

MIR 537.01
Environmental Politics and Environmental Policy in Turkey, Europe, the Middle East and beyond

Fall 2020
M 101112

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Description:

This course aims to introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of environmental politics and political ecology, which focuses on society-environment-economy relationships by uncovering power, politics, and inequalities at different scales. It will cover a wide range of analytical lenses linked to environmental studies and provide an overview of key concepts and frameworks.

Part I (Weeks 1-4) will focus on environment-society nexus from environmental politics and political ecology perspectives and explore academic debates on development and growth, environmental conflicts and environmental justice as well as environmental policy instruments. Part II (Weeks 5-8) is thematically organized and will examine the politics of climate change, mining and water extraction, commons and food politics. Finally, Part II) (Weeks 9-12) will discuss the environmental politics and political economy of environment in Turkey, gender and environmental politics as well as politics of urban environments.

Course objectives:

The course has the objective of providing students with a critical lens to understand and analyze socio-ecological issues by overcoming the dichotomy of human versus environment and uncovering the power and politics related to environmental problems and transformations. On completion of this course, the students will have a wide understanding of different schools of thought linked to environmental politics and develop a critical perspective on the roots and politics of current and historical environmental problems.

Evaluation:

Students are expected to fulfill the following requirements of the course:

- 1) **Regular attendance and participation** in class discussions are expected: 15%
- 2) **In-class presentation:** Each student will choose one week's readings and present them to the class: 15%
- 3) The students will write **4 response papers** on the readings of the week they choose: 20%
- 4) A **final research paper** will be written in a scientific paper format with appropriate referencing: 40%. Students will choose a scientific journal linked to their research theme and follow its submission procedure for their paper.
- 5) A well-structured **outline or a draft** of the final paper will be submitted by the beginning of December: 10%.

Reading List:

Week I – Introduction: Environment-Society Relations, Environmental Politics and Political Ecology (26 October)

- Robbins, P. (2012). "Political versus apolitical ecologies". In *Political ecology: A critical introduction* (2nd edition). Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 11-24.
- Shiva, V. (2019). "Development for the 1 per cent". In *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary*. New Delhi: Tulika Books, pp. 6-8.
- Svampa, M. (2019). "The Latin American Critique of Development". In *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary*. New Delhi: Tulika Books, pp. 18-21.
- Steffen, W., Richardson, K., Rockström, J., Cornell, S. E., Fetzer, I., Bennett, E. M., ... & Folke, C. (2015). Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet. *Science*, 347(6223), 1259855.

Week II - Environmental Economics, Ecological Economics and Degrowth

- Martinez-Alier, J., Kallis, G., Veuthey, S., Walter, M. & Temper, L. (2010). Social metabolism, ecological distribution conflicts, and valuation languages. *Ecological Economics*, 70(2): 153–158.
- Wiedmann, T. et al. (2020). Scientists' warning on affluence. *Nature Communications*, 11(3107): 1-10.
- Stiglitz, J. E. (2015). Inequality and Economic Growth. *The Political Quarterly*, 86, 134-155.
- Demaria, F., Kallis, G. & Bakker, K. (2019). Geographies of degrowth: Nowtopias, resurgences and the decolonization of imaginaries and places. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 2(3): 431-450.

Student presentations:

- Gerber, J.F., Veuthey, S. & Martinez-Alier, J. (2009). Linking political ecology with ecological economics in tree plantation conflicts in Cameroon and Ecuador. *Ecological Economics*, 68: 2885-2889.
- Ertör I. & Hadjimichael M. (2020). Blue degrowth and the politics of the sea: rethinking the blue economy. *Sustainability Science*, 15: 1-10.

Week III – Environmental Conflicts and Environmental Justice

- Martinez-Alier, J. (2003). "Currents of environmentalism". (Chapter 1) In *The environmentalism of the poor: a study of ecological conflicts and valuation*. Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 1-15.
- Agyeman et al. (2016). Trends and Directions in Environmental Justice: From Inequity to Everyday Life, Community, and Just Sustainabilities. *Annu. Rev. Environ. Resour.* 41: 321–340.
- Barca, S., (2012). On working-class environmentalism: a historical and transnational overview. *Interface: a journal for and about social movements*, 4(2): 61-80.

