

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Global Development Studies**

DEST 401: Winter 2021

Special Topics: Political Economy and Ecology of Agriculture, Food and the Environment

Tue/Thur 2:00 PM-3:15 PM

Zoom

Instructor: Dr. Ben McKay

Email: ben.mckay@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: 3:15pm-4:15pm Tues/Thur or by appointment¹

Prerequisite(s):

Development Studies 393

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the inter-linked theoretical and methodological foundations of critical agrarian studies, critical environmental studies, and the political economy of food. Students will become familiar with the necessary theoretical and analytical tools required to develop a critical understanding of contemporary processes of agrarian and environmental change, including environmental degradation, rural resource access and use, political economy of food, and the key socio-political and economic processes facing the rural world. This course does not take the rural world in isolation, but rather in an interlinked manner: rural-urban and agricultural-industry linkages. Appropriate comparisons will be made between developing and developed countries. The analytical starting point to tackle these issues is a critical political economy framework, meaning that the emphasis will be on the political economic power dynamics that frame and cut across agrarian, food and environmental issues.

Learning Outcomes:

After taking this course, students will have developed:

- An understanding of the major theoretical and methodological traditions in agrarian political economy and ecology, seen in overlapping/synergistic or conflicting/competing manners
- A conceptual framework which recognizes that all agrarian, food and environmental issues arise from a combination of economic, political, cultural and natural processes;
- A critical perspective on the political and economic structures that shape local, national and international agrarian, food and environmental questions.

¹ Office hours may vary, so students are encouraged to make an appointment.

- An overview of relevant contemporary issues surrounding agriculture, the environment and their interactions
- Their ability to engage in constructive criticism
- Their presentation and group work skills

Learning methods:

This course combines (a) lectures, (b) student-led discussions, (c) analytical reading exercises; (d) video and films; (e) student-led peer review exercises; (f) analytical writing; and (g) group presentations

Learning Resources

All course readings are available online via the University of Calgary library <https://library.ucalgary.ca> and/or available via D2L.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- A current and updates web browser
- Webcam (built in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone
- Broadband internet connection

Method of Assessment:

1- In-class assignments: 10%

A total of five in-class assignments will be held throughout the semester, each worth 2% of your final grade. These will be based on the required readings assigned for that week, so make sure you come to class prepared and having done the required readings.

2- Mid-term Exam #1: 25%

Short & long answers and multiple choice. All materials in-class and in the readings to date will be covered (including guest lectures). This midterm is open book and online via D2L. You will have the entire class time + 50% extra time to complete the online midterm exam. The midterm will be available to start on February 11th at 2:00pm and will close February 12th at 2:00pm. Students have the option to start a test or timed assessment at a time that best suits their situation within a 24-hour time period. Just remember that regardless of when you start the exam, you must finish within the allotted time period (75 min + 38 min + 7 minutes for breaks = 120 min).

3- Mid-term Exam #2: 25%

Short & long answers and multiple choice. All materials in-class and in the readings from February 23rd to March 30th (inclusive) will be covered (including guest lectures). This midterm is open book and online via D2L. You will have the entire class time + 50% extra time to complete the online midterm exam. The midterm will be available to start on April 1st at 2:00pm and will close April 2nd at 2:00pm. Students have the option to start a test or timed assessment at a time that best suits their situation within a 24-hour time period. Just remember that regardless of when you start the exam, you must finish within the allotted time period (75 min + 38 min + 7 minutes for breaks = 120 min).

4- Guest Lecture reflection: 10%

Write a 500-word (max) reflection (excluding bibliography) on one of the guest lectures. Use proper referencing style and engage with the lecture and the assigned readings. Due two weeks after the guest lecture (upload to D2L before midnight).

5- Film Review: 5%

Students will write a 500-750 word (excluding bibliography) film review. Due March 11th (upload to D2L before midnight).

6- Group Presentation: 20%

Students will be divided into groups (number of students per group will depend on class size). Each group will present on an assigned topic covered in the class. Details to be discussed in class.

7- Individual analytical summary: 5%

Each individual will write a 500-word analytical summary (excluding bibliography), based on the content of their presentation, using proper referencing style. Due April 21st (upload to D2L before midnight).

- There is no final examination for this course.
- It is **not** essential to pass all components to pass the course as whole.
- Late assignments will be penalized by 10% per day.
- The instructor will be available for questions during the normal scheduled class time on the day of the midterm exams.

For referencing style, use Chicago author-date. For instructions see:

https://www.tandf.co.uk//journals/authors/style/reference/tf_ChicagoAD.pdf

The final mark out of 100, will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

A+	95 – 100%	A	90 – 94.9%	A-	85 – 89.9%
B+	80 – 84.9%	B	75 – 79.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%
C+	70 – 70.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%
D+	55 – 58.9%	D	50 – 54.9%	F	49.9 and below

Supplementary Fees

Not applicable

For additional detailed course information posted by the instructor, visit the course Desire2Learn page online at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Principles of Conduct

The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html. Students should also familiarize themselves with University policies regarding non-academic misconduct: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

Information on the acceptable use of electronic resources can be found here: <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Human subjects

Students in the course will not be expected to participate as research subjects.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published with the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared,

as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Accessibility

Students may contact the instructor for accessibility options and alternatives.

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor or teaching assistant personally during scheduled lecture or laboratory periods, unless they are made available electronically through the course D2L webpage. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's main office. The instructor will provide written feedback on assignments to students.

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students may find information on accommodations at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>. Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: pcdawson@ucalgary.ca).

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright: <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive

campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email the Student at Risk line if they or others appear to need wellness assistance: sar@ucalgary.ca. For more immediate response, please call: 403-210-9355 and select option #2.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus, including the LRT station, parking lots, bus zones, and university residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. I would also like to note that the University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, and that the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is "Moh'kins'tsis", which we now call the City of Calgary.