SOCl 438/520

Corporate power, fossil capital, climate crisis

Course Description

This course forms the core of the Corporate Mapping Project’s (CMP) second Summer Institute. It combines the sociology of corporate power with the political economy of fossil capital and the political ecology of climate crisis. The course does not require a specialized academic background in these areas, and is open to students in sociology and related fields. Topics include:

a) the sociology, political economy and political ecology of fossil capital and carbon democracy as a distinct way of life now in global crisis;

b) modalities of corporate power, ranging from networks of capital ownership and governance, through practices and discourses of corporate hegemony in civil society, media and state, to carbon commodity chains and Indigenous and popular resistance at flashpoints along them; and

c) an examination of the social forces and policy frameworks for a managed wind-down and just transition from carbon capitalism, as embodied in Indigenous resistance and resurgence, engaged social movement scholarship, and the nurturing of cross-movement alliances for climate justice.

Our work in the course will centre to some extent upon the case of Canada, but will also extend to other national cases and to the transnational level.

After three online webinar sessions earlier in May, our time together will be concentrated within one intensive week (May 27-31, 2019), during which CMP team members – both academic and community-based – will be in town for a CMP core team meeting. The Summer Institute is directed by CMP Co-Directors Bill Carroll and Shannon Daub. Bill Carroll is course director of SOCI 438/520 and is responsible for assessing student performance. We greatly appreciate the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the UVic Vice President-Academic and Dean of Social Sciences, and the UVic Sociology Department, which is hosting this course.
Each student will write a reflective journal based on your Institute experience, worth 25% of your final grade. The journal should be no longer than 2000 words (not including references) and it should draw on both experience in the Summer Institute and course readings. The journal is due at the close of the day on June 12 and should be handed in to the course website.

The assessed quality of student participation in SOCI 438/520 sessions will form 25% of your final grade. This includes an overall assessment of your participation throughout the week (10%) and an assessment of the workshop your small group presents (15%), with the latter applying equally to all members of your group.

The term paper will count for 50% of your final grade. It should be focused on a theme and topic within the scope of the Summer Institute. For students taking the course as SOCI 520, the paper should be no longer than 6000 words; for students taking the course as SOCI 438, it should be no longer than 4000 words (not including references). In the weeks following the Institute, students will complete these papers, which are due by 2 July 2019.

This course will help students already participating in the CMP (e.g., as research assistants) to deepen their knowledge of the issues at the heart of the Project. For students not already participating in the CMP the course will provide an opportunity to become involved, particularly through publishing term papers on the CMP website (www.corporatemapping.ca), which is the Project’s online venue for knowledge mobilization.
# Course Schedule (see timetable and reading list below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Orientation to the Summer Institute, via videoconference – 4 pm PDT</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Webinar on Climate Crisis and the Role of Fossil Capital – 1 pm PDT</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Webinar on Political Economy/Ecology of Fossil Capital – 1 pm PDT</td>
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</table>

### Day 1
May 27

Institute Begins
- The role of imperialism, colonialism, land grabs in fossil capital development, past & present
- Corporations, class and corporate power
- The Corporate Mapping Project Online Database
- Corporate Hegemony and the Battle for Hearts and Minds

### Day 2
May 28

- Carbon commodity chains and flashpoints:
  - Part 1: Political Economy/Ecology of Carbon Commodity Chains
  - Part 2: Contesting Corporate Power at Flashpoints
  - Student-led workshop on Carbon Commodity Chains and Flashpoints
  - Indigenous Resistance and Resurgence in the Face of Big Carbon
  - 4:30 pm: Colonial Reality Tour of UVic and Vicinity, with Cheryl Bryce of Songhees Nation

### Day 3
May 29

- Building Strong Alliances for Climate Justice
- Corporate Climate Accountability
- Student-led workshop on Building Strong Alliances for Climate Justice
- Plenary Address 1

### Day 4
May 30

- Just Transition (Decolonization, Energy Democracy, Workers Rights)
- Managed Wind-Down
- Student-led Workshop on Corporate Climate Accountability
- Plenary Address 2

### Day 5
May 31

- Student-led Workshop on Just transition and Managed Wind-Down
- CMP Research Presentations
- Closing Panel: Reflections on Research and Social Change
- Reception and end-of Institute celebration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon May 27</th>
<th>Tues May 28</th>
<th>Wed May 29</th>
<th>Thurs May 30</th>
<th>Fri May 31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome and Opening</td>
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<td>Carbon commodity chains and flashpoints - Part 1: Political Economy/Ecology of Carbon Commodity Chains.</td>
<td>Building Strong Alliances for Climate Justice</td>
<td>Student-led Workshop on Just transition and Managed Wind-Down</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panel on Imperialism, Colonialism, Land Grabs in Fossil Capital Development - Past &amp; Present</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Morning Break</td>
<td>Morning Break</td>
<td>Morning Break</td>
<td>Morning Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Corporations, Class and Corporate Power.</td>
<td>Carbon Commodity Chains and Flashpoints - Part 2: Contesting Corporate Power at Flashpoints</td>
<td>Corporate Climate Accountability</td>
<td>Managed Wind-Down</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>Catered lunch &amp; get to know each other (informal)</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
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<td>12:45 PM</td>
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<td>1:00 PM</td>
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<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>The Corporate Mapping Project Online Database (followed by free time for small groups to finalize their workshop presentations)</td>
<td>Student-led workshop on Carbon Commodity Chains and Flashpoints</td>
<td>Student-led workshop on Building Strong Alliances for Climate Justice</td>
<td>Student-led Workshop on Corporate Climate Accountability</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 PM</td>
<td>Afternoon Break</td>
<td>Afternoon Break</td>
<td>Afternoon Break</td>
<td>Early wrap up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Corporate Hegemony and the Battle for Hearts and Minds</td>
<td>Roundtable: Indigenous Resistance and Resurgence in the Face of Big Carbon</td>
<td>Plenary Address 1</td>
<td>Plenary Address 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 PM</td>
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<td>3:45 PM</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
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<td>4:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Colonial Reality Tour of UVic and Vicinity, with Cheryl Bryce of Songhees Nation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday Evening Reception and Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45 PM</td>
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<td>5:00 PM</td>
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</table>
Corporate Mapping Project Summer Institute 2019 SOCI 438/520: Corporate Power, Fossil Capital, Climate Crisis
Reading List

Note: this reading list includes required readings (marked with asterisks) and recommended / supplementary readings. Students should read the required articles prior to each session. This means reading most of them prior to the start of the Summer Institute. Time permitting, students should consult some of the non-asterisked ‘core readings’, but there is no expectation that students will have read these prior to Institute sessions. Recommended and supplementary readings will be helpful in preparation of student-led workshops and term papers. Readings for each section of the Institute are designated as ‘core,’ ‘shorter online’ and ‘suggested.’ The shorter online works are written for fairly wide readerships. The core and shorter online works are all available on the SOCI 438/520 CourseSpaces website, along with some of the supplementary texts. The readings are presented below in the order of the sessions that make up the Institute.

Climate crisis and the role of fossil capital

Core readings


Shorter online pieces


Paris-Targets./.

Suggested reading


**Political economy/ecology of fossil capital**

Core readings


Shorter online pieces


*Meenal, Shrivastava and Lorna Stefanick. 2015. “Big Oil Is Destroying Canada’s Democracy and We
Must Stop It | Rabble.ca.” http://rabble.ca/books/reviews/2015/11/big-oil-destroying-canadas-democracy-and-we-must-stop-it.


Suggested readings


Imperialism, colonialism, land grabs in fossil capital development – past & present

Core readings


Shorter online pieces

Fern. 2018. “Carbon Trading and the Story of REDD: A Real Solution to Deforestation?” Retrieved April 8,

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/27/western-idea-private-property- flawed-indigenous-peoples-have-it-right

Suggested readings


**Capital, class and corporate power**

Core readings


Shorter online pieces


Suggested readings


Corporate hegemony and the battle for hearts and minds

Core readings


**Shorter online pieces**


Suggested readings


**Carbon commodity chains and flashpoints**

Part 1: Carbon commodity chains

*Core readings*


Shorter online pieces


Suggested readings


Part 2: Understanding flashpoints

Core readings


*Rowe, James, Emilia Belliveau and Jessica Dempsey. “Fossil Fuel Divestment, Non-Reformist Reforms


Shorter online pieces

As long as the rivers flow: Athabasca River Knowledge, Use and Change: http://www.parklandinstitute.ca/as_long_as_the_rivers_flow (*Suggested to only read the Media Release, but could read the full report if desired).


Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Gender, Indigenous Rights, and Energy Development in Northeast British Columbia: http://www.amnesty.ca/outofsight (*Reading the executive summary only is suggested, but could read the full report if desired).

**Indigenous resistance and resurgence in the face of big carbon**

Core readings


Shorter online pieces


Suggested readings


Building strong alliances for climate justice

Core readings


*Lewis, Avi, Katie McKenna and Rajiv Si. 2018. “System Change on a Deadline: Organizing Lessons from Canada's Leap Manifesto.” Volume 44.5 of the Publication Series Ecology, Edited by the Heinrich Böll Foundation.


