



Saint Louis University
Madrid Campus

POLS-293 ST, Green Politics: Political Responses to the Ecological Crisis

Summer, 2012 – Monday-Thursday, 15.00-16.50

Monday 21 May – Thursday 21 June 2012

PRH Room 4

*Instructor: **Andy Price, PhD** (aprice17@slu.edu)*

Loyola Hall, First floor

Office hours:

Appointment by arrangement

Prerequisites: POLS 170 The Foundations of Western Political Theory

Introduction:

Welcome to Green Politics: Political Responses to the Ecological Crisis. On this course, we will critically examine the emergence of radical ecological thought in the 1960s and track its development up to the present day: thought that has emerged in response to the emergence of environmental problems and 'green issues' over the same period. In doing so, this course attempts to evaluate the major contributions to ecological thought from the key thinkers involved whilst at the same time critically assessing the viability of these bodies of work in providing a theoretical and practical response to the ecological crisis of our time. A secondary focus of this programme of study will be to ascertain where radical ecological thought fits in the spectrum of modern political thought: what exactly do the new forms of 'green' thinking add to the canon of Western political theory?

Course aims:

The aims of the course are:

1. To distinguish between contemporary forms of ecological thought.
2. To comprehend the historical emergence and development of ecological thought.

3. To critically examine the political projects provided by ecological thought and their viability in responding to ecological crisis.

Course objectives:

After completing the course the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate expertise in understanding the emergence of ecological thought in the 1960s and the key developments therein up to the present day.
- 2 Demonstrate a mastery of the key philosophical and theoretical issues that lie at the centre of ecological thought.
- 3 To gain a specialised knowledge of where ecology fits in relation to other political ideologies/practices and be able to critically distinguish between the different schools of ecology itself.
- 4 The ability to offer a critical analysis on whether radical ecological thought and practice offers a viable response to ecological crisis.
- 5 Communicate results of independent research into this complex and specialised field of political thought.

Arts & Sciences Grading Scale can be accessed at: <http://www.slu.edu/x6352.xml>

Grade Points:		Grade Components:	Course Credits: 3
A	4.0	93%-100%	30% Mid-Term Exam
A-	3.7	90%-92%	50% Final Paper
B+	3.3	87%-89%	10% Class Participation
B	3.0	83%-86%	
B-	2.7	80%-82%	
C+	2.3	73%-79%	
C	2.0	67%-72%	
C-	1.7	60%-66%	
D	1.0	50%-59%	
F	0.0	0-49%	

Requirements: Students should complete the readings before the date for which they are listed in the course outline. Students will be graded on the basis of class participation, a midterm paper, and a final exam.

Last Day to Drop a Class without a Grade of "W" and/or to Add a Class: Wednesday 23 May 2012

Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options: Tuesday 29 May 2012

Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of "W": Monday 11 June 2012

Special Requirements Statement

Any student who qualifies for special accommodations, due to presence of a disability, and feels it necessary to utilize them in order to meet the requirements of this course as outlined in the syllabus, should contact Counseling/Disability Services. Please phone the office at 91 5545858 (Ext. 230), or send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu. Students may also stop by the Counseling/Disabilities Services Office. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Academic Honesty Policy Statement

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity, such as would be expected at a Jesuit, Catholic institution. As members of this community, students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility to maintain this environment. Academic dishonesty violates it. Although not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, it can be said in general that soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of any work submitted toward academic credit is dishonest. It not only violates the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University's evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students. Further, it is the responsibility of any student who observes such dishonest conduct to call it to the attention of a faculty member or administrator.

Examples of academic dishonesty would be copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed-book exam, submitting materials authored by or editorially revised by another person but presented as the student's own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, tampering with another student's work, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in an act of academic dishonesty.

Where there is clear indication of such dishonesty, a faculty member or administrator has the responsibility to apply appropriate sanctions. Investigations of violations will be conducted in accord with standards and procedures of the school or college through which the course or research is offered. Recommendations of sanctions to be imposed will be made to the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Possible sanctions for a violation of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University. The complete SLU Academic Honesty Policy can be found at the following link:

http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf

Classroom Philosophy

You are required to attend each class session prepared to participate and think critically during lecture and discussion sessions. I trust you will be able to sustain a mutually respectful classroom atmosphere by treating all classmates as equals.

All required assignments are to be submitted on time (daily drop of 5% in grade).

You are expected to read up on issues covered during class in the course book.

Essays that are handed in late will be marked down by 5% a day. **With regard to matters pertaining to academic honesty and plagiarism, you are reminded that cheating is a deplorable behaviour, which leads to an “F” grade and possible expulsion from the University.**

Tardiness is at best a rude disruption to your fellow classmates who are punctual, and except for legitimate reasons (doctor’s letter certifying illness for example), you are expected to attend all class session. **Lateness and absence (more than 3 times) will be reflected in your final overall course grades (dropping 10% for every three absences).**

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Course Books:

Dobson, A (2007), *Green Political Thought*, London, Routledge - BOOKSTORE

Dryzek, JS and Schlosberg D (2004), *The Environmental Politics Reader: Debating the Earth*, Oxford University Press - AMAZON

ADDITIONAL READING PROVIDED VIA SLU GLOBAL AND HANDOUTS

Course Overview:

INTRODUCTORY

1. General Introduction

Handing out the course description/syllabus, introductions, assessment criteria

2. Introductory Lecture: What is Ecological Thought?

3. Introductory Lecture 2: The History of Ecological Thought

PART I – ECOLOGICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

4. The Philosophy of Deep Ecology

5. The Politics of Deep Ecology

6. Workshop: Taking stock of Deep Ecology

7. Social Ecology v Deep Ecology: The Bookchin Challenge

8. The Philosophy of Social Ecology

- 9. The Politics of Social Ecology**
- 10. Workshop: Taking Stock of Social Ecology**
- 11. Rudolf Bahro: From Red to Green and Beyond**
- 12. James Lovelock and the Gaia Hypothesis**
- 13. The Revenge of Gaia: Ecological Collapse and Beyond**

PART III – ECOLOGY AND WORLD POVERTY

- 14. The Environmentalism of the Poor**
- 15. Ecology, Poverty and Globalisation**

PART IV – ECOLOGY AND POLICY INITIATIVES

- 16. Ecological Thought and Policy**
- 17. A Dangerous Radicalism?**
- 18. What is to be done?**

COURSE READING LIST:

In addition to the course books and additional reading provided through SLU GLOBAL/handouts, a course reading list of thinker-specific sources will be generated as we run through the course.

Below however is an indicative list of materials used here:

Indicative Bibliography

Bahro, R. (1994) 'Avoiding Social and Ecological Disaster.' London, Gateway Books.

Bookchin, M. (1990) 'Remaking Society :Pathways to a Green Future.' London, South End Press.

Bookchin, M. (1996) 'The Philosophy of Social Ecology :Essays on Dialectical Naturalism.' London, Black Rose Books.

Dobson, A. (2007) 'Green Political Thought.' London, Routledge.

Naess, A. (1988) 'Deep Ecology and Ultimate Premises.' The Ecologist, Vol. 18, No. 4-5, pp.128-31.

Lovelock, J. (2000) 'Gaia :A New Look at Life on Earth.' Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Lovelock, J. (2007) 'The Revenge of Gaia.' London, Penguin.

Pepper, D. (1996) 'Modern Environmentalism.' London, Routledge