

Tues
3pm Way
Mac Wan Ho
Global Studies

Meet at 1:30 --
East Hall 331

INTL 507: Global Sustainable Development International Studies Program

Fall 2011

Leopoldo Rodríguez
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Office hours:

East Hall 346
TW 13:00-13:50

Class:

Ondine Hall 218
MW 14:00-15:50
M 13:30-13:55

Course Description:

The course analyzes the root causes of environmental deterioration and explores potential answers. We begin with a discussion of the relation of humans to nature, and of the nature of human needs and consumption. We then turn to capitalism and explore it as both the potential source of solutions and the culprit of environmental destruction. We also analyze the logic of industrial production and its implications for agriculture and energy. The course closes with an exploration of ecological responses to the question of development.

Course Requirements:

You will be required to do a substantial amount of reading. You will be evaluated on the basis of participation and attendance, five reviews of assigned readings, a take-home midterm exam and a final paper or project.

Grading:

Participation and attendance	10%
Reading reviews (5 reviews, 5 points each)	25% <i>→ choose em 5 of 9</i>
Take-Home Midterm Exam (due Mon, Nov. 7)	30%
Final Paper (due Friday, December 2)	35%

*pick 3 readings
I know ~~that~~ reading
what is the PT? then
analysis*

*on page
max!*

Required Readings:

JBF: John B. Foster, *Ecology Against Capitalism*, Monthly Review Press, New York, 2002. (*P&V Booksfore*)

PCK: Packet of readings available at Clean Copy *→ its being developed*
Additional readings assigned on a weekly basis.

*No quotes!
(if possible)
author-
date format*

Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a documented disability and registered with the Disability Resource Center, please contact me immediately to facilitate arranging academic accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I will not hesitate to assign an F to a student caught cheating.

Participation and Attendance:

All students are expected to actively participate in class discussion and attend class on a regular basis.

Reading Reviews: Due on Mondays

You are responsible for a minimum of five reviews of weekly course readings. Each review should cover 3 of the readings for the week when you turn in the review. For example, a review turned in on Monday, October 3 (week 2) must cover 3 readings for week 2. Each review, with all 3 readings reviewed, shall not exceed 1 page single-spaced. The review should include a sentence or two for each reading, capturing the essential argument of the authors. The rest of the review should be an analysis where the readings are compared to each other, flushing out similarities and differences in approach or focus. Reading reviews are due in class on Mondays at the start of class. You may choose the readings for any five weeks of the course to do the reviews.

Take-home Midterm Exam: Due Monday, Nov 7

You will have a take-home midterm examination. I will provide you the questions on Wednesday, November 2 and you must turn in your answers ~~by noon on Monday~~ *in class* November 7. All answers must be typed. You must make reference to the reading material from our course in the answers to the questions (i.e.: Ehrlich, p. 41).

Final Research Paper or Project: Due on Friday, December 1

A final research paper or project is required for completion of the course. The paper must consist of a minimum of 16 pages double-spaced plus a bibliography of at least 7 book chapters or academic articles not included in the course readings. The topic of the paper must be selected in consultation with the instructor. Potential paper topics are listed below.

Potential Research Paper Topics:

- Renewable Energy Sources
- Intermediate/Appropriate Technology
- Agroecology
- Permaculture
- Urban Agriculture
- Ecological Literacy
- Food Security
- Happiness Research
- Concepts of Sustainability
- Ecological Economics
- Deep Ecology

- original research
- outside sources
- proposal week 6
- integrate all course topics

Topics:

✓ **Week 1 (Sept. 26 & Sept. 28): The State of Nature**

- a. Resource depletion and biodiversity
- b. Energy and material cycles
- c. Climate Change

JBF, Chapter 1, "Ecology Against Capitalism," pp. 9-25; Chapter 6, "The Scale of Our Ecological Crisis," pp. 69-78 and Chapter 7, "Sustainable Development of What?" pp. 79-82.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF), 2010, *Living Planet Report 2010: Summary*. Available at http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/living_planet_report/2010_lpr/

Robert Babe, "Sustainable Development vs. Sustainable Ecosystems," *Culture of Ecology: Reconciling Economics and Environment*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 2006, pp. 3-29.

Review #1 — **Week 2 (Oct. 3 & 5): Conceptualizing Sustainability**

- a. Economic, social and environmental
- b. Population, affluence and technology
- c. The North-South divide

Reading reviews start w/ -- These (pick 3)

JBF, Chapter 2, "The Ecological Tyranny of the Bottom Line," pp. 26-41 and Chapter 11, "Malthus's Essay on Population at Age 200," pp. 137-154.

Robert Goodland and Herman Daly, "Environmental Sustainability: Universal and Non-Negotiable," *Ecological Applications*, Vol. 6, No. 4 (Nov. 1996), pp. 1002-1017.
Search JStor for this article.

Anne Ehrlich, "Overshoot: Interrelations Between Population, Consumption and Ecosystems," in Bob van der Swan and Arthur Petersen (Eds.), 2003, *Sharing the Planet: Science and Ethics for a Sustainable and Equitable World*, Eburon Publishers, pp. 78-97.

Review #2 — **Week 3 (Oct. 10 & 12): New Technologies**

- a. Techno-solutions and Jevons' paradox
- b. Weightless economy
- c. Environmental economics

JBF, Chapter 9, "Capitalism's Environmental Crisis – Is Technology the Answer?" pp. 92-103.

