GEOG2124 Environmental change and socio-political conflicts

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 1st Semester **CREDITS:** 6

COURSE TEACHER: Professor Wesley ATTEWELL

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 50 %	COURSEWORK 50 %
•2-hour examination	• Short assignment • Essay • Class participation

OBJECTIVES:
Resource scarcity is currently a hot issue. This course attempts to address its possible impact upon human society from a geopolitical perspective.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:
This course considers the socio-political stakes of global environmental change under ongoing conditions of crisis and emergency. We will pay special attention to the ways in which environmental change has always been a driver of violent conflict abroad, as well as a key terrain of racial management and pacification at home. Through a combination of detailed case study work and close reading of academic and non-academic readings, students will get a clearer sense of how environmental change and conflict is intimately bound up in questions of racial capitalism, settler colonialism, militarism, and imperialism. Drawing inspiration from the work of activists, communities, and collectives across the Pacific – including the Mauna Kea *kiai* and Indigenous water protectors across Turtle Island – we will emphasize how a politics of environmental justice is always necessarily a politics of racial, gender, class, and social justice.

LECTURE TOPICS:
- The tropics of empire
- Postcolonial ecologies
- The natures of war
- The environmental afterlives of war
- Environmental racisms and green urbanisms
- Disaster capitalisms
- Carceral conservationism and the settler project
- Infrastructures of extraction
- The geographies of waste
- Pandemic ecologies
- Abolition, decolonization, and the anthropocene

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:
- Tu, Thuy Linh. 2021. Experiments in Skin: Race and Beauty in the Shadows of Vietnam (Durham: Duke University Press).
- Ybarra, Megan. 2017. Green Wars: Conservation and Decolonization in the Maya Forest (Berkeley: The University of California Press).
- Zani, Leah. 2022. Strike Patterns: Notes from Postwar Laos (Stanford: Stanford University Press).

	Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to:	**Alignment with Programme** Learning Outcomes (PLOs)*						**Course Assessment Methods**
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Explain key concepts, such as counterinsurgent ecologies, distributed reproduction, latency, body burdens, etc.	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	Class Participation, Short Assignment, Essay & Exam
2	Understand the everyday geographies and consequences of environmental conflict from an intersectional and interdisciplinary perspective.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Class Participation, Short Assignment, Essay & Exam
3	Develop a multi-scalar framework for analyzing problems of environmental justice and conflict that holds the domestic and foreign spheres together.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Class Participation, Short Assignment, Essay & Exam
4	Reflect on the ways in which environments and ecologies are terrains of power and violence, as well as spaces of resistance and struggle.	✔	✔			✔	✔	Class Participation, Short Assignment, Essay & Exam
5	Become adept at thinking relationally across the multiple spaces, times, and scales of environmental change and transformation.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Class Participation, Short Assignment, Essay & Exam
6	Learn how to close read non-academic sources, such as cultural production and other kinds of primary sources.	✔		✔	✔		✔	Class Participation, Short Assignment & Essay

*Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

PLO1 **critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;**

PLO2 **demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;**

PLO3 **identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;**

PLO4 **integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;**

PLO5 **participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and**

PLO6 **effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.**