Shorter online pieces


Suggested readings


**Corporate climate accountability**

**Core readings**


**Shorter online pieces**


**Just Transitions**

**Core readings**


**Shorter online pieces**


**Managed wind-down**

**Core readings**


**Shorter online pieces**


## Official Grading Standards

**Undergraduate Records, University of Victoria, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passing Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>85 – 89</td>
<td>A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student’s full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
<td>A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73 – 76</td>
<td>A D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70 – 72</td>
<td>Complete (pass). Used only for 0-unit courses and those credit courses designated by the Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65 – 69</td>
<td>Conditional supplemental. Supplemental examinations are not offered by all departments and the allowable percentage may vary by program (e.g. 35-49). Students will be advised whether supplemental will be offered and if the percentage range varies when assessment techniques are announced at the beginning of the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60 – 64</td>
<td>F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50 – 59</td>
<td>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>Did not complete course requirements by the end of the term; no supplemental. Used only for Co-op work terms and for courses designated by Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings. The grade is EXCLUDED from the calculation of all grade point averages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/X</td>
<td>Excluded Grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance. Completed course requirements; no supplemental. Used only for Co-op work terms and for courses designated by Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings. The grade is EXCLUDED from the calculation of all grade point averages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| F             | 0                 | 0-49       | Conditional supplemental. Supplemental examinations are not offered by all departments and the allowable percentage may vary by program (e.g. 35-49). Students will be advised whether supplemental will be offered and if the percentage range varies when assessment techniques are announced at the beginning of the course. |
| F/X           | Excluded Grade    |            | F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree. |

Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

Did not complete course requirements by the end of the term; no supplemental. Used only for Co-op work terms and for courses designated by Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings. The grade is EXCLUDED from the calculation of all grade point averages.
University Course Policies

**Examination and Assignment Policy**
As per university policy, absence is only permitted in cases of illness, accident, family affliction, or religious obligations. Missing an exam for other reasons will result in an “F.” Students are responsible for providing official documentation to justify their absence, e.g. a doctor’s note. In cases of justified absences, the student has the right to request a make-up exam. Please note that exams will not be rescheduled to accommodate students’ personal circumstances, including travelling plans. There are no exceptions to this policy.

**Grading**
In accordance with Senate Regulations, grading on the curve is not permitted. The grades students receive in this course reflect their performance in relation to specified academic expectations. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and should retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standings. Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. All exams remain the property of the University of Victoria.

**Attendance**
As per university policy, attendance to all classes is mandatory. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness, accident or family affliction should report to the instructor as soon as possible. Absences that cannot be justified in accordance with university policies will be subject to penalty at the discretion of the instructor. If you are absent for reasons other than those specified under university policies, then it is not the responsibility of the instructor or the TA to help you catch up with missed lecture material.

**Academic Integrity**
The Department of Sociology fully and rigorously enforces the Senate Policy on Academic integrity. It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation. Students caught cheating in the course will be expelled and reported to the Chair of the Department of Sociology and the Dean of Social Sciences for disciplinary action.

**Plagiarism and Cheating**
Students must note the statement on “Plagiarism” in the UVic Calendar, and all regulations under the “Policy on Academic Integrity.” Quotes and citations must be used for any material longer than 5 words in succession that is not the student’s original work.

**Harassment**
The Department of Sociology supports the University’s policies on harassment, and is committed to ensuring that all students, staff, and faculty are able to exercise fully their rights to participate in activities at the University without fear of harassment.
Accommodations
The University of Victoria accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. As per university policy, students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Classroom Etiquette
Distractions can easily hinder the difficult process of conveying knowledge. Please observe standard classroom etiquette. Entering the classroom after the instructor's presentation has started can be distracting both to the instructor as well as to other students. While occasional lateness may be unavoidable, your dedication to being on time is greatly appreciated. The use of electronic communication devices is also a distraction to both the instructor and classmates. This includes texting and surfing the internet. Please turn off your electronic communication devices before entering the classroom and refrain from using them during class. If there is a justifiable reason for using your device during class (e.g., expecting an urgent call related to health or illness), please notify the instructor ahead of time, keep the device on vibrate, and exit the room if you must receive a message.

Commitment to Inclusiveness and Diversity
The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. The Department of Sociology is committed to inclusiveness and to a welcoming, friendly learning and working environment. We condemn sexism, ageism, racism, ethnocentrism, homophobia and inappropriate behaviour toward people with a disability.