POLI 357
Canadian Environmental Politics

Instructor:
Dr. Jamie Lawson (Fall 2020)

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.

Course outcomes/objectives:
• Identify and understand key environmental policies, decisionmakers, 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

Course delivery: In the Fall 2020 term, this course will be delivered with both synchronous and asynchronous elements. The intention is to offer synchronous elements, while posting recordings and otherwise making the course accessible to those only able to manage asynchronous involvement.

This online summary is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.