David Orr, 2002, "Speed," and Technological Fundamentalism," *The Nature of Design: Ecology, Culture and Human Intention*, Oxford University Press, pp. 43-52 and 61-67.

Robert Babe, "Environmental vs. Ecological Economics," *Culture of Ecology: Reconciling Economics and Environment*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 2006, pp. 109-140.

(get this!)

Week 4 (Oct. 17 & 19): Markets and Capitalism

- a. Capital accumulation
- b. Trade and globalization
- c. GDP and growth

JBF, Chapter 4, "The Ecological Tyranny of the Bottom Line," pp. 52-59 and Chapter 5, "Let Them Eat Pollution," pp. 60-68.

Daniel Fusfeld, "The Market in History," *Monthly Review*, Vol. 45, No. 1, May 1993, pp. 1-8.

Joel Kovel, "Capital" and "Capitalism," *The Enemy of Nature*, Zed Books, New York, pp. 26-91.

Herman Daly, 1996, "Moving to a Steady-State Economy" and "Elements of Environmental Macroeconomics," *Beyond Growth: The Economics of Sustainable Development*, Beacon Press, Boston, pp. 31-60.

Week 5 (Oct. 24 & 26): Humans and Nature

- ~~Re-read~~
~~skip~~
- a. Ecology and scarcity
 - b. Science, gender and nature
 - c. The nature of scientific knowledge

JBF, Chapter 8, "Globalization and the Ecological Morality of Place," pp. 83-91.

Marshall Sahlins. 1972, excerpts from *Stone Age Economics*, Aldine Publishing Company, Chicago. Available at <http://www.primitivism.com/original-affluent.htm>

Joel Kovel, "On ecologies," *The Enemy of Nature*, Zed Books, New York, pp. 95-120.

Vandana Shiva, "Science, Nature and Gender," *Staying Alive*, Zed Books, London, 1989, pp. 14-37.

David Ehrenfeld, 1993, "Down from the Pedestal—A New Role for Experts" *Beginning Again: People and Nature in the New Millennium*, Oxford University Press, New York, pp. 147-157.

Week 6 (Oct. 31 & Nov. 2): Human Nature

- 4
- a. Needs, wants and satisfiers
 - b. Affluence and consumption
 - c. Happiness commodified

JBF, Chapter 3, "Global Ecology and the Common Good," pp. 44-51.

Manfred Max-Neef, "Human-scale Economics," in Paul Ekins and Manfred Max-Neef (Eds.), *Real Life Economics: Understanding Wealth Creation*, Routledge, London, pp. 43-54.

Abraham Maslow, 1970 (1954), "A Theory of Human Motivation," *Motivation and Personality*, 2nd Edition, Harper and Row Publishers, New York, pp. 35-58.

Tibor Scitovsky, 1992 (1976), "Necessities and Comfort," *The Joyless Economy: The Psychology of Human Satisfaction*, Oxford University Press, New York, pp. 106-132.

Juliet Schor, 1998, *The Overspent American, "Introduction,"* Harper Perennial, New York, pp. 3-24.

Week 7 (Nov. 7 & 9): Industrial Production

- a. Work, mechanization and energy
- b. Scale and technology
- c. Chemical soup

E.F. Schumacher, "Buddhist Economics" and "Development of Intermediate Technology," *Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered*, Harper & Row Publishers, New York, 1973, pp. 53-62 and 171-190.

Lewis Mumford, 1967, "Authoritarian and Democratic Techniques," *Technology and Culture*, Vol. 5, No. 1, Winter 1964, pp. 1-8. Search Jstor for the article.

Joel Kovel, "Capital and the Domination of Nature," *The Enemy of Nature*, Zed Books, New York, pp. 121-151.

Week 8 (Nov. 14 & 16): Industrial Agriculture vs. Agroecology

- a. Green revolutions
- b. Agribusiness
- c. Agroecology

JBF, Chapter 12, "Liebig, Marx, and the Depletion of Soil Fertility," pp. 155-170.

Miguel Altieri, "Fatal Harvest: Old and New Dimensions of the Ecological Tragedy of Modern Agriculture," pp. 189-213. Available at <http://agroeco.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/fatalharvest-latest.pdf>

James C. Scott, 1998, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, "Taming Nature: An Agriculture of Legibility and Simplicity," Yale University Press, pp. 262-306.

Week 9 (Nov. 21 & 23): Energy – Stocks and Flows

- a. Thermodynamics
- b. Fossil fuels and agrofuels
- c. Earth's energy budget

John Peet, 1992, "Energy – A Scientific Perspective," and "Myths of Science and Energy," *Energy and the Ecological Economics of Sustainability*, Island Press, Washington, DC, pp. 27-46 and 150-156.

Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, "The Entropy Law and the Economic Problem," in Herman Daly (Ed.), 1973, *Economics, Ecology, Ethics: Essays Toward A Steady-State Economy*, W.H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco, pp. 49-60.

Week 10 (Nov. 28 & 30): Beyond Sustainable Development

- a. Environmentalisms
- b. Knowledge and wisdom
- c. Ecological livelihoods

James C. Scott, "Thin Simplifications and Practical Knowledge," *Seeing Like a State*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1998, pp. 309-341.

David Orr, 2002, "Human Ecology as a Problem of Ecological Design" and "Slow Knowledge," *The Nature of Design: Ecology, Culture and Human Intention*, Oxford University Press, pp. 13-32 and 35-42.