ERST-IDST-POST 3601Y - Environment and Development
Fall/Winter Session 2010/2011 – Syllabus for Second Term

Instructors: Stephanie Rutherford (Fall)  Stephen Bocking (Winter)
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Office hours: Tuesday 1-2 pm  Monday, 1-3 pm.
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and by appointment, or drop in  and by appointment, or drop in

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Course time and location:
Lecture: Thursday, 1 – 2:50 pm, GSC 115
Seminars: Thursday, 4-4:50 pm, OCA 206
           Thursday, 5-5:50 pm, OCA 206

Description of the course:
Environmental problems don't just happen; they are created. They are most often a product of particular relations and interactions that occur within human societies, that determine who uses the environment, who has control over it, who is excluded from it. To understand this, and the interaction between development and the environment generally, it is necessary to address the diverse political, social, economic, and ecological aspects of specific environmental issues. This course makes special reference to developing countries, while exploring where possible comparisons with Canadian issues.

The course consists of a two hour class each week plus a one hour seminar. Stephanie Rutherford will teach the course during the Fall term, and Stephen Bocking will teach in the Winter term.

Grading Scheme – Winter term

• Five class papers  15%
• Seminar participation  10%
• Two in-class tests (Feb 10 and Mar 17) 5% (higher grade) & 3% (lower grade)  8%
• Final exam (April exam period)  17%
Explanation of Assignments & Grading

Class papers: In the Winter term you are to write five papers, of about 600-900 words each, based on the readings of any five (your choice) of the classes. Each paper is to identify and synthesize the key themes of all the readings for that class. Each paper will be due (via WebCT) by the end of the day (i.e., midnight) of the class.

Seminar participation: A portion of your grade is based on your participation in the seminars. Indeed, a goal of this course is to encourage a collaborative and creative working and learning environment—your engaged participation is therefore a vital component to its success. The following elements will be taken into account when determining the participation mark: attendance, familiarity with readings, active participation, and contribution to the learning of your peers.

In-class tests: Two tests are scheduled at the beginning of the classes on February 10 and March 17, and will be based on material from the preceding classes. These are intended as practice for the final exam.

Exams: There will be a final exam in the April exam period. It will cover the entire second term. More information about this exam will be provided in the last class.

General information:

Due dates and late papers: Late assignments will be penalized at 2% of the value of the assignment per weekday late. Weekends will be treated as a single weekday.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a 0 grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University’s Academic Integrity Policy. You have a responsibility to educate yourself—unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent’s Academic Integrity website to learn more – www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

Access to Instruction: It is Trent University’s intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (BL Suite 109, 748-1281, disabilityservices@trentu.ca) as soon as possible.

Required Texts: Some of the required readings for the Winter term are available in a text: Richard Peet and Michael Watts, eds., Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements, Second Edition (Routledge, 2004). It is available at the Trent Bookstore. Some readings will also be available online, at the myLearningSystem (WebCT) course page. The readings correspond to the topics to be considered in the lectures and seminars, and should be read before the relevant classes.
CLASS SCHEDULE & READINGS – WINTER TERM 2011

January 13: Introduction to the Winter term

January 20: Environment and Development Case Study: Costa Rica – how deep is the “greening”?


January 27: Developing the Environment: The World Bank

- Other readings to be assigned.

February 3: Problems with parks – development and wildlife conservation

- Caroline Fraser, “As Tigers Near Extinction, A Last-Ditch Strategy Emerges” Yale Environment 360, November 2010. [available online]
- Other readings to be assigned.

February 10: Development and communities

- Other readings to be assigned.

First in-class test.

February 17: Violence and the environment


<< Reading Week >>

March 3: Agriculture, development, and the environment
• Fred Pearce, “Out of the Demographic Trap: Hope for Feeding the World,” Yale Environment 360, April 2010. [available online]
• Other readings to be assigned.

March 10: Agricultural Biotechnology
• Other readings to be assigned.

March 17: Gender Issues in Environment and Development

Second in-class test

March 24: No class

March 31: The urban environment
• Readings to be assigned.

April 7: Term review