

FES 912a

# NATURE, ECONOMY, AND SOCIETY

Kathleen McAfee

Tuesdays 2:30 – 5:20 PM

301 Prospect St.

This seminar examines the sources, theories, unstated assumptions, and controversies of the major schools of environmentalism today. It is a multidisciplinary social science course, drawing on ‘mainstream’ and ‘critical’ literature from environmental and ecological economics, political economy, sociology of science and environmental institutions, geography, and political ecology.

We will look at how differing approaches to valuing and managing nature are applied at the multilateral, national, and project levels by institutions such as the World Bank. We will consider conservation and benefit-sharing strategies such as biodiversity prospecting and payment for environmental services. We also will read evaluations, critiques, and examples of alternative strategies by scholars, environmental professionals, non-government organizations, and social movements.

Emphasis in the case studies will be on biodiversity and livelihoods in the global South, but students are welcome to focus on other cases (such as water management or climate-change mitigation) and to present material from your own research. The seminar is designed for masters and doctoral students in Environmental Studies and related fields. Undergrads and students with little background in social theory or economics will need the instructor’s OK: [kathleen.mcafee@yale.edu](mailto:kathleen.mcafee@yale.edu). Requirements are 80 – 150 pages reading weekly, eight 1-page reading commentaries, class participation, and a 15-page paper.

## TEXTS RECOMMENDED FOR PURCHASE:

Forsyth, Tim. 2002 *Critical Political Ecology: The Politics of Environmental Science*. Routledge.

Turner, R.K., Pearce, D., Bateman, I. 1993 *Environmental Economics: an Elementary Introduction*. Johns Hopkins.

Martinez-Alier, Joan. 2002 *The Environmentalism of the Poor* Edward Elgar.

(Paperback edition to be published in October 2003. Hardcover edition will be on FES reserve.)

ALL REQUIRED AND MOST OPTIONAL READINGS WILL BE IN READING PACKET FOR PURCHASE.

ADDITIONAL READINGS WHERE NOTED WILL BE **ON RESERVE**: FES LIBRARY, 205 PROSPECT, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR.

## September 9

### 1. Introduction: contemporary approaches to nature, economy, and society

Overview of some major schools of environmentalist theory and policy today:

TECHNOCENTRIC - EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC MODELS, ACCOUNTING, MARKETS, INCENTIVES

- Environmental economics
- Ecological modernization
  - property rights
  - markets in natural resources and environmental services
  - green accounting; incentives policies
  - measuring and managing risk
  - state and multilateral regulation;

WHICH MAY OVERLAP WITH

TECHNOCENTRIC - EMPHASIS ON BIOPHYSICAL FACTORS AND SYSTEMS

- Ecological economics
  - natural limits; thermodynamics; carrying capacity; environmental footprint

WHICH MAY OVERLAP WITH;

## ECOCENTRIC - PRESERVATIONIST

- ‘Tragedy of the commons’; neo-Malthusianism; coercive conservation; population control

## SOCIOCENTRIC

- Collective action and rational choice
- Critical political economy and sociology of environmental institutions and movements
- Political ecology

HAND-OUT: Martinez-Alier, Joan 2002 *Environmentalism of the Poor* Ch 1  
‘Currents of Environmentalism’ pp 1 – 15.

BACKGROUND READING: 1<sup>st</sup> 200 pp of Turner, Pearce, and Bateman, 1993 *Environmental Economics: an Elementary Introduction*. Johns Hopkins. (Recommended as a background and reference source, especially for those who haven’t studied environmental economics. A copy will be on FES reserve. )

## September 16

### 2. A closer look at formative schools of contemporary environmentalism

A (greened) neoclassical perspective: Pearce, David 1997 ‘The Political Economy of the Global Environment’ *Scottish Journal of Political Economy* (44)4: 462-483.

An institutionalist perspective: Jacobs, Michael ‘The limits to neo-classicism: toward an institutionalist environmental economics’ in Benton and Redclift (eds.) 1994 *Social Theory and the Global Environment*. pp 67 – 91.

An ecological economics perspective: Daly, Herman ‘Introduction to *Essays Toward a Steady-State Economy*’ and ‘Sustainable growth: an impossibility theorem’ in Daly, H and Townsend KN (eds) 1993 *Valuing the Earth: Economics, Ecology, Ethics*. pp 11 – 47 and 267 – 273.

A neo-Marxist perspective: O’Connor, Martin ‘On the misadventures of capitalist nature’ M. O’Connor (ed.) 1994 *Is Capitalism Sustainable: Political Economy and the Politics of Ecology*. pp 125 – 151.

A conservative perspective: Anderson, Terry and Leal, Donald 1992 ‘Free market versus political environmentalism’ *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy* 15(2) 297 – 311.

#### RECOMMENDED:

Mol, Arthur P. J. 2002 ‘Ecological modernization and the global economy’ *Global Environmental Politics* 2(2), pp 92 –114.

