

# POLI 110M: Green Political Thought

Winter 2015—MWF 12-1pm—Pepper Canyon Hall 120

**Instructor:** Kyle Haines (kyhaines@ucsd.edu)

**Office Hours:** SSB 349, Monday 1-2, By Appointment

## Overview:

This class is intended to serve as a critical introduction to a series of themes loosely grouped as 'Green Political Thought,' or the politics of the environment. In it, we will survey a series of debates and attempt to connect them to the political theory behind ongoing social-ecological issues.

The goals of this course are as follows:

- Understanding relationships between social, economic, and ecological systems and how they implicate political agency.
- Understanding the history of environmental movements in the US and learning to recognize and analyze ecological politics in the developing world.
- Seeing local issues as representative of deeper historical debates and the local as a site of possible engagement.
- Learning to effectively communicate the political ramifications of ecological crises.
- Seeing one's fellow students as co-educators, learning to take valuable lessons from the diverse perspectives presented by both educators and classmates.

You will be expected to:

- Contribute to class discussions.
- Prepare written analyses of important problems in environmental politics.
- Come prepared to class having reviewed the readings assigned.
- Watch one movie per week.

Your commitment will define what you get out of this class. I encourage you to take advantage of the resources at your disposal to work on something you care about and actively engage with your studies.

## Note on plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be punished to the full extent of University policies. All assignments will be run through Turnitin.com to check for originality, and offending papers will receive an F with zero points. It is better to turn in something unfinished or poorly written than to risk jeopardizing your grade in the class. Unfortunately, I am very familiar with the process of reporting to academic probation, and all punitive options will be pursued to their fullest. Please do not waste my time and yours, do your own work.

## Readings:

John Dryzek, 1997, *Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses*, 2nd Edition (Available in bookstore)  
All other readings on ERES. Password: **kh110M**

**Assignments and Grade Structure:**

15% 4 Quizzes: (5 points each, worst dropped)

Short passage identifications. Give author, context, and connection to class for full points.

15% 3 Short Reactions (5 points each)

1 page double spaced putting two of the week's readings into conversation. Explain what the main point of each paper is, then make some observation about how they connect. Choose one outstanding quote from each. Prepare in advance.

5% Essay Prep (5 points)

Single page with thesis and potential outline due in class before midterm.

65% 2 Essays

1. Midterm (25 points) Due Friday of Week 5

4-6 pages on topic selected.

2. Final (40 points) Due Wednesday of Finals Week

6-8 pages on topic selected

Research project, pick topic by week 7, outline due week 8, ted talk short presentations week 10, paper due on day of final (Wednesday of finals week) by 230pm

Due to Turnitin.com (no paper copies) by noon the day listed.

Class id: 9250269

Password: kh110m

**Class Schedule:****Week I: Introduction to Green Political Thought**

	Reading due	Lecture Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 1/5/15		What is political theory and what makes it green?	
Wednesday 1/7/15	Rachel Carson – Selection John Muir – Selection (both emailed)	A brief history of environmental movements in the US	
Friday 1/9/15	Dryzek – Pages 1-8	Activist research and specific intellectuals in green politics	Reaction 1 assigned. Movie: Mad Max (1979)

**Week II: Limits and the State of our World**

	Reading due	Lecture Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 1/12/15	Club of Rome – 1972 The Limits to Growth (Selection)	Population and the limits to growth thesis	Reaction 1 due at start of class.
Wednesday 1/14/15	Johan Rockstrom <i>et al</i> – 2009 A Safe Operating Space for Humanity 2014 Worldwatch Report (Selection)	Quantifying the limits of human carrying capacity	
Friday 1/16/15	Will Steffen <i>et al</i> – 2007 The Anthropocene: Are Humans Now Overwhelming the Great Forces of Nature?	A new era of human influence?	Quiz 1 at start of class. Movie: Children of Men (2006)

### Week III: The Politics of Survival

	Reading due	Lecture Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 1/19/15	Dryzek – Ch. 2 Survivalism (pg. 25-50)	No Class. MLK Holiday.	
Wednesday 1/21/15	Robert Heilbroner – 1977 What Has Posterity Ever Done for Me? (Emailed)	Survivalism and the birth of the global ecological problematic	
Friday 1/23/15	James Lovelock – 2006 The Revenge of Gaia (Selection)	A new Survivalist epoch?	Movie: Armageddon (1997)

