks 1 to 6) in week 8, and the second mark (evaluating postings for weeks 8 to 13) after week 13.

I will count the best 10 contributions for each mark. Consequently, your mark will not be negatively affected if you miss 2 postings or less in each period.

Review Essay – 25%

The review essay will be a critical evaluation of a small number of key sources (say 5 or so) on a topic that you would consider developing for your research essay. You should identify these sources in consultation with me beforehand. Your paper is to be **2000-2500 words in length (excluding the reference list)**, and will be **due on February 10, 2021 (6:00 PM EST)**. The penalty for late submission is 5% per day, or part thereof. I will not accept papers submitted after February 17, 2021 (6:00 PM EST). You must submit an electronic copy of your essay via the "Assignments" tab on the OWL course site. More information about electronic submission, topics and format will be made available on the course OWL site.

Comparative Research Essay – 35%

This essay will be based on your comparative analysis of relevant source material that you will locate in consultation with me. This assignment is an exercise in critical thinking, in developing a thesis (a main argument), in synthesizing information from scholarly sources, and in properly acknowledging the ideas, wording and information of other authors. The aim will be to examine issues surrounding a particular question (e.g., identification and definition of land rights, or the operation of a particular kind of resource development, or the respective roles of particular kinds of actor) in two or more different ethnographic regions. An important part of the analysis is to explain the differences or commonalities your analysis finds. The essay is expected to be **2500-3000 words in length (excluding the reference list)**.

Note that this assignment is in place of a final exam, and it will therefore be due during the examination period **on April 16, 2021 (6:00 PM EST)**. The penalty for late submission is 5% per day, or part thereof. I will not accept papers submitted after April 23, 2021 (6:00 PM EST). You must submit an electronic copy of your essay via the "Assignments" tab on the OWL course site.

A detailed assignment outline (including format guidelines) will be posted on the OWL course site.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass this course, students need to submit the written assignments (i.e., the essays and the discussion forum postings) and receive a passing grade on the comparative research essay **and either** forum postings #1 or forum postings #2. Because this is an essay course, students must

exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding medical accommodation, accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences in Western's Academic Calendar by clicking on this link:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>

