

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 402 – Honours Seminar in Human Geography – Field Integrations: Nature, Society, Psyche



Course Coordinator	Dr. Laura Jean Cameron	Email: cameron@queensu.ca
Offices	E301 Macintosh-Corry Hall	
Contact Time	Two 1.5 hour sessions per week	Phone: 613-533-6420
Format	Seminar-style discussions and experiential learning based on key texts, case studies and field activities	
Class Assessment	Participation.....25% Seminar Presentation.....15% Active Journal Assignment....20% Dialogical Research Paper.....40%	

COURSE OVERVIEW

This integrative honours seminar re-examines geographical understandings of nature, society and psyche and explores their interrelations. Drawing from environmental geography, historical geography and other related streams, this course invites you to think critically, creatively and contextually about some very deeply ingrained assumptions concerning both 'outer' and 'inner' nature. With a focus on the history of the 'field' and active fieldwork whenever possible, we will investigate geography's interdisciplinary fieldwork origins and engage with synthetic frameworks such as Indigenous epistemologies and ecopsychology. Methodological and conceptual tools will be drawn from both the humanities and the sciences with attention to the histories and cultures of geographical research and differing understandings of nature. The theoretical material to be covered in the course is challenging and students will be expected to read widely and critically. The course is open to qualified students in both human and physical geography.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Exercise a critical and historical understanding of key concepts related to nature, society and psyche.
- Apply skills in curiosity and generosity to develop our geographical imaginations.
- Explore and challenge the ways that 'taken for granted' understandings of nature shape our world from issues of colonialism and climate change to what we regard as 'music'.
- Integrate and expand our geographical knowledge attuned to how geography may address key environmental challenges facing our world today.
- Connect research and presentation skills, intentions and reflections, and participate actively in the 'nature' of Kingston and places beyond.

COURSE TOPICS

Potential topics: historical geographies of nature; roots of the discipline; relational geography; interdisciplinarity and environmental change; contemporary ecologies of fire, water, earth and air; reciprocity and interconnectivity; Indigenous knowledges and ecologies; ecopsychology; emotional and psychoanalytic geography; senses in geographical fieldwork; becoming animal/becoming human

SAMPLE OF TYPICAL COURSE READINGS (will change from year to year)

- Abram, *Becoming Animal*, 2010.
 Castree, *Nature*, Ch. 4 'Two Natures?', 2005.
 Creswell, 'Relational Geographies', Ch. 11 of *Geographic Thought*, 2012.
 Fisher, *Radical Ecopsychology*, 2nd Edition, 2013.
 Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, 2014.
 Kingsbury and Pile, *Psychoanalytic Geographies*, 2014.
 Kohler & Kuklick, *Science in the Field*, 1996.
 Moore, "Value in the web of life?" *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 2017.
 Simpson, *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back*, 2011.