

ENVS 607: Graduate Seminar in POLITICAL ECOLOGY

Spring 2014

Tu/Th 10:00-11:50 am, 249 Columbia



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Political ecology examines the politics—in the broadest sense of the word—of the environment. Political ecology examines the historical role of political-economic systems, science, language and discourse, ideology, gender, property and resource access systems, and the everyday politics and culture of the community and the household in shaping human relationships with the environment. This year's seminar examines the political ecology of environmental degradation and conservation in Africa; urban political ecology in the United States; fair trade and sustainability in Mexico; the broader questions of globalization and political-ecological marginalization; and the politicized nature of environmental science. *This seminar is open only to graduate students*, meaning that there will (usually) be no lecture by the professor: rather presentation, discussion, and analysis of readings will be lead by students, with 'lead' discussants chosen for each class period. In the 10-week term we will read eight books (see below) and students will write a ten-page term paper.