McAfee, Kathleen 1999 ‘Selling Nature To Save It? Biodiversity and Green Developmentalism’ *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 17:2: 133-154.

## September 23

### 3. Ecocentrism and contradictions of modern environmentalism

Garett Hardin ‘Tragedy of the commons’ in Daly, H and Townsend KN (eds) 1993 *Valuing the Earth: Economics, Ecology, Ethics*. Originally published in *Science* 16: 1243-1248.

David Harvey 1996 *Justice, Nature, and the Geography of Difference*  
Part II Prologue & Chapters 6 & 7 (Ch 8 is optional) and Ch 13 up to p 391

RECOMMENDED: David Harvey 2000 *Spaces of Hope* Chapter 11, or the entire book [ON RESERVE](#)

## September 30

### 4. Poststructuralist influences, situated knowledge, and the framing of environmental problems

Haraway, Donna 'Universal donors in a vampire culture' in William Cronon (ed.) 1996 *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*. Norton.

Piers Blaikie 2001 'Social nature and environmental policy in the South: views from veranda and veld' in Noel Castree and Bruce Braun (eds.) 2001 *Social Nature: Theory, Practice, Politics* Blackwell.

## October 7

### 5. Case study: The greening of the World Bank

Dixon et al. 1997 *Expanding the Measure of Wealth: Indicators of Environmentally Sustainable Development* Washington: World Bank. Preface, Ch 3 'Measuring the wealth of nations', pp 19-39, and pages 42 and 8.

Goldman, Michael 2002 'Constructing a environmentalist state: eco-governmentality and other transnational practices of a 'green' World Bank' in *Social Problems* 48(4): 499-523.

Friends of the Earth, SUNS North-South Development Monitor, NGO commentaries on World Bank environmental policy and record.

World Bank *Environment Strategy* 2001; Policy summaries: market mechanisms for environmental management, forest-dependent peoples, etc. (policy statements from World Bank www sites).

Friends of the Earth and The Halifax Initiative 2002 *Marketing the Earth: the World Bank and Sustainable Development*. [www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org).

RECOMMENDED: Wade, Robert 1997 'Greening the Bank: the struggle over the environment: 1970 - 1995,' in Kapur, Devesh, John Lewis, and Richard Webb (eds) *The World Bank: Its First Half Century* V2 pp 611-734. Washington: Brookings Institution Press. [ON RESERVE](#)

## October 14

### 6. Political ecology 1: The politics of environmental science

Forsyth, Tim 2002 *Critical Political Ecology: The Politics of Environmental Science*. chapters 1 – 7

Yearly, Steven 2001 'The social construction of environmental problems: a theoretical review and some not-very-Herculean labors' in Dunlap et al. (eds.) *Sociological Theory and the Environment: Classical Foundations and Contemporary Insights*. Bowman and Littlefield.

RECOMMENDED

Taylor, Peter and Buttel, Fred 1992 'How do we know we have global environmental problems?' in *GeoForum* (23(30): 405-416

McAfee, Kathleen 2003 'Neoliberalism on the Molecular Scale: Economic and Genetic Reductionism in Biotechnology Battles' in *GeoForum* 34(2): 203-219.

## October 21

### 7. Case study: Multilateral environmental institutions: the Global Environment Facility

Young, Zoe 2002 *A New Green Order? The World Bank the Politics of the Global Environment Facility* Pluto Press. pp 1 – 17 and 104 – 208. [ON RESERVE](#)

GEF project papers, project evaluation reports, and critical commentaries: To be selected based on student research and interests.

Global Environment Facility *The First Decade of the GEF: Second Overall Performance Study* (OPS2) January 25, 2002 Executive summary and Biodiversity section.

[http://gefweb.org/ResultsandImpact/Monitoring\\_Evaluation/Overall\\_Performance\\_Studies/overall\\_performance\\_studies.html](http://gefweb.org/ResultsandImpact/Monitoring_Evaluation/Overall_Performance_Studies/overall_performance_studies.html)

Global Environment Facility GEF/C.14/5, 'Report On Incremental Costs' GEF Council December 1999

RECOMMENDED: Kumari Kanta and Ken King 1997 'Paradigm Cases to Illustrate the Application of the Incremental Cost Assessment to Biodiversity' GEF Secretariat.

[http://www.gefweb.org/Operational\\_Policies/Eligibility\\_Criteria/Incremental\\_Costs/paradigm.htm](http://www.gefweb.org/Operational_Policies/Eligibility_Criteria/Incremental_Costs/paradigm.htm)

Fairman, David 1995 'The Global Environment Facility: Haunted by the Shadow of the Future,' in Keohane, Robert and Marc Levy (eds.) *Institutions for Environmental Aid* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

## October 28

### 10. Case studies: genetic resources; biodiversity prospecting; intellectual property

Flitner, Michael 1998 'Biodiversity: of local commons and global commodities' 2001 in M Goldman (ed.) *Privatizing Nature: Political Struggles for the Global Commons* pp 20-53.

