

Biology 4160F/5160F Political Ecology**Professor Pat Lane****Room 812 in Biology Wing, Life Sciences Center****1-3 hour class of lecture/discussion per week****Class Description:**

Political ecology examines the politics of the environment using largely international development examples. How do existing policies and stakeholder interactions affect the use of environment by society? How do resource conflicts arise and become resolved? Political ecology does not center on specific policies, political theories, or ideologies, but rather considers an array of broad political and socio-economic forces that shape the human relationship to the environment. These forces are multiple and interact in complex ways. Most developing people live very closely to their environment and their survival and well-being are dependent on maintaining the quality of their environments. Political Ecology forms interconnections among many subjects such as: science, language, gender, sociology, culture, development, social movements, public participation, economics, property systems, power and political relationships, ecology, geography and spatial relationships, environmental history, anthropology, among others.

The class will cover some of the lessons learned around the world concerning diverse relationships between nature and society. Several case studies will be evaluated using a variety of environmental issues in the use and sharing of natural resources and environmental damage and protection. Decisions about these issues often do not adequately include scientific considerations especially ecological ones. Frequently there is a mixture of knowledge and myth associated with these issues, and who controls the knowledge often has the power to control the decisions and the ecological resources. A recurrent theme in the class will be how globalization affects local resource use and environmental quality.

This class has a lecture and discussion format. Students will develop their ability to analyze case studies in a political ecology framework. This is a web-based class employing the Blackboard Learning System (BLS) to supplement the in-class work.

Class Schedule

Textbook is 'Political Ecology' (PE) by Paul Robbins

WEEK	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT
1	Lecture 1: What is Political Ecology-The Hatchet and the Seed, and A Tree with Deep Roots	Website Visit 1 Text (PE): 1 & 2 Readings No. 1
2	Lecture 2: The Critical Tools, A Field Crystallizes and Tragedy of the Commons	Website Visit 2 Text (PE): 3 & 4 Readings No. 2
3	Lecture 3: Destruction of Nature and Construction of Nature	Website Visit 3 Text (PE): 5 & 6 Readings No. 3
4	Lecture 4: Degradation and Marginalization, Conservation and Control, and Scale Analysis Using Geographical Tools	Website Visit 4 Text (PE): 7 and 8 Readings No. 4 Assignment 1
5	Lecture 5: Environmental Conflict and Environmental Identity and Social Movements	Website Visit 5 Text (PE): 9 and 10 Readings No. 5
6	Lecture 6: Concluding Thoughts on Textbook, Future of Political Ecology, and its Proponents and Detractors + Looking Forward on the Role of Globalization at the Local Level	Website Visit 6 Text (PE): 11 Readings No. 6
7	Test No. 1	
8	Individual/Group Presentations	Website Visit 8 Readings No. 8 Assignment 2
9	Individual/Group Presentations	Website Visit 9 Readings No. 9
10	Individual/Group Presentations	Website Visit 10 Readings No. 10
11	Test No. 2	Website Visit 11 Readings No. 11
12	Graduate Student Presentations	Readings No. 12 Assignment 3
13	Graduate Student Presentations	Readings No. 13

Marking: Undergraduate Students (Biology 4160).

Note: Undergraduate Students can earn a maximum of 100 points and Graduate Students can earn a maximum of 80 points as follows:

Category	Component	Notes	Points
Assignments 1-3	Relate to class discussion, text reading, website visits and the overall theme of the effects of globalization on local environmental dynamics.	3 @ 12 pts each	36
Presentation	Individual or Group presentation using Power Point and a creative activity to stimulate learning.	Abstract=2 Slides=3 Analysis=2 Presentation=3 Creative Activity=4 Global-Local Link=2 References=2	18
Attendance	Attendance & Participation	12 weeks @ 1/2 pt per week	6
Tests-2	40 multiple choice questions (1/4 pt each), plus 2 out of 3 essays (5 pt each) for a total of 20 points for each test	2 tests x 20	40
	TOTAL POINTS		100

Marking: Graduate Students (Biol 5160)

Graduate students will be responsible for all of the undergraduate assignments listed above for a total of 80 points (directly prorated). In addition, for 20 points, graduate students will be required to give a presentation on an approved topic in Political Ecology toward the end of term. The presentation should include a discussion involving critical issues, approaches, methodologies and controversies in Political Ecology that were not well-developed in the textbook and lectures. Please submit a one page proposal on your topic by October 20th to Dr. Lane. Regardless of the topic you select, it would be useful to discuss it with the Professor early in the term. A marking sheet will be provided. Note that the presentation should be original and not a talk used in another class or thesis research.

Faculty of Science Marking Scale

A+	90-100	C+	62-64.9
A	85-89.9	C	58-61.9
A-	80-84.9	C-	55-57.9
B+	75-79.9	D	50-54.9
B	70-74.9	F	<50
B-	65-69.9		