

Environmental Studies 291-02
Advanced Reading Seminar in neoliberal environmental governance

Fall 2005
Rev. 9/24/05

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Seminar purpose: This seminar aims to further our understanding of *neoliberalization*, as it already has been applied to environmental governance and might be applied to agro-food politics. Neoliberalization is an increasingly prevalent theme within debates about political economic change, and it has become a key analytic in the field of geography, where it has been conceptualized as a broad political-economic project to institute market logics and devolve governance, as well as a set of discourses that produce certain kinds of subjects (what some refer to as governmentality). Therefore, the focus of this work is not only on the contradictory effects of state cutbacks, de-regulation, and privatization, but also in the creation of new subjectivities and even new forms of resistance to neo-liberalism. In this seminar we will trace these developments and then pay particular attention to how neoliberalism shapes the politics of the possible in contemporary activism in food and agriculture, since this is relatively unexplored ground. Most of the readings will concentrate on questions relevant to domestic research. Those with other topical or regional interests may also participate, space permitting.

Meeting time and place: This seminar will meet Wednesdays from 3:00-4:45, in room 417 ISB. IF YOU WISH TO ENROL IN THE CLASS, YOU MUST ATTEND THE FIRST MEETING TO RECEIVE A PERMISSION CODE.

Level of readings: This seminar is designed for *advanced* graduate students, who have had prior coursework in political economy and/or social theory. What this means is that while I will explain key concepts on an as-needed basis, students without adequate background and unaccustomed to reading, dense, and at times jargon-filled, scholarly works might find the material difficult. Space permitting, I will admit such students if they are willing to struggle along and do background reading on their own.

Scope of readings: Below is a proposed reading list for the course. I have purposively made the proposed readings relatively narrow in scope. My hope is that in becoming intensely familiar with an important, existing debate, you will be able to actively participate in this debate through your own research. Do now, however, that this is a proposal, and we will spend the first session negotiating potential changes.

Availability of Readings: Most of the readings are taken from scholarly journals and can be found on-line through the library web site and downloaded into PDF files. I would suggest purchasing the three-four books I am suggesting (*New Imperialism*, *Governmentality*, *Environmentality*, and perhaps one by Nicolas Rose), as you will likely be referring back to them. On the first day of class, we can arrange ways to share readings as well as the responsibility of making them available.

Seminar conduct: Since the readings are designed to build on those that come prior, I expect that all participants will attend on a regular basis. On the first day, I will ask everyone to sign up to lead the discussion once or twice, depending on the number of enrollees. The designated discussant will come prepared to introduce a set of key themes and questions at the beginning of the discussion to help frame what follows. It should go without saying that other students come having read the material in an engaged way and be prepared to offer at least one comment or question for the group.

Written requirement: While this is a reading seminar first and foremost, I am asking every student to complete a short written assignment. I hope that this will encourage you to incorporate seminar themes and concepts into your own research. This 10 page (double spaced) paper can take the form of an extended paper abstract, a brief research proposal, a "literature review" that can be incorporated into a paper or research proposal, or for those whose research program is less developed, simply a thought piece.

Outline of Readings:

September 28: Course organization

October 5: Neoliberal Governance - introduction

Jessop, Bob. 2002. Neoliberalism and Urban Governance: a State Theoretical Perspective. *Antipode* 34 (3):452-472.

Peck, Jamie. 2004. Geography and Public Policy: Constructions of Neoliberalism. *Progress in Human Geography* 28 (3):392-405.

Larner, W. 2003. Neoliberalism? *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 21(5): 509-512.

October 12: Neoliberalizing Space/Devolution

Brenner, Neil, and Nik Theodore. 2002. Preface: From the 'New Localism' to the Spaces of Neoliberalism. *Antipode* 34 (3):341-347.

Brenner, Neil, and Nik Theodore. 2002. Cities and Geographies of "Actually Existing Neoliberalism". *Antipode* 34 (3):348-379.

Peck, J., and A. Tickell. 2002. Neoliberalizing space. *Antipode* 34 (3):380-404.

