

Course Instructor	Niki Kaiser	Email: ndk1@queensu.ca or 41ndp@queensu.ca
Office	Mac-Corry E309	
Contact Time	2x 1.5hr lectures/week	
Format	In-person seminar/lecture discussions, local fieldtrips *assuming public health regulations allow	
Class Assessment (potential)	40% 10 weekly brainteasers designed to initiate and document critical thinking about concepts covered in class 20% Meaningful participation in class discussions (this can be in verbal or written format) 15% Field journals 25% Term paper (Due December 12, 2022)	

COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course we will critically analyze how interlocking systems of power (re)produce urban environments. We will approach this query using several lens' to guide our understanding. These will include feminist, political economic, Queer, ability-based, Indigenous, and decolonial systems of thought - we will consider how racialization, imperialism, capitalism/neoliberalism, patriarchy, ableism, and other axes of power shape urban natures. How we experience a city is deeply tied to positionality; there is a 'normative' culture for whom the city is designed and a plethora of 'counter cultures' that vary based on such things as race, gender, sexuality, ability, and economic status. We will learn about urban natures through the scholarship/work of Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC), women, Queer, and disabled persons. Each group interacts differently with the political economy of urban spaces. By prioritizing the experience of urban natures from these perspectives, we will learn about how urban natures can harm individuals who do not conform to the 'norm' and how grassroots community organizations can impact urban natures to reduce said harm. We will assess issues such as food security, climate change, sustainability, access to clean water (and other social determinants of health), and health/infectious disease from these perspectives to learn about the urban natures that exist currently, as well as conceptualizing the future possibilities that the use of inclusive frameworks facilitate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Explain key theoretical approaches in urban political ecology, including decolonial, political economic, feminist, queer, and ability-based perspectives
2. Describe how interlocking systems of power shape access to resources and differentially expose people to harm or prosperity
3. Understand the social (re)production of urban natures
4. Communicate and critically analyze complex ideas in written and verbal formats

COURSE TOPICS

The social construction of nature; racial ecologies; biopolitics and biosecurity; food apartheid; urban agriculture; environmental racism/sexism; the gendered nature of public space; Queer/LGBTQ2+ approaches to urban natures; urban natures as Indigenous places

COURSE READINGS

There will be a selection of academic articles, multimedia presentations, artistic works, podcasts (etc.) uploaded to OnQ. Seminar discussions will be based on reading/watching material; it is imperative that every student come to class prepared to unpack the concepts covered in the assigned material.