

SOAN: 6420
Winter 2020
Environment, Food, and Communities
Instructor: Sally Humphries
Wednesday 2:30-5:20pm
MacKinnon 261

The course is designed to get all of us to think in a dynamic, and interdisciplinary, way about how our food supply and our consumption patterns, our environment, and our communities interact to affect, and be affected by, climate change. Our goal is not only to critically examine these interactions but also to strategize on what we might do to mitigate some of the negative impacts. We will do this by examining a range of materials from different disciplines and perspectives that look at land use, the right to food, climate rights, gender, class, ethnic relations, culture, demography, democracy, amongst others, using political ecology as the theoretical lens through which to understand, and to analyze, the power relations behind the changes to our climate.

The first part of the course is oriented towards understanding macro-level influences on food, environment and communities, and the second part on their more, micro-level effects.

As a participant in the class you will be expected to present arguments from the readings each week and to participate actively in all classroom discussions. Each student will hand in a specified number of questions and discussion points that arise from each of the readings prior to class to ensure that discussions are always informed by the content of the readings. We will discuss your questions/discussion points in class. And together, we will apply the political ecology framework to the different areas of our discussions.

Using a political ecology framework, you will select a substantive topic of interest for your term paper, aiming to link a community- or local-level case to the broader global forces of food systems, political economy, gender and ethnic relations, etc. and to analyze how they intersect with climate change. Cases may involve change in Canada, the Global South, or indeed, in another region where multiple inequalities intersect with, and converge to influence the way communities respond to climate change adaptation and mitigation. You will submit an annotated bibliography for your paper prior to reading week, a draft of your paper in the third week of March, and the completed paper after the final week of classes. Presentations of your research will take place in the last two weeks of classes.

Breakdown of Grades:

Participation in class:	15%
Weekly submitted questions and discussion points:	10%
Class presentation of paper:	15%
Paper: Annotated Bibliography: (due prior to reading week)	10%
Draft: (due in third week of March)	15%
Final Paper: (due after final week of classes)	35%

