

## POLITICAL ECOLOGY

Fall 1984 - Winter 1985

### Program Description

Faculty: Carolyn Dobbs  
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#### Fall Quarter 1984

During this first quarter, the Political Ecology program began studies of general ecology, human ecology, and social science plus weekly exercises in writing, reading, public speaking and critical analysis. Using local examples to illustrate global resource-concepts, the program focused upon ecological and cultural aspects of Northwest timber and salmon resources and their history. Weekly field exercises, with systematic site observations and compilation of a Field Journal complemented lectures on basic principles of ecology. Students interviewed representatives of local resource-oriented industries and wrote ethnography papers as a way of integrating principles with practice. A final synthesis of program issues and themes was made via an extensive written exercise near the quarter's end.

Texts: Living in the Environment, (Miller), Basic Ecology (Odum), The Cultural Experience (Spradley), Handbook for Writers (Millward).

Theme Lectures: History of Northwest Forestry (Dick), Indian Treaties (Peterson) Makah Culture and History (Colfax), Turner's Frontier Hypothesis (Rainey), Northwest Forests (Cellarius), Environmental Problems in India (Bandhu), Highlights of the Pacific Salmon Fisher (Taylor), Prehistoric Northwest Biology and Geology (Milne), and Tragedy of the Commons (Taylor).

Seminar Books: The Northwest Coast (Swan), I Heard the Owl Call My Name (Craven), Island in the Sound (Heckman), The Water Link (Chasan), Sometimes a Great Notion (Kese), Mountain in the Clouds (Brown).

Field Trips: Willapa Bay and environs, Willapa Wildlife Refuge (Hidy), Kennedy Creek Salmon Project (Burns), Oysterville (History Highlights by Shoalwater Bay Players).

Films: Indian Treaties, Life of the Sockeye Salmon, Sometimes a Great Notion.

Weekly Schedule: Theme lecture; one extended class each in writing, speaking (topic seminar), and ecology; one book seminar; and an extended class in social science techniques.

## Winter Quarter 1985

During the second (and final) quarter, the Political Ecology program continued the studies of general ecology, human ecology, and social science. The local regional resource topics this quarter were agriculture, shellfish harvest and aquaculture, and Puget Sound's water quality. Two special projects were students' observational studies of Washington State's Legislature and legislative process, and students' research on selected resource issues or other environmental topics. Weekly ecological field and laboratory exercises and an ecological report were directed to freshwater and marine environments. Other weekly activities included a theme lecture, ecology lecture, book seminar, social science methods seminar (the Washington Legislature project), and research seminar.

A special campus-wide event to promote intercultural understanding held during one week was about the acculturation of Southeast Asian refugees in the United States. It included a film Becoming American, a lecture and performance by Dwight Conquergood (Northwestern University) on "We Never Forget: Stories From Southeast Asian Refugee Cultures", and a panel discussion and food ceremonies conducted by Conquergood and local Southeast Asian refugees.

**Texts:** Living in the Environment (Miller), Basic Ecology (Odum)

**Theme Lectures:** A Social Scientist's Perspective of "Political Ecology" (Dobbs), Trends and Problems in Agriculture (Dobbs), Rachel Carson and Silent Spring (Herman), The Puget Sound Environment and Shellfish (Taylor), Biology of Bivalve Mollusks (Milne), Cranberry Farming (Sayce, farmer), Washington's Shellfish Industries (Hurlburt, WDF Biologist), Puget Sound Water Quality Issues (Barnes, EPA), Southern Puget Sound Water Quality (M. Taylor, Thurston County Health Dept.), Outer Space as Frontier and NASA (Milne), Agricultural Tour of Eastern Asia (Dobbs).

**Seminar Books:** A Sand County Almanac (Leopold), Goethe's Faust (MacNeice), Silent Spring (Carson), The Dispossessed (LeGuin), Encounters with the Archdruid (McPhee), The High Frontier (O'Neill)

**Field Trips:** Washington State Legislature, McLane Creek Nature Area, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, TESC Beach