

Course Instructor	Carolyn Prouse	Email: cpv@queensu.ca
Office	Mac-Corry D304	
Contact Time	2x 1.5hr seminar/week (subject to change)	Tel: 613-533-6000 ext. 78592
Format	Remote seminar + virtual activities	
Class Assessment (potential)	Field journals; in-class case study reflections; book review; and final essay	

COURSE OVERVIEW: Urban Political Ecology

In this course we will study urban natures through the lens of urban political ecology. In other words, we will use tools of critical social science analysis to look at how interlocking systems of power produce urban environments. Our guiding approaches will include feminist, political economic, Indigenous, and decolonial systems of thought - we will ask how racialization, imperialism, capitalism, patriarchy, and other axes of power shape urban ecological worlds but also, crucially, learn from the work of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities across the world who are transforming harmful environments. The six modules in this course will consider urban ecological worlds from a variety of vantage points, including: cities as socio-natures; water and sanitation systems; climate disaster; sustainable cities; food/waste systems; and health/infectious disease. Each module will include a fieldtrip and/or case study that you will work through individually and/or with peers. Weekly resources will include academic articles, multimedia engagements, and creative texts.

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, and feminist perspectives
2. Describe how interlocking systems of power shape access to resources and differentially expose people to harm
3. Analyze case studies from the Global North and South to explain how urban natures are socially produced
4. Communicate complex ideas in written and verbal form

COURSE TOPICS

food apartheid; environmental racism; social construction of nature; racial ecologies; biopolitics and biosecurity; sustainability fix; urban agriculture; water politics; sanitation and waste systems; urban metabolism; infrastructure; Afrofuturism

COURSE READINGS (a selected list subject to change)

Pieterse, Edgar. (2011). Recasting urban sustainability in the South. *Development* 54: 309-316.

Davis, Janae; Moulton, Alex; Sant, Levi Van, and Williams, Brian (2019). Anthropocene, Capitalocene, ...Plantationocene?: A Manifesto for ecological justice in an age of global crises. *Geography Compass* 13e: 12438.

Arefin, Mohammed Rafi. (2019). Infrastructural discontent in the Sanitary City: Waste, revolt, and repression in Cairo. *Antipode* 51(4): 1057-1078.

Turning Livelihoods to Rubbish? Situated Urban Political Ecology Collective. [Documentary Film]

Daigle, M. (2018). Resurging through Kishiichiwan: The spatial politics of Indigenous water relations. *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society* 7(1): 159-172.

Butler, Octavia. (2013). *Parable of the Sower*. Four Walls Eight Windows. [Novel]

Mounzer, Lina. (2020). Waste Away: Notes on Beirut's broken sewage system. *The Baffler*.

Desai, Renu; McFarlane, Colin; Graham, Stephen. (2015). The politics of open defecation: Informality, body, and infrastructure in Mumbai. *Antipode* 47(1): 98-120.

Pulido, Laura. (2000). Rethinking environmental racism: White privilege and urban development in Southern California. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90(1): 12-40.

Patchin, Paige (2020). Thresholds of empire: Women, biosecurity, and the Zika Chemical Vector Program in Puerto Rico. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 110(4): 967-982.

McClintock, Nathan (2018). Urban agriculture, racial capitalism, and resistance in the settler-colonial city. *Geography Compass* 12