Swanson, Timothy and Timo Goschl 2000 'Property rights issues involving plant genetic resources: implications of ownership for economic efficiency' *Ecological Economics* 32(1) pp 75 – 92.

Shiva, Vandana 2000 'Biopiracy: The theft of knowledge and resources' in Tokar, Brian (ed) *Redesigning Life? The Worldwide Challenge to Genetic Engineering* Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.

Laird, Sarah A. and Kerry ten kate 2002 'Biodiversity prospecting: the commercial use of genetic resources and best practice in benefit-sharing' Ch. 8 in *Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge: Equitable Partnerships in Practice* London: Earthscan. pp 241 – 285.

Parry Bronwyn 2002 Cultures of knowledge: investigating intellectual property rights and relations in the Pacific. *Antipode* 34(4)4: 679-706

Via Campesina 2001 'The Position of Via Campesina on Biodiversity, Biosafety and Genetic Resources' *Development* 44:4; 47–51.

RECOMMENDED:

Anuradha, R.V. 2001 'IPRs: implications for biodiversity and local and indigenous communities' *Review of European Community & International Environmental Law* 10(1) pp 27-36.

McAfee, Kathleen 'Plants, power, and intellectual property in the new global governance regimes' 2003 in Rachel Schurman and Dennis Takahashi Kelso (eds.) *Engineering Trouble: Biotechnology and Its Discontents* University of California Press.

'Corn culture and dangerous DNA: real and imagined consequences of maize gene flow in Oaxaca' accepted for publication in the *Journal of Latin American Geography* V2.

## November 4

### 8. Political ecology 2: Eco-equity; ecological debt; the environmentalism of the poor

Martinez-Alier 2002 *Environmentalism of the Poor* Chapters 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11 **ON RESERVE**

Selected documents from environmental/social justice movements: To be chosen based on student input and interests.

RECOMMENDED: Watts, Michael 2000 'Political ecology' Chapter 16 in Sheppard, Eric and Trevor Barnes (eds.) *A Companion to Economic Geography* Blackwell

## November 11

### 9. Property regimes and conservation: public goods; common property; concepts of community

Birkes, Fikret 'Social systems, ecological systems, and property rights' in Hanna, S, Folke, C, and Maler, K-G (eds) 1996 *Rights to Nature*. pp 87 – 107.

Acheson, James 2000 'Varieties of institutional failure' Keynote Address, International Association for the Study of Common Property Resources. 11 pp.

Walker, Peter and Pauline Peters 2001 'Maps, Metaphors, and Meanings: Boundary Struggles and Village Forest Use on Private and State Land in Malawi' *Society and Natural Resources* 14: 411–424.

Goldman, Michael. 1998. 'Inventing the Commons: Theories and Practices of the Commons' Professional.' In M. Goldman (ed.) *Privatizing Nature: Political Struggles for the Global Commons* pp 20-53. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

RECOMMENDED:

Ostrom, Elinor et al. 1999. 'Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges.' *Science* 284(5412):278-82.

International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP)

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iascp/> and <http://www.iascp2004.org.mx/indexeng.html>

Brosius, J. Peter, Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, and Charles Zerner 1998. 'Representing Communities: Histories and Politics of Community-Based Natural Resource Management.' *Society and Natural Resources* 11(2):157-168.

Gibson, Clark et al. 2002 'Does privatization protect natural resources: property rights and forests in Guatemala' *Social Science Quarterly* 83(1).

Allouche, Jeremy and Matthias Finger 2001 'Two ways of reasoning one outcome: the World Bank's evolving philosophy in establishing a "sustainable water resources management" policy' *Global Environmental Problems* 1(2).

## November 18

### 11. Applications and case studies: valuation and payment for environmental services

Pagiola, Stefano and Gunars Platais 2002 'Payments for environmental services' *Environment Strategy Paper #3* World Bank Environment Department: Washington.

World Bank policy summaries: market mechanisms for environmental management, etc..

Nasi et al. 2002 'Forest ecosystem services: can they pay our way out of deforestation?' A discussion paper prepared for the GEF.

Global Environment Facility 1999 *Mexico-Indigenous and Community Biodiversity Conservation Project*. Project ID MXPE66674:

Other case studies, examples, NGO approaches, and critiques: TBA

Rice, Richard 2002 'Conservation concessions: concept description' Center for Applied Biodiversity Science, Conservation International. Washington.

Abstracts from 2002 Society for Conservation Biology Symposium on 'Direct payments as an alternative approach to conservation investment'

Zimmerer, Karl and Kenneth Young (1998) 'The geographical nature of landscape change' Introduction to Zimmerer and Yong (eds.) *Nature's Geography: New Lessons for Conservation in Developing Countries* University of Wisconsin.

## December 2

### 12. Student-chosen case studies and presentations