Salamon, L. M. 2002. The new governance and the tools of public action. Pages 1-47 in L. M. Salamon, editor. *The Tools of Government: A Guide to the New Governance*. Oxford University Press, New York, NY. – can be found at http://www.ku.edu/~rlevy/PPC_F02/RegAlternatives.pdf

October 19: Privatization and Accumulation by Dispossession

Harvey, D. 2003. *The New Imperialism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (selections)

McCarthy, J. 2004. Privatizing conditions of production: trade agreements and environmental governance. *Geoforum* 35 (3): 327-341.

Heynen, N. and P. Robbins. 2005. The neoliberalization of nature: governance, privatization, enclosure and valuation. *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 16 (1): 1-4.

Liverman, D. 2004. Who governs, at what scale and at what price? Geography, environmental governance, and the commodification of nature. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 94 (4): 734-738.

October 26 November 2: Neoliberal environmental governance

McCarthy, J., and S. Prudham. 2004. Neoliberal nature and the nature of neoliberalism.

Robertson, M. 2004. The neoliberalization of ecosystem services: wetland mitigation banking and problems in environmental governance. *Geoforum* 35 (3): 361-373.

Bridge G and A Jonas 2002. "Governing Nature: the re-regulation of resource access, production, and consumption." *Environment and Planning A*. 34: 759-766.

Mansfield, Becky. 2004, Rules of privatization: contradictions in neoliberal regulation of North Pacific fisheries. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 94 (3):565-584.

November 9: Neoliberal Governmentality & Subjectivity

Barnett, C. 2005. The consolations of 'neoliberalism.' *Geoforum* 36 (1): 7-12.

Dean, Mitchell. 1999 *Governmentality: Power and Rule in Modern Society*. London: Sage. Selections

Luke, Timothy. 1995. On Environmentality: Geo-Power and Eco-Knowledge in the Discourse of Contemporary Environmentalism. *Cultural Critique* 31:57-81.

Agrawal, Arun.. 2005. Environmentality: Technologies of Government and the Making of Subjects. Chs. 1, 6 & 7

[Rose, Nikolas. 1999 *Powers of Freedom: Reframing Political Thought*. Cambridge University Press]

November 16: Neoliberalism and environmental justice

Holifield, Ryan. 2004. "Neoliberalism and environmental justice in the United States environmental protection agency: translating policy into managerial practice in hazardous waste remediation." *Geoforum* 35(3)

Prudham, WS 2004. "Poisoning the well: neo-liberalism and the contamination of municipal water in Walkerton, Ontario." *Geoforum* 35(3): 343-359.

November 30: Neoliberal Activism and Resistance

Larner, Wendy, and David Craig. 2005. After Neoliberalism? Community Activism and Local Partnerships in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Antipode* 37 (3):402-424.

Bondi, Liz and Nina Laurie. 2005. Introduction to Working the Spaces of Neoliberalism *Antipode* 37 (3):394-401.

Dolhinow, Rebecca. 2005. Caught in the Middle: the State, NGOS, and the Limits to Grassroots Organizing Along the US-Mexico Border. *Antipode* 37 (3):554-580.

Fyfe, Nicholas and Christine Milligan. 2003. Out of the Shadows: Exploring Contemporary Geographies of Voluntarism. *Progress in Human Geography* 27(4): 397-413.

Jenkins, Katy. 2005. Incorporating and Restructuring the Voluntary Sector within Spaces of Neoliberalism. *Antipode* 37 (3):614-618

Keil, Roger. 2005. Common Sense Neoliberalism: Progressive Conservative Urbanism in Toronto, Canada. *Antipode* 34 (3):579-601

Other possible readings:

Toke, Dave. *Green politics and neo-liberalism*. New York : St. Martin's Press, 2000

Drayton, R. *Nature's Government*. New Haven, Yale University Press, 2000 (selections).

Strathern, Marilyn. 2000 *Audit Cultures: Anthropological Studies in Accountability, Ethics and the Academy*. London: Routledge.