GPHY 370: Special Topics in Human Geography (Urban Natures)

**Course Instructors** | Carolyn Prouse  
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**Offices** | Mac-Corry D304  
**Contact Time** | 1x 1.5hr seminar/week  
**Tel:** | 613-533-6000 ext. 78592  
**Format** | Mandatory synchronous seminar: Thursday 4-5:30pm; Office hours: Monday 2:30pm-4pm  
**Class Assessment (potential)** | Field journals; reading quizzes; book review or essay; and take-home final exam  

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## 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 socionatures; 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)


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.


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