### Week IV: Technology: Savior or Exterminator?

	Reading due	Lecture Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 1/26/15	Dryzek – Ch. 3 Prometheans (pg. 51-72)	Understanding the double-edged nature of technological progress	
Wednesday 1/28/15	Julian Simon – 1994 More People, Greater Wealth, More Resources, a Healthier Environment	The Promethean challenge to the green apocalypse	
Friday 1/30/15	Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger – 2009 Apocalypse Fatigue	Modern Promethean narratives	Quiz 2 at start of class. <b>Midterm assigned.</b> Movie: T2: Judgment Day (1991)

### Week V: The Politics of Nature

	Reading due	Lecture Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 2/2/15	Mancur Olsen – 1963 Logic of Collective Action (Selection)	The logic of centralization and call for green authoritarianism	<b>Midterm outline prep due.</b>
Wednesday 2/4/15	Andre Gorz – 1980 Ecology as Politics (Selection) Rudolph Bahro – 1984 Red to Green (Selection)	Arguments from the post-Stalinist green left	
Friday 2/6/15	Douglas Torgerson – 2008 Constituting Green Democracy Dryzek – Ch. 11 Ecological Democracy (pg. 229-236)	The promise and peril of green democracy	<b>Midterm due.</b> Movie: The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951 or 2008)

### Week VI: Politics and Ecology

	Reading due	Lecture Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 2/9/15	Aldo Leopold – 1949 A Sand County Almanac (Selection)	Ecology and ethics: Leopold's Land Ethic	Reaction 2 Due at start of class.
Wednesday 2/11/15	Kurt Jax – 2011 The History of Ecology	Ecology as a natural science Guest lecturer from Scripps.	
Friday	Piers Blaikie – 1995 Changing	Political ecology in the new	Movie: Day After

2/13/15	Environments or Changing Views? A Political Ecology for Developing Countries	millennium	Tomorrow (2004)
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### Week VII: Science and Politics

	Reading due	Lecture Topic.	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 2/16/15		No class. Presidents Day	
Wednesday 2/18/15	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change AR5 Policymakers (available online)	Guest Lecture: Yassir Eddebbar, Scripps Climate Scientist	<b>Final topic due.</b> Quiz 3 at start of class.
Friday 2/20/15	Naomi Oreskes – 2007 The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change	Navigating the complicated relationship between science and politics	Reaction 3 assigned. Movie: Dante's Peak (1997)

### Week VIII: Scale and Ecorrhea

	Reading due	Lecture Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 1/12/15		The problem of scale in green political analysis	Reaction 3 due at start of class.
Wednesday 1/14/15	Peter Berg and Raymond Dasmann – 1977 Reinhabiting California EF Schumacher – 1971 Small is Beautiful (Selection)	Bioregionalism and localist arguments	<b>Outline of final project due.</b>
Friday 1/16/15	Wilfred Beckerman – 1995 Small is Stupid: Blowing the Whistle on the Greens	Is small stupid? The logic of nested regions and subsidiarity	Movie: Deep Impact (1998)

### Week IX: Resilience and Adaptive Governance in the Anthropocene

	Reading due	Lecture Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 3/2/15	CS Holling – 1973 Resilience and Stability of Ecological Systems	Getting beyond static equilibrium metaphors	Quiz 4 at start of class.
Wednesday 3/4/15	Carl Folke <i>et al</i> – 2002 Adaptive Governance	Governing complexity and applying resilience theory	
Friday 3/6/15	Dipesh Chakrabarty – 2009 Climate of History: Four Theses	Development in focus: Decolonizing political theory	Movie: Interstellar (2014) or Wall-E (2008)

### Week X: Outro and Project Presentations

	Reading due	Lecture Topic	Quizzes/Assignments
Monday 3/9/15	Elinor Ostrom <i>et al</i> – 2007 Beyond Panaceas Hannah Arendt – 1958 The	Assessing Resilience in the Face of Ecological Decline	

	Human Condition (Selection)		
Wednesday 3/11/15		Communicating research	<b>Presentations</b>
Friday 3/13/15		Communicating research	<b>Presentations</b>

**Final:**

Wed 3/18/15 1130-230 **Final paper due online to TURNITIN.com.**