



INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAMS

W
BOTHELL

Environmental Politics

Cultural & Policy Studies Elective - Spring 2010

BCULST 593/BPOLST 583 Environmental Politics

5 credits, Wednesday 5:45-10:05pm

This course poses that many environmental problems and issues can be best understood by looking at the intersection between the political economy of nature and society, and the cultural politics of the environment. I ask students to apply theoretical and methodological insights from political ecology and cultural theory to understand the relationship between environmental issues and contemporary debates about culture, economy and society. Readings and assignments emphasize understanding and effectively describing the relational histories of nature, uneven development and trans-local politics.

The course will prepare students to ask how and why political, economic, and social dynamics are often left out of common understandings of environmental conflicts and management decisions, and to creatively construct their own critical analysis and practice of environmental politics. Students attend several field trips during the quarter.

Benjamin Gardner, PhD

Benjamin Gardner is an assistant professor of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at UW Bothell, and an adjunct assistant professor of Geography at UW Seattle. His research interests include the cultural politics of development, environmental politics, and the post-colonial nation-state. His most recent work looks at how new configurations of community-based tourism and transnational investment are remaking the Tanzanian nation-state and strategies of local activism.

For more information contact the Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences Graduate Office at 425.352.3406 or visit www.uwb.edu/ias