

Fall 2021 PE2 Course Guide

At YSE

Students who declare PE2 must take 2 Core courses, 3 courses from "Social Sciences" and "Humanities", at least 1 course from "Ecological Sciences". Full list of PE2 courses and requirements can be found here: <https://environment.yale.edu/learning-communities/people-and-equity/program>

For a full list of graduate-level YSE courses, see: <https://environment.yale.edu/courses>

Courses are 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

ENV 602

Ecosystems and Landscapes

Mark Bradford

MW 1:00-2:20

Concepts and their application in ecosystem and landscape ecology. Topics covered include biogeochemical cycling, food web interactions, biodiversity, and the abiotic and biotic controls that act on them. The course emphasizes how to integrate this knowledge to understand and manage ecosystem budgets.

Fulfills Ecological Sciences requirement.

ENV 633

Critical Race Theory

Gerald Torres

TTh 2:30-3:50

This class will study Critical Race Theory from its origins to its current expression. Understanding the deep interconnections between race and law, and how race and law are co-constitutive is the project of Critical Race Theory. One of the central claims of Critical Race Theory is that racial subordination is not a deviation from the liberal legal ideal but is, unfortunately, part of its expression. We will focus on the origins of the critique that is central to the development of the theory and contrast its analysis with conventional analytic frameworks on race and American law and society. Because it is a positive theory but also driven by a normative vision, we will explore the possibility of transforming the relationship between law and racial power. The law is not the only site of Critical Race Theory; it has had a significant impact on other disciplines in the social sciences. We will examine those impacts as well.

Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

ENV 660

Forest Ecology & Dynamics

Marlyse Duguid

MW 10:30-11:50

This course introduces the study of forest stand dynamics — how forest structures and compositions change over time with growth and disturbances. Understanding the dynamic nature of forest stands is important for creating and maintaining a variety of

critical ecosystem services sustainably and synergistically, including sustainable supplies of wood products, biodiversity and wildlife habitats, water, fire protection, and others. Through readings, lectures, discussions, and field trips we explore forest development processes and pathways, concentrating on the driving mechanisms and emergent properties including natural and human disturbances. We make use of New England forests as living laboratories while discussing how similar forest patterns and processes are played out throughout the temperate, tropical, and boreal worlds.

Fulfills Ecological Sciences requirement.

ENV 759/ANTH 581

Power, Knowledge, and the Environment: Social Science

Michael R. Dove

M 1:00-3:50

Course on the social scientific contributions to environmental and natural resource issues, emphasizing equity, politics, and knowledge. Section I, introduction to the course. Section II, disaster and environmental perturbation: the social science of emerging diseases; and the social origins of disaster. Section III, boundaries: cost and benefit in the Green Revolution; riverine restoration; and aspirational infrastructure. Section IV, methods: working within development projects, and rapid appraisal and consultancies. Section V, local communities, resources, and (under)development: representing the poor,

development discourse, and indigenous peoples and knowledge.

Fulfills Core and Social Sciences requirements.

ENV 764

Sociology of Sacred Values: Modernity, Ecology, and Policy

Justin Farrell

Th 8:00-10:50

This course equips students to understand how moral culture shapes all environmental issues and management, driving even the most basic decisions that on the surface may appear to be entirely obvious, rational, or scientific. Modern people and modern institutions are propelled toward certain ends and possibilities that are inescapably rooted in questions of human culture about who we are, what we should do, and why it all matters. The first half of the course draws on theoretical readings from sociology, philosophy, and religious studies to understand the ubiquity of sacred codes and how they work, with an emphasis on late-modernity, rationality, capitalism, and the sacred/profane. The second half of the course introduces recent case studies to see in practice how moral values are embedded in environmental work, including policymaking, advocacy, the free market, scientific research, race and class, death and extinction, ecotourism, and more.

Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

ENV 775

Federal Indian Law

Gerald Torres

MW 10:35-12:00

This course will cover the basics of federal Indian law. It will not address the substantive content of tribal law. Tribal law is a specialized study arising from the exercise of the legal authority that the tribes retain. This course is designed to lay the ground work for a deep understanding of what kinds of sovereignty Indian nations may exercise within the framework of our legal system. Normally, courses of this type begin with an historical exploration of the foundations of the relations between Indian and non-Indian peoples. Instead, we will begin with questions that are current and sketch out, roughly, where we are now. Typically, we start with cases pending before or recently decided by the Supreme Court. We use the Marshall Trilogy to build from the present back to the origins to see how the doctrines reflect the positive aspects of the legal expression of contact between Europe and the native nations of the Western hemisphere as well as the more malign aspects. We will not neglect the history; it will prove critical for understanding the ways in which federal Indian law is sui generis in domestic jurisprudence, but we will see how that history is always haunted by the specter of colonialism, extra-legality, and finally international legal norms.

Fulfills Humanities requirement.

ENV 826

Foundations of Natural Resources and Policy

Susan Clark

W - 2:30-5:20

This course offers an explicit interdisciplinary (integrative) framework that is genuinely effective in practical problem solving. This unique skill set overcomes the routine ways of thinking and solving conservation problems common to many NGOs and government organizations by explicitly developing more rigorous and effective critical-thinking, observation, and management skills. By simultaneously addressing rational, political, and practical aspects of real-world problem solving, the course helps students gain skills, understand, and offer solutions to the policy problems of managing natural resources. The course includes a mix of critical thinking, philosophical issues, history, as well as issues that students bring in. Among the topics covered are human rights, scientific management, decision making, community-based approaches, governance, common interest, sustainability, professionalism, and allied thought and literature.

Fulfills Core and Humanities requirements.

ENV 850

International Organizations and Conferences

Gordan Geballe

T 5:30-7:50

International Organizations and Conferences (IOC) will focus on the historic, present, and future roles of international environmental conferences. Through guest speakers, assigned readings, and discussions, students will explore conferences including IUCN's World Conservation Congress, the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity, UNFCCC's climate change conference, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Students, along with visiting alumni and guest speakers, will discuss the roles and impacts of the various conferences in international environmental decision making and the future of international conferences in a post-COVID world. The course will also assess the potential for improved equity, justice, and inclusion in international conferences, organizations, and their secretariats.

Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

ENV 959

Clinic in Climate Justice, Climate Policy, the Law, and Public Health

Instructor TBA

M 10:00-11:50

This course is an innovative collaboration between Yale School of Public Health and Vermont Law School and includes faculty and students from both Yale and Vermont Law School. In the course, interdisciplinary student teams carry out applied projects at the intersection of climate justice, law and

public policy, and public health. Each team works with a partner organization (e.g., state agency, community organization, other nongovernmental organization) to study, design, and implement a project, typically through community-based participatory research practices. The course affords the opportunity to have a real-world impact by applying concepts and competencies learned in the classroom.

Fulfills Humanities requirement.

ENV 970

Environmental Protection Clinic Policy and Advocacy

Douglas Kysar

T 12:10-2:00

The clinic's mission is to train students in environmental advocacy through skills-based seminars, interdisciplinary project work, and collaboration with the Natural Resources Defense Council and other significant environmental organizations. Students are assigned to teams of two-to-four members drawn from both the Law School and the School of the Environment. Teams work on a project developed in collaboration with client organizations, with most projects having both legal and policy components. In addition to covering substantive areas of environmental law, clinic seminars help students master the tools of effective environmental advocacy, including the abilities to research law and science, write and cite persuasively, navigate environmental organizations, and manage projects cooperatively.

Fulfills Humanities requirement.

ENV 980

Social Justice in the Global Food System Capstone

Kristin Reynolds

Th 2:30-5:20

This course explores social justice dimensions of today's globalized food system, considering justice in terms of sociopolitical and environmental dynamics. We connect theory and practice through work with community-based organizations working at the nexus of food, agriculture, and social justice. The capstone project work is grounded in food and social justice concepts examined through course materials and seminar discussions: We examine how governmental environmental strategies affect social equity in the food system at multiple scales. We discuss how land grabbing or food insecurity are connected to relative power on the global stage. We consider how phenomena such as structural violence and neoliberalization surface within the food system, and what this means for sustainability and justice – in urban and rural settings. We examine and debate concepts and practices including food sovereignty, agroecology, Black agrarianism, and The Right to Food used to advance positive change.

Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

ENV 618

Anthropology of Smallholder Agriculture in Developing Countries

Carol Carpenter

W 9:00-11:50

The premise of this course is that small-scale agriculture, its distinctive economic character, and its ecology shape each other in important ways. This course will explore smallholder farming in the developing world through ethnographies.

It is often said that small-scale agriculture provides half of the contemporary global food supply (see for example Graeub et al 2016); in fact there are no good global statistics on small farm production, especially in the developing world (in which many nations just don't have statistics on food production and farm size, Ricciardi et al 2018). I argue simply that small-scale agricultural food production is important to both livelihoods and food security. If this is so, then the inter-linkages between farms, economies, and ecologies are important. These inter-linkages are also complex.

ENV 619

Philosophical Environmental Ethics

Stephen Latham

TTh 11:35-12:50

This is a philosophical introduction to environmental ethics. The course introduces students to the basic contours of the field and to a small number of special philosophical problems within the field. No philosophical background is required or

expected. Readings are posted on Canvas and consist almost entirely of contemporary essays by philosophers and environmentalists.

ENV 645

Urbanization, Global Change, and Sustainability

Karen Seto

T 9:00-11:50

Urbanization and associated changes in human activities on the land (land use) and in the physical attributes of Earth's surface (land cover) have profound environmental consequences. Aggregated globally, these effects constitute some of the most significant human impacts on the functioning of Earth as a system. This course examines the interactions and relationships between urbanization and global change at local, regional, and global scales with an emphasis on the biophysical aspects of urbanization. Topics include urbanization in the context of global land use change, habitat and biodiversity loss, modification of surface energy balance and the urban heat island, climate change and impacts on urban areas, urban biogeochemistry, and urbanization as a component of sustainability. Emphasis is on management of urban areas worldwide or at national scales for planetary sustainability.

ENV 836/ANTH 541/PLSC 779/HIST 965

Agrarian Societies: Culture, Society, History, & Development

Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan
Marcela Echeverri Munoz

W 1:30-5:20

An interdisciplinary examination of agrarian societies, contemporary and historical, Western and non-Western. Major analytical perspectives from anthropology, economics, history, political science, and environmental studies are used to develop a meaning-centered and historically grounded account of the transformations of rural society.

ENV 878

Climate and Society: Past to Present

Michael R. Dove

Th 1:30-3:20

Discussion of the major currents of thought—both historic and contemporary—regarding climate, climate change, and society; focusing on the politics of knowledge and belief vs disbelief; and drawing on the social sciences and anthropology in particular.

ENV 646

Foundations of Agriculture and Environment

Stephen Wood

W 1-3:50

Agricultural systems have a profound impact on the environment, but also depend on

environmental processes—such as climate and nutrient cycling—for continued productivity. Because of this two-way relationship, there has been a growing integration of environmental and agricultural sciences over the past several decades with growing recognition that designing and implementing agricultural systems that minimize environmental harm and benefit people is necessary to sustainable development. This course provides foundational knowledge of how agricultural and environmental systems are linked. The goal is to provide theoretical understanding of the important environmental and human processes, as well as practical experience interpreting these processes and applying them to real-world scenarios.

Other Departments

PE2 students are uniquely positioned to take advantage of courses offered across the university, building upon interdisciplinary topics and methods. We offer below a selection of relevant courses to consider.

For a full list of university-wide courses, see <https://courses.yale.edu/>

The Environmental Humanities Initiative at Yale also puts together a fantastic course guide each semester that can be found [here](#).

