School of Humanities and Languages

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture

IEST5007

Political Ecology: Sustainable Development & Justice

Term 1, 2023



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Daniel Robinson	d.robinson@unsw.edu.au	Due to travel, by appointment	Room 360 Morven Brown	On Microsoft Teams, via email

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Tel: 02 9348 0406

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy]

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

This subject takes an international perspective on ecological and social inequity and other global challenges, focusing on ongoing impacts of colonisation, the role of environmental conventions and trade rules, and the impact of global governance strategies such as the “sustainable development goals.” This course will be of particular interest if you are concerned with issues of global inequality, environmental justice, and the roles of the state and civil society. In this course, you will explore the environmental challenges that face the “Global South” and engage in a productive critique of neoliberal models of economic growth and development that underlie these challenges. The course provides you with an understanding of the historical, political, and international contexts within which issues of environment and “development” are framed, governed, and (in some cases) addressed. You will consider the social and environmental impacts and implications of global value chains and production networks, as well as efforts to undertake more ethical and sustainable approaches. You will engage in case studies and learn about applied, practical, and reflexive approaches for addressing globally interlinked issues facing the “Global South,” or “majority world.”

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Apply critical thinking to core concepts relevant to emerging global environmental issues and challenges
2. Explain external political economic influences on the Global South/majority world, and how these influence ‘sustainable development’ type challenges and inequities
3. Explore and assess the use of global, economic, legal, and institutional frameworks for addressing environmental issues in the context of a range of other structural inequalities and challenges
4. Discuss and critique the effectiveness of institutional or regulatory approaches, market-based approaches, technology transfer, capacity building, and other approaches for dealing with ‘sustainable development’ challenges
5. Use knowledge of ‘sustainable development’ challenges and the practical and applied attempts to resolve them to analyse a range of local, national, and regional case studies

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught in a seminar style with some lecture content and regular break-outs for discussions/activities.

Assessment

Detailed assignment information will be provided in an assignment sheet in moodle.

For all assignments Harvard or APA in-text referencing is preferred, with a full reference list at the end of your assignments (only reference the works that you use and cite). Always include a citation when using someone else's work whether it is a paper, book, report or website. Failing to have citations is considered plagiarism.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Essay	40%	16/03/2023 11:55 PM	1, 2, 3, 5
2. Final Report	60%	28/04/2023 11:55 PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Assessment 1: Essay

Assessment length: 1400 words (plus references)
Submission notes: Submit as a word doc in Moodle
Due date: 16/03/2023 11:55 PM

Individual short essay. A commodity value chain analysis which can use qualitative or quantitative approaches.

Length: 1400 words
Feedback: Rubric and individual written comment on turnitin

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

More details will be provided in the assignment sheet in moodle.

Assessment 2: Final Report

Assessment length: 3000 words (plus references)
Submission notes: submit as word doc in moodle portal
Due date: 28/04/2023 11:55 PM

Major research report and case study on specific topic(s) covered.
Length: 3000 words.
Feedback: Rubric and individual comment on turnitin.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

Further information is provided in the assignment sheet in moodle.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 13 February - 17 February	Seminar	Week 1 Seminar. Class time is 1-4pm Mondays each week. Room is Mathews 101 (K-F23-101). Students are expected to attend class in person unless enrolled in distance mode, which will have a Blackboard Collaborate portal for real-time engagement and lecture recording.
Week 2: 20 February - 24 February	Seminar	Week 2 Seminar. Class time is 1-4pm Mondays each week. Room is Mathews 101 (K-F23-101).
Week 3: 27 February - 3 March	Seminar	Week 3 Seminar. Class time is 1-4pm Mondays each week. Room is Mathews 101 (K-F23-101).
Week 4: 6 March - 10 March	Seminar	Week 4 Seminar. Class time is 1-4pm Mondays each week. Room is Mathews 101 (K-F23-101).
Week 5: 13 March - 17 March	Seminar	Week 5 Seminar. Class time is 1-4pm Mondays each week. Room is Mathews 101 (K-F23-101).
	Assessment	Essay: Submit as a word doc in Moodle
Week 6: 20 March - 24 March	Seminar	Week 6 Seminar. Class time is 1-4pm Mondays each week. Room is Mathews 105 this week only! (K-F23-105).
Week 7: 27 March - 31 March	Online Activity	This week will have a self-directed online task - there will be no seminar/class. Watch the 'Welcome to Lagos' documentary and discuss as per the weekly block in Moodle. Also spend this week working on your final assignment.
Week 8: 3 April - 7 April	Seminar	Week 8 Seminar. Class time is 1-4pm Mondays each week. Room is Mathews 101 (K-F23-101).
Week 9: 10 April - 14 April	Reading	Easter Long Weekend. No Seminars!! See Week 10 and Week 11 classes which have been pushed back due to Easter.
Week 10: 17 April - 21 April	Seminar	Week 10 Seminar. Class time is 1-4pm Mondays each week. Room is Mathews 101 (K-F23-101).

	Seminar	Week 11 (due to Easter Holiday) Final Summary Seminar and Guest Lecture, 24 April. Class time is 1-4pm Mondays each week. Room is Mathews 226 this week only! (K-F23-226).

Resources

Prescribed Resources

There are no required texts for students. Readings will be set for each module through Leganto in Moodle. You will be able to access these readings through the UNSW library with your login.

Recommended Resources

Some useful texts, most of which can be found in UNSW library, include:

Perreault, T., Bridge, G., & McCarthy, J. (Eds.). (2015). *The Routledge handbook of political ecology*. Routledge, London.

Peet, R., Robbins, P., & Watts, M. (Eds.). (2010). *Global political ecology*. Routledge, London.

Peet, R., & Watts, M. (2004). *Liberation ecologies: environment, development, social movements*. Routledge, London.

Kothari, A., Salleh, A., Escobar, A., Demaria, F., & Acosta, A. (Eds.). (2019). *Pluriverse: A post-development dictionary*. Tulika Books and Authorsupfront. E-version here

D'Alisa, G., Demaria, F., & Kallis, G. (Eds.). (2014). *Degrowth: a vocabulary for a new era*. Routledge, London.

Some websites that may be useful include:

South Centre: https://www.southcentre.int/

International Institute for Sustainable Development: https://www.iisd.org/

International Institute for Environment and Development: https://www.iied.org/

UN SDG pages: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

IDDRI (French SD think-tank): https://www.iddri.org/en

GRAIN NGO: https://www.grain.org/

Natural Justice NGO: https://naturaljustice.org/

Course Evaluation and Development

MyExperience feedback will be encouraged at the end of term and used to improve the course content, delivery and assessments. Due to COVID, teaching and coursework has been challenging, but in 2020 and 2021 the course received good reviews despite being mostly online. In 2022 we had a hybrid version of the course and in 2023 we will seek classroom participation in a 'return to normal', with the distance options for students not resident in Sydney. Every year we consider the feedback for this course. Please read the course outline and moodle pages and email me with any questions, concerns or comments about the course or assessments. In response to feedback i will add additional activities in

some classes (e.g. the climate change impacts and adaptation class)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

This course outline sets out the description of classes at the date the Course Outline is published. The nature of classes may change during the Term after the Course Outline is published. Moodle should be consulted for the up to date class descriptions. If there is any inconsistency in the description of activities between the University timetable and the Course Outline (as updated in Moodle), the description in the Course Outline/Moodle applies.

Image Credit

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