**Final Book Review Assignments**

If you are enrolled in this class for **4 or 5 credits,** this additional assignment is **required.**

**Book Selection**: These book reviews should focus on a recently published academic text. Any text (sole authored or edited volume) is suitable even those that would be highly accessible to a diverse audience. However, students have preferred to select a text that is also central to their final paper or you can review other texts focusing on political ecology or suitable case studies that compliment your interests and class content. If you found a highly suitable edited volume, please read the introduction and/or synthesis conclusion chapters and then depending on length 1-2 focal chapters.Max reading should be <200 pp but also depends on the density of the text and material. If a full text is ideally suited for your final paper, but unfortunately resembles *War & Peace* in length, please select the introduction or concluding chapters along with the most suitable chapters that you will use in your final paper. Please explore and discuss potential selections early with me to be sure the selected text is appropriate before you begin. Also, I may offer suggestions or provide suitable texts from my library for you to use.

**Review Content:** Book reviews aim to provide a synthesis of the book’s distinctive contributionsin the first 1-2 paragraphs, but often contain aninviting ‘tag line’, quote, or other lead in **–** to entice the potential reader. In the next 2-4 paragraphs, state specifically who would benefit from reading this and justify why. What are the novel contributions to the field, discourse, style, distinctive views, or accessibility? Be specific and provide concrete examples. For edited volumes, you may highlight points and specific contributions from the selected chapters you read, but also summarize the value of the overall collection. Before wrapping up, you should also include a critique that does include somewhat more ‘negative’ comments, missing aspects, or what you perceive are the limitations. If you have found other reviews, then feel free to agree or disagree with some of their points or emphasis, but please be careful not to plagiarize – use quotes if you must and cite these reviews as well.   
 Book reviews typically contain more conversational or less formal prose than academic publications and often include personal anecdotes or opinions ad deemed appropriate for a light and interesting read. So creative approaches would include a catchy title or byline for the review, ground the approach with distinctive comparisons or contrasts with other either well-known works or ‘pop’ culture as well as provide some notable examples or references that would be appreciated across a relatively broad audience or readership depending on your selected arena for submission. Humor is always encouraged, but frankly rather tough to pull off without offending some. So please do avoid burying your content and assessment with excessive humor that, in turn, dilutes the review’s key function: conveying the importance of this text for the appropriate reader. Repeat the mantra: So many books; so little time!

From your review, I seek to have you convince me that I ‘should’ read this or that I will enjoy this material for specific reasons. Check out the New York Times Sunday book reviews, but especially examples from selected journals in your fields (some examples have been uploaded so on courseweb) or ‘official’ reviews online. Please focus solely on comments from specialists in the fields rather than the brief book evaluations and impressions in the comments posted by the general public on Amazon etc. Most importantly, please enjoy this creative process! I am available for advice, input, and direction especially if you become challenged with approach and suitable presentation of content in this book review format.

**Format & Content:** Book reviews should be ~3 single-spaced pages in length (2-5 pp range/max with a graphic only if suitable; single spaced – 12 pt font). Challenge here is to be brief, yet effective!

**Submission: Due on or before 28 March 2017 @ 11:59pm**

Electronic copy in dropbox or emailed to Lisa ([lmcurran@stanford.edu](mailto:lmcurran@stanford.edu)) as an attachment with “your Surname, then First name”, then “Book review” with these documents in MS word ***not pdf format*** as Word is easier for me to edit prose and provide comments.

**Grading Format:** Two grades are given: A/A or A-/B+. The top grade is content, flow of ideas, insights, and especially incorporating content and ideas generated from class. The bottom grade is prose, organization and presentation. The top grade is weighted more heavily in the final grade.