Student presentations:

- Tessum, Christopher W. et al. (2019). Inequity in consumption of goods and services adds to racial-ethnic disparities in air pollution exposure. *PNAS*, 116(13): 6001-6006.
- Scheidel, A., Del Bene, D., Liu, J., Navas, G., Mingorria, S., Demaria, F., Avila, S., Roy, B., Ertör, I., Temper, L. & Martinez-Alier, J. (2020). Environmental conflicts and

defenders: A global overview. *Global Environmental Change*, 63:102104.

- Zavestoski, S. (2014). "The struggle for justice in Bhopal: A new/old breed of transnational social movement" (Chapter 7) In Armiero, M. & Sedrez, L. (eds.) *A History of Environmentalism: Local Struggles, Global Histories*. London, New Delhi, New York, Sydney: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Week IV: Environmental Policy Instruments

- Bridge, G., Barca, S., Özkaynak, B., Turhan, E. & Wyeth, R. (2018). Towards a Political Ecology of EU Energy Policy. In *Advancing Energy Policy: Lessons on the Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities*, Chapter 11, 163-176. Available at: <https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/22920/1007241.pdf?sequence=1#page=178>
- Spiegel, JS. (2017). EIAs, power and political ecology: Situating resource struggles and the techno-politics of small-scale mining. *Geoforum*, 87: 95-107.
- Baxi, U. (2015). Human Rights Responsibility of Multinational Corporations, Political Ecology of Injustice: Learning from Bhopal Thirty Plus? *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 1: 21-40.

Student presentations:

- Kadirbeyoğlu, Z., Adaman, F., Özkaynak, B. and Paker, H. (2017). The Effectiveness of Environmental Civil Society Organizations: An Integrated Analysis of Organizational Characteristics and contextual factors. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations* 28(4), 1717-1741.
- Escobar, A. (1998). Whose Knowledge, Whose Nature? Biodiversity, Conservation, and the Political Ecology of Social Movements. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 5: 53-82.
- Kull, C.A. (2015). The political ecology of ecosystem services. *Geoforum*, 61: 122-134.

Week V: Politics of Climate Change and Climate Justice

- Turhan, E. (2017). Climate change policy in Turkey: current opportunities, persistent problems. *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 56: 131-133. <https://search.proquest.com/openview/a1147642fbb8e9d15f3bd6454807dd33/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=2035928>
- Oxfam (2015). Extreme Carbon Inequality: Why the Paris climate deal must put the poorest, lowest emitting and most vulnerable people first.
- Smith, N. (2006). "There's No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster". Available at: <https://items.ssrc.org/understanding-katrina/theres-no-such-thing-as-a-natural-disaster/>

Student presentations:

- Turhan, E. & Gündoğan, AC. (2019). Price and prejudice: the politics of carbon market establishment in Turkey. *Turkish Studies*, 20(4): 512-540.
- Adaman, F. & Arsel, M. (2017). Climate Policy in Turkey: A Paradoxical Situation? *L'Europe en Formation*, 380: 26-38.

Week VI: Extractivism, mining and water rights

- Erensü, S. (2017). "Turkey's Hydropower Renaissance: Nature, Neoliberalism and Development in the Cracks of Infrastructure." In *Neoliberal Turkey and its*

Discontents: Economic Policy and the Environment under Erdoğan, (eds.) Fikret Adaman, Bengi Akbulut & Murat Arsel. London: I.B. Tauris, pp. 120–146.

- Mitchell, T. (2009). Carbon democracy. *Economy and Society*, 38(3): 399-432.
- Andreucci, D. & Kallis, G. (2017). Governmentality, development and the violence of natural resource extraction in Peru. *Ecological Economics*, 134: 95–103.

