

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS: PROPERTY, PARTICIPATION, AND PROTEST

GRADUATE SEMINAR Ejs0.2021, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

This class will center on private property, public participation and collective protest. The first portion of the course will introduce and discuss some of the foundational theories of property, asking what gives us dominion over some resources and not others. This section will be followed by a discussion of the principles of deliberative democracy and citizen participation, with an eye towards commons and takings issues. Finally, we will conduct an investigation of the guiding impetus for various environmental and anti-environmental movements: discussing justifications for such tactics as civil disobedience, direct action, property destruction, legal obstructionism, cooperative conflict resolution, consciousness-raising and so on.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Deliberative Democracy and the Environment, Graham Smith
The War Against the Greens, David Helvarg
The Environment Between Theory & Practice, Avner de-Shalit
Civil Disobedience in Focus, Bedau, Hugo Adam (ed.)
Course Packet (on reserve, to photocopy)

The above texts are required for satisfactory completion of the course. All books await your purchase at Shakespeare and Co. Books, at 716 Broadway. Reserve materials will be held at the front desk of 246 Greene Street, 3rd Floor West. The building closes at 10:00pm on Monday through Friday and 6:00pm on Saturday. You are responsible for copying any reserve materials.

You will be required to complete four assignments in this class: two papers, one presentation, and one group project related to your final paper. The presentation should be informative, innovative, critical of the readings for the day, and above all, short! We have a limited amount of time and a lot of material to cover. The papers that you write should be written in a professional manner and should be of publishable or near-publishable quality.

ASSIGNMENTS:

30%	First Paper: 10 pages
35%	Second Paper: 13-15 pages
15%	Class presentation
20%	Group Project

Since we are going to be working together on these issues for some time, we will break into groups and trace some specific issues that interest us. Because of time constraints, group work will be done primarily outside of the classroom. In the course we will focus on deforestation as a general theme, though you are more than welcome to provide your own background insights related to other themes into each class session and into your group projects. I'm going to rely on you, primarily, to do the filling in of facts for classroom discussion. I'll be assigning mostly theoretical readings, but I expect that many of you will have other articles or issues that you find relevant to the readings, and I would expect that you would bring these into class for discussion.

Instructor: Benjamin Hale Spring Semester, 2005 Thursdays, 4:55-6:35 Classroom: 194 Mercer Street, Room 306	E-mail: bhale@nyu.edu 246 Greene Street, Suite 300 Office Hours: 3:30 – 5:00 TTh Also by appointment or online
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ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS, NYU GRADUATE SEMINAR E50.202I

	Date	Course Readings
Property	Jan 20	Introductions, Overview of Course, Discussion of Problems
	Jan 17	<i>The War Against the Greens:</i> <i>The "Wise Use" Movement, the New Right, and the Browning of America</i> , David Helvarg <i>The Takings Battle: How Property, Participation and Protest work together</i>
	Feb 3	Selections from course packet: Hobbes (from <i>Leviathan</i>) and Rousseau (from <i>Discourse on Inequality</i>) <i>Delineation and Occupation Theories/ Social Contract</i>
	Feb 10	Selections: Locke (from the <i>Second Treatise</i>) "Property and the Value of Land," Chapter 8 from <i>The Economy of the Earth</i> , Sagoff <i>Labor and Identity Theories/ Social Contract Theories</i>
	Feb 17	Selections: Marx (<i>Alienated Labor</i>); G. A. Cohen, ("Marx and Locke on Private Property"); Proudhon (<i>What is Property?</i> , Chp IV) <i>Marxian and Anarchist Theories</i>
	Feb 24	Selections: "The Problem of Social Cost," R Coase, <i>Journal of Law and Economics</i> 3, 1-44 (1960). "The Fable of the Bees", (1714) Mandeville; as well as Hardin's "Tragedy of the Commons" <i>Social Costs, Authoritative Intervention and Public Outcry</i>
Participation	Mar 3	<i>Deliberative Democracy and the Environment</i> , Graham Smith <i>Mediation, citizen forums, and referenda</i>
	Mar 10	<i>Deliberative Democracy and the Environment</i> , Graham Smith <i>The Constitution, representative legislative assemblies, and civil society</i>
	Mar 17	Spring Recess
	Mar 24	<i>The Environment Between Theory and Practice</i> , de-Shalit, Chps 3, 4, 5, & 6
	Mar 31	<i>The Future in Our Hands</i> , Chp. 5 from <i>Ecology, Community and Lifestyle</i> , Arne Naess, from Course Packet <i>Symbolic Protest, Consciousness Raising</i>
Protest	Apr 7	Selections: Plato, Thoreau, Martin Luther King, and Herbert Storing from <i>Civil Disobedience in Focus</i> <i>Civil Disobedience/ Social Contract</i>
	Apr 14	Selections: Rawls, Dworkin, from <i>Civil Disobedience in Focus</i> <i>Civil Disobedience/Liberalism</i>
	Apr 21	Selections: John Morreal from <i>Civil Disobedience in Focus</i> and Dave Foreman, Paul Watson, John Zerzan, Eugene Hargrove from Packet <i>Direct Action/ Property Destruction/ Sabotage</i>
	Apr 28	Group Projects/Group Presentations