Course Instructors | Carolyn Prouse | Email: cpv@queensu.ca
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Offices | Mac-Corry D304
Contact Time | 1x 3hr seminar/week (subject to change) | Tel: 613-533-6000 ext. 78592
Format | Remote seminar + virtual activities
Class Assessment (potential) | Weekly reflections; reading presentation; and final project (students will be able to choose from a typical research paper, a Progress in Human Geography-style manuscript, and an audio-visual podcast or report for a relevant political organization/community)

**COURSE OVERVIEW: Urban Political Ecology**

Urban political ecology is a field that uses critical social analysis – Marxist, feminist, Indigenous, and critical race thought – to understand the systems of power that produce urban environments. In this course we will explore how political, social, and economic relations shape urban ecological worlds such as sanitation systems; environmental disasters; food access; pandemic diseases; and green spaces. We will consider the myriad epistemologies and practices that produce ‘nature’, and work to unsettle taken-for-granted notions of ‘the environment’. This course takes an explicitly decolonial and critical race approach: through each week’s set of readings, multimedia engagements, and exercises we will delve into the colonial-capitalist systems that shape urban ecologies, but also, crucially, learn from the work of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities across the world who are transforming harmful environments to protect life.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. Apply key theoretical approaches in urban political ecology, including decolonial, critical race, and feminist perspectives
2. Explain how interlocking systems of power shape access to resources and differentially expose people to harm
3. Describe different epistemologies of ‘urban nature’
4. Communicate complex ideas in written and verbal form

**COURSE TOPICS**

reproductive justice; food apartheid; environmental racism; social construction of nature; racial ecologies; biopolitics and biosecurity; sustainability fix; urban agriculture; water politics; hygienic city; embodiment

**COURSE READINGS** (a selected list subject to change)