Student presentations:

- Beltran, MJ. & Kallis, G. (2018). How Does Virtual Water Flow in Palestine? A Political Ecology Analysis. *Ecological Economics*, 143: 17-26.
- Islar, M. (2012). Privatised Hydropower Development in Turkey: A Case of Water Grabbing? *Water Alternatives*, 5(2): 376-391.
- Avci, D. (2015). Mining conflicts and transformative politics: A comparison of Intag (Ecuador) and Mount Ida (Turkey) environmental struggles. *Geoforum*, 84: 316-325.

Week VII: Commons

- Akbulut, B. (2017). “Commons” (Chapter 38) In *Routledge Handbook of Ecological Economics*, (ed.) Clive L. Spash. Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 395-403.
- Barca, S. (2007). Enclosing the River: Industrialisation and the ‘Property Rights’ Discourse in the Liri Valley (South of Italy), 1806-1916. *Environment and History*, 13(1): 3-23.
- Please check the webpage and choose two blog texts on ‘commons’: <https://undisciplinedenvironments.org>

Student presentations:

- Basurto, X., & Ostrom, E. (2009). Beyond the tragedy of the commons. *Economia Delle Fonti Di Energia E Dell’Ambiente*, 1: 35–60.
- Longo, S.B., Clausen, R. & Clark, B. (2015). *The tragedy of the commodity: Oceans, fisheries, and aquaculture*. New Brunswick, New Jersey, and London: Rutgers University Press, pp. 1-38.
- Varvaroussis, A., Asara, V., Akbulut, B. (2020) Commons: a social outcome of the movement of the squares. *Social Movement Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/14742837.2020.1793753](https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2020.1793753)

Audio-visual materials (optional):

- Stefania Barca: Theories of the Commons.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtMiOK5Vfic>
- Massimo De Angelis: Commons and social movements.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6_gTm5zUJo
- Stavros Stavrides: Communities of Crisis, Squares in Movement.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1dDpylQvG4>

Week VIII: Food Politics & Agriculture and Fisheries Policies

- Altieri, MA. & Nichol’s CI. (2020). Agroecology and the reconstruction of a post-COVID-19 agriculture. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 47(5): 881-898.
- Martínez Torres, M.E. & Rosset, P. (2010). «La Vía Campesina: the birth and evolution of a transnational social movement». *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 37(1): 149–175.
- Karriem, A. (2009). The rise and transformation of the Brazilian landless movement

into a counter-hegemonic political actor: A Gramscian analysis, *Geoforum*, 40(3): 316-325.

Student presentations:

- Hall, R., Edelman, M., Borrás Jr, S.M., Scoones, I., White, B., & Wolford, W. (2015). Resistance, acquiescence or incorporation? An introduction to land grabbing and political reactions 'from below'. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 42(3-4), 467-488.
- Barbesgaard, M. (2017). Blue growth: savior or ocean grabbing? *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 45(1): 130-149.
- Mills, E. (2018). Implicating 'fisheries justice' movements in food and climate politics. *Third World Quarterly*, 39(7): 1270-1289.

Week IX: Environmental Politics and Political Economy of Environment in Turkey - I

- Adaman, F., & Arsel, M. (2010). "Globalization, Development, and Environmental Policies in Turkey." In *Understanding the Process of Institutional Change in Turkey: A Political Economy Approach*, (eds.) Tamer Çetin and Feridun Yılmaz. New York: Nova, pp. 319-335.
- Turhan, E. & Gündoğan, C. (2017). The post-politics of the green economy in Turkey: re-claiming the future? *Journal of Political Ecology*, 24: 277-295.

Student presentations:

- Ertör-Akyazı, P., Adaman, F., Özkaynak, B. & Zenginobuz, Ü. (2012). Citizens' Preferences over Nuclear and Renewable Energy Sources: Evidence from Turkey. *Energy Policy*, 47: 309-320.
- Özbay, C., Erol, M., Türem, ZU. & Terzioğlu, A. (2016). Remaking the Tobacco Market: The Emergence of Contract Farming and New Subjectivities In *The Making of Neoliberal Turkey*. London: Routledge, pp. 193-210.
- Kurtiç, E. Sediment in reservoirs: a history of dams and forestry in Turkey. In *Transforming Socio-Natures in Turkey*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge, pp. 90-111.

