

ANTHROPOLOGY/INDIGENOUS STUDIES 2203G-001
Indigenous Peoples, Globalization and the Environment
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2021



The Ok Tedi Mine [photo: CMCA Review]



A village logging crew [photo: Dan Jorgensen]

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Office Hours, Online Check-ins: TBA on course OWL site

Acknowledgement: Western University is located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, and the Leni-Lunaape peoples. The local First Nations communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee-Delaware Nation.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online. It is *asynchronous*, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Calendar Course Description: An examination of natural resource development emphasizing the interplay between indigenous people, the state and transnational developers. Topics include: environmentalism and livelihood; land rights; corporate power and state policies; common property and community-based resource management; NGOs in environmental politics; sustainability and the greening of development.

Antirequisites: ANTHROPOLOGY 2203F/G, INDIGENOUS STUDIES 2203F/G

Prerequisites: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

This course is built around a field known as political ecology, which draws upon several disciplines – anthropology, geography, political science, economics, ecology – that share an interest in the linkage between processes of globalization and changing environmental use. Our point of departure will be the fact that globalization involves an interplay between indigenous people and non-local ("global") actors, who bring different kinds of power and interest to bear on human relations with the natural world. Non-local actors may include transnational resource corporations, but other examples include environmental NGOs, the state, the World Bank or agencies of the UN. The issues we will pursue often turn on the political relationship between these various players in relation to the environment.

The beginning of the course will briefly introduce general ideas concerning globalization and the environment, and how globalization figures in local people's environmental use. After that we will turn our attention to a detailed examination of the oil industry and local people in the Amazon basin. Shifting our focus to Southeast Asia, we will look into the politics of forest use in the interaction between indigenous people, the state, and transnational actors. Following that we will look at indigenous people's engagement with mining projects on a Papua New Guinea resource frontier. Towards the end of the course we come closer to home with a look at Canada's oil and gas projects in relation to First Nations people. The course concludes with an overview of the situation of indigenous peoples in environmental politics at local, national and global scales.

The full course outline, including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings, will be available on the course OWL site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Place environmental issues within concrete contexts in the developing world to understand "the environmentalism of the poor".
- Identify ways in which globalization affects environmental use with specific reference to:
 - Mineral resource development
 - Logging and forestry
 - Plantation agriculture
 - Conservation
- Analyze environmental politics in terms of the interrelation between:
 - indigenous peoples
 - the state
 - corporations
 - multilateral institutions and NGOs
- Undertake independent library research to develop evidence-based arguments about the relation between changing environmental use and the situation of indigenous peoples.

Course Materials:

The following book is required reading and will be available for purchase in the Bookstore. For more information, please consult their website. [The Bookstore at Western](#).

Cepek, M. (2018) *Life in Oil: Cofán Survival in the Petroleum Fields of Amazonia*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

Evaluation and Assignments:

Grades will be based on assignments as follows:

Introduction Exercise (to be completed by January 22): 2%
One-on-one Check-in (to be completed in first 4 weeks, in scheduled slots): 3%
Quizzes (best two out of three @ 25% each): 50%
Essay Proposal: 10% (due February 12)
Research Essay: 30% (due April 16)
Participation: 5% (throughout the course)

Introduction Exercise – 2%

At the beginning of the term I will ask each of you to prepare a small (30-second) introduction to yourself that will be available to the class as a whole using the **Voicethread** tool. The aim is to provide a starting point in getting to know one another. You will have to **complete this by January 22, 2021**; details will be made available on the OWL site before the start of class.

One-on-one (virtual) Check-in – 3%

During the first **four** weeks of the course you must sign up for a virtual (Zoom) meeting with me or one of the TAs. This meeting will be 10-15 minutes in length, and the point is to break the ice and provide an opportunity for you to discuss your aims and expectations, and how this course fits with them.

Quizzes – 50%

Every four weeks throughout the course (in Weeks 4, 8 and 12), you will write a quiz that will test you on material covered over the current and the previous three weeks. There will be a total of three quizzes worth 25% each. I will use your **best two out of three** quizzes in calculating your final mark in the course. Each quiz should take only 40 to 60 minutes to complete (times will vary depending on the type of questions included). In general, quizzes will be composed of multiple choice, short answer or short essay questions. Since you can choose when during the assigned week you are ready to write the quiz, there will be no makeup quizzes.

Essay Proposal – 10%

In preparation for your research essay (see below) you must submit an essay proposal that outlines the topic(s) or problem you intend to write about (see *Research Essay* below). For this assignment you should provide a sketch of your research essay's tentative argument, explaining why you have chosen this direction, and what you hope to show. You should also provide a list with a minimum of eight scholarly sources you will consult in writing the paper. (You may find useful starting points in sources with the Supplementary or Optional tag in the class readings. Please note that you are encouraged and expected to consult with me or one of the TAs if you get stuck. This proposal is expected to be **300-500 words in length (excluding the reference list)**. It will be **due on February 12, 2021 (6:00 PM EST)**. I will assess a penalty of 5% per day late and will not accept any submissions after February 19. You must submit an electronic copy of your proposal via the "Assignments" tab on the OWL course site.

Research Essay – 30%

Building on your consultation with me, this essay will be based on sources drawing material from two or more of the regions we will be examining in class. You will be asked to develop an argument

addressing an issue (e.g., identification and definition of land rights, the operation of a particular kind of resource development, or the roles of particular kinds of actors). An important part of the task is to examine the differences or commonalities your analysis finds. The essay is expected to be **1200-1500 words in length (excluding the reference list)**.

Note that this assignment is in place of a final exam, and it will therefore be due during the examination period **on April 16, 2021 (6:00 PM EST)**. The penalty for late submission is 5% per day, or part thereof. I will not accept papers submitted after April 23, 2021 (6:00 PM EST). You must submit an electronic copy of your essay via the "Assignments" tab on the OWL course site.

Detailed assignment guidelines will be posted on the OWL course site.

Participation – 5%

From time to time during the course you may be asked to respond to an online poll or similar request. Such responses will not be individually marked, but the degree to which you respond to such requests over the term will form the basis of your overall participation mark.

Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass this course, students need to submit the essay proposal and receive a passing grade on the research essay.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz. Please see your academic counselor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All such papers will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).

