About the Seminar
Arguably the single largest area of significant overlap between the disciplines of anthropology and geography is in the realm of nature-society research. Over the past three decades, the term "political ecology" has become a catch-all for describing work within this overlapping field of inquiry. Thus these cross-listed courses are de facto gateway courses for students either concentrating their studies and research on the theme of nature-society or whose interests have an "environmental" component. Rather than rehash the historical canons of these overlapping fields, I have chosen to concentrate on emerging themes and some of the newest, cutting edge material, not all of which is explicitly labeled political ecology. Because political ecology is so broadly defined, I am thinking of the reading list as a sort of theoretical, topical, and methodological sampler. Thus we will review works with a variety of theoretical perspectives including feminist, antiracist, Marxist, poststructuralist, posthumanist/nonhumanist, etc. We will also examine a variety of methodological approaches, especially ethnographic and historical, in a range of study sites including cities, seas, farms, and forests situated in a range of countries and regions. There will be a paper at the end of the semester, but the content will vary according to individual needs.

Seminar Requirements
This is a graduate reading seminar, which means, one, that the reading requirements are extensive and often challenging and, two, that learning will be a collective process as we share our individual insights and understandings. In other words, we are going to read a lot and learn from each other through written and oral exchanges. Here is how the course grade is portioned out.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly questions for discussion</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Seminar Participation
Participation constitutes a significant part of the seminar grade. There will be little formal lecturing on my part and most seminar time will be taken up by open discussion. I assume, one, that everyone will attend every meeting and, two, everyone will have read the day's assignment and come prepared to talk about it. I will allow one excused absence without penalty and take three points off for every additional absence.

Weekly Questions for Discussion
Each participant will prepare a minimum of two typed questions from the readings, to be turned in at the beginning of the session. These should be substantive, thoughtful questions. They should not be done as an afterthought, but rather incorporated into your note taking as you read. These questions should contribute significantly to our discussions.

Readings Journal
The idea of the readings journal is to create a set of annotations and commentaries for all of the seminar readings. This is essentially an exercise in formal note taking from the readings, a practice that most of
you already follow. These notes should include not only summaries for each week’s readings, but also thoughtful critiques, ruminations on theory or method, contrasts and comparisons of readings, and so forth. Think of these commentaries as materials that will be useful to you in the future for writing a thesis, dissertation, or research paper or studying for comprehensive exams.

Participants must e-mail an electronic version of the journal entries to me no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before those readings are being discussed. Everyone will submit for formal grading a final version of the entire journal on December 4. This document should be consistently formatted throughout and include a cover page with your name, table of contents with page numbers, numbered pages, and the relevant bibliographic references at the top of each week’s journal entry. Do not include notes on readings not listed in the syllabus.

Final Paper
The principal writing requirement will be a paper of 6,000-9,000 words. The nature of the paper will vary according to individual needs. Obviously, it must relate to the seminar content, but there is wide latitude for choosing the form. If you are just starting out, you might want to do a review paper on a perspective research site and/or topic. If you are in mid program, you might want to work on your research proposal. If you are nearing the end of your program, you might choose to produce a dissertation chapter draft. The important thing is to chose a paper that will advance you toward your degree completion. A one-paragraph synopsis of the proposed paper is due September 9. A detailed outline and tentative bibliography is due October 28. The paper is due December 4.

Policy on Plagiarism
Plagiarism is theft, cheating, and pointless if our intention is to learn and make our own contribution to the advancement of social science. The disciplinary action that will be taken in the case of plagiarism is explained in the section on “Academic Misconduct” in the FIU Student Handbook. If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, check out the websites: “Plagiarism: What It is and How to Recognize and Avoid It (Indiana University)” at http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml or “Paraphrase: Write it in Your Own Words” at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/01/. This last site also has many other links, including how do identify and avoid plagiarism.

Readings
The published books on the list are available at FIU’s bookstore. Some are also available as used copies through on-line booksellers. I will make the manuscripts available as PDFs.


In addition to these books or book manuscripts, we will read a series of journal articles and book chapters. I will make these available as PDFs or as free access links.

**WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: August 26**

**Orientation and Introduction**


**Week 2: September 2**

**Nature**

Readings: Castree, *Making Sense of Nature*

**Week 3: September 9**

**Nature, Materiality and the Labor Process**

Readings: Prudham, *Knock on Wood*

**Week 4: September 16**

**Nature, Culture, and Science**

Readings: Goldman et al., *Knowing Nature* (Selected chapters)

**Week 5: September 23**

**Nature, Capital, and Science**

Readings: Sayre, *Climate, Capital, and Science*

**Week 6: September 30**

**Nature and Race**

Readings: Moore et al., *Race, Nature, and the Politics of Difference* (Selected chapters)

**Week 7: October 7**

**Nature and Social Movements**

Readings: Oslender, *The Geographies of Social Movements*

Week 8: October 14
Feminism


Week 9: October 21
Posthumanism


Week 10: October 28
Nonhumanism
Readings: Grusin, *The Nonhuman Turn*
(Selected chapters)

Week 11: November 4
Food
Readings: Emel and Neo, *Political Ecology of Meat*
(Selected chapters)

Week 12: November 11
VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY, UNIVERSITY CLOSED

Week 13: November 18
Seas


Week 14: November 25
Cities
Readings: Robbins, *Lawn People*


Week 15: December 2
Conservation Territories


DECEMBER 4 FINAL PAPER DUE, FINAL READING JOURNAL DUE