Week X: Environmental Politics and Political Economy of Environment in Turkey - II

- Knudsen, S. (2016). "Protests Against Energy Projects in Turkey: Environmental Activism Above Politics?" *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 43(3): 302-323.
- Zeybek, SO. (2020). Security, dispossession, and industrial meat production in Turkey. In *Transforming Socio-Natures in Turkey*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge, pp. 73-89.

Student presentations:

- Ertör, I. & Ortega-Cerda, M. (2019). The expansion of intensive marine aquaculture in Turkey: The next-to-last commodity frontier? *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 19, 337-360.
- Turhan, E., Zografos, C. & Kallis, G. (2015). Adaptation as biopolitics: Why state policies in Turkey do not reduce the vulnerability of seasonal agricultural workers to climate change. *Global Environmental Change*, 31, 296-306.
- **Çoban, A. (2016). Toplumsal ve İklimsel Adaletsizlik Sarmalında İklim Siyaseti. *Doğa ve Kent Hakları için Siyasal Stratejiler*, 13-41. (**optional)

Week XI: Environmental politics and gender

- Rocheleau, D., B. Thomas-Slayter, and E. Wangari (eds.). (1996). "Gender and Environment: A feminist political ecology perspective" (Chapter 1) In *Feminist political ecology: global issues and local experience*. London: Routledge, pp. 3-23.
- Elmhirst, R. (2015). "Feminist Political Ecology" In *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology* (Chapter 40) (eds.) Tom Perreault, Gavin Bridge, and James McCarthy. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 519-530.
- Mellor, Mary (2000). Feminism and Environmental Ethics: A Materialist Perspective. *Ethics and the Environment*, 5(1): 107-123

Student presentations:

- Kimura, A.H. (2015). Understanding Fukushima: nuclear impacts, risk perceptions and organic farming in a feminist political ecology perspective. In Bryant, R.L. (ed.), *The International Handbook of Political Ecology*, Chapter 19, pp. 260-273.
- Truelove, Y. (2011). (Re-)Conceptualizing water inequality in Delhi, India through a feminist political ecology framework. *Geoforum*, 42: 143-152.
- **Akbulut, B. (2015). Sofradaki Yemeğin Ötesi: Gıda Müşterekleri ve Feminizm Üzerine. Available at: http://www.feministyaklasimlar.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/3_BengiAkbulut1.pdf (**optional)

Week XII: Urban political ecology and environmental politics: right to the city

- Kotsila, Panagiota et al. (2020). Nature-based solutions as discursive tools and contested practices in urban nature's neoliberalisation processes. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 1-23.
- Heynen, N., Kaika, M., & Swyngedouw, E. (2006). Urban political ecology: Politicizing the production of urban natures. In *The nature of cities*, Taylor & Francis, 1-20.
- Keyder, Çağlar (2005). "Transformations in Urban Structure and the Environment in Istanbul." In *Environmentalism in Turkey: Between Democracy and Development?* (eds.) by Fikret Adaman and Murat Arsel, 201-217. Aldershot: Ashgate.

Student presentations:

- Bartu Candan, A. & Kolluoğlu, B. (2008). Emerging Spaces of Neoliberalism: A Gated Town and a Public Housing Project in İstanbul. *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 39, 5-46.
- Anguelovski, I. (2013). New directions in urban environmental justice: Rebuilding community, addressing trauma, and remaking place. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 33(2), 160-175.
- Garcia-Lamarca, M. (2017). Creating political subjects: collective knowledge and action to enact housing rights in Spain. *Community Development Journal*, 1-15.

Audio-visual materials (optional):

- Maria Kaika: Urban political ecology and radical alternatives.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhxtIM5GPvk>
- Erik Swyngedouw: Political ecology and the contested politics of urban metabolism.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5cLdosjnJY>

Week XIII: Review and closure of the class (18 January)

Student presentations on research papers (optional)