POLI 357 Canadian Environmental Politics

Instructor Fall 2022: Dr. Jamie Lawson

Course delivery: POLI 357 will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
This course develops a critical analysis of the political context for environmental policy decisions with respect to the lands that Canada claims. The course introduces the actors, ideas, and institutions that shape environmental policy outcomes in Canada. Focusing on select environmental problems there, it examines the challenges confronting those working to conserve Canadian natural resources and/or to promote a healthy environment and right relations within and between species. We examine these questions from the specific perspective of political studies, broadly understood, with a special eye to their implications for democracy and power, and vice versa. Just what “democracy” means – or should mean – in this context will be part of our conversation.

Prerequisites: Third year standing or permission of the department

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Identify and understand key environmental policies, decision-makers, and state agencies in the lands Canada claims
- Understand key dynamics of environmental politics there, including their social and institutional bases
- Understand the roles of science in environmental policy processes and politics
- Develop core undergraduate skills appropriate to the third-year level, such as effective writing, analysis, and argumentation

Topics may include:
Institutions: Settler colonialism, parliamentarism, federalism, liberalism
Energy and climate change
Chemical pollution and environmental injustice, racism, and colonialism
Wildlife management and risk assessment
Canadian environmental politics in a global context

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.