AFST 295/ENGL 295/LITR 461

Postcolonial Ecologies

Cajetan Iheka

MW 11:35am-12:50pm

This seminar examines the intersections of postcolonialism and ecocriticism as well as the tensions between these conceptual nodes, with readings drawn from across the global South. Topics of discussion include colonialism, development, resource extraction, globalization, ecological degradation, nonhuman agency, and indigenous cosmologies. The course is concerned with the narrative strategies affording the illumination of environmental ideas. We begin by engaging with the questions of postcolonial and world literature and return to these throughout the semester as we read the primary texts, drawn from Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia. We consider African ecologies in their complexity from colonial through post-colonial times. In the unit on the Caribbean, we take up the transformations of the landscape from slavery, through colonialism, and the contemporary era. Turning to Asian spaces, the seminar explores changes brought about by modernity and globalization as well as the effects on both humans and nonhumans.

AFST 839/HIST 839

Environmental History of Africa

Robert Harms

W 9:25am-11:15am

An examination of the interaction between people and their environment in Africa and the ways in which this interaction has affected or shaped the course of African history.

AMST 439/ER&M 439

Fruits of Empire

Gary Okihiro

W 1:30pm-3:20pm

Readings, discussions, and research on imperialism and "green gold" and their consequences for the imperial powers and their colonies and neo-colonies. Spatially conceived as a world-system that enmeshes the planet and as earth's latitudes that divide the temperate from the tropical zones, imperialism as discourse and material relations is this seminar's focus together with its implantations—an empire of plants. Vast plantations of sugar, cotton, tea, coffee, bananas, and pineapples occupy land cultivated by native and migrant workers, and their fruits move from the tropical to the temperate zones, impoverishing the periphery while profiting the core. Fruits of Empire, thus, implicates power and the social formation of race, gender, sexuality, class, and nation.

ANTH 322/EVST 324

Environmental Justice in South Asia

Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan

M 3:30pm-5:20pm

Study of South Asia's nation building and economic development in the aftermath of war and decolonization in the 20th century. How it generated unprecedented stress on natural environments; increased social disparity; and exposure of the poor and minorities to environmental risks and loss of homes, livelihoods, and cultural resources.

Discussion of the rise of environmental justice movements and policies in the region as the world comes to grips with living in the Anthropocene.

ANTH 438/638

Culture, Power, Oil

Douglas Rogers

Th 9:25am-11:15am

The production, circulation, and consumption of petroleum as they relate to globalization, empire, cultural performance, natural resource extraction, and the nature of the state. Case studies include the United States, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela, and the former Soviet Union.

ARCH 327/ARCH 4247/URBN 327

Difference and the City

Justin Moore

M 9am-10:50am

Four hundred and odd years after colonialism and racial capitalism brought twenty and odd people from Africa to the dispossessed indigenous land that would become the United States, the structures and systems that generate inequality and white supremacy persist. Our cities and their socioeconomic and built environments continue to exemplify difference. From housing and health to mobility and monuments, cities small and large, north and south, continue to demonstrate intractable disparities. The disparate impacts

made apparent by the COVID-19 pandemic and the reinvigorated and global Black Lives Matter movement demanding change are remarkable. Change, of course, is another essential indicator of difference in urban environments, exemplified by the phenomena of disinvestment or gentrification. This course explores how issues like climate change and growing income inequality intersect with politics, culture, gender equality, immigration and migration, technology, and other considerations and forms of disruption.

ARCH 4213

The City and Carbon Modernity

Elisa Iturbe

F 2pm-3:50pm

Humanity has moved through three energy paradigms, each of which has produced different built environments and social organizations. At each transition—from nomadic to agricultural and from agricultural to industrial—the productive capacity of human society was transformed, restructuring the existing social order and engendering a corresponding spatial and architectural paradigm. This course studies our current energy paradigm—carbon-intensive fossil fuels—as a driver of urban and architectural form. Rather than studying the technical aspects of energy, however, the course focuses on the social and spatial organizations that arise and are dependent on dense and abundant energy, identifying these as carbon form. Despite increasing awareness of environmental issues, architects continue to replicate

carbon form, preventing a transition out of our current energy paradigm. Just as the modern movement proposed a new organization for the city based on the realities of industry, this moment demands new organizations that can respond to an urban system that the climate crisis has shown to be obsolete. Unlike in modernism, however, the energy transition to which we must respond has not yet occurred. And yet, architecture must still declare the death of carbon modernity and seek the means to overcome its material and cultural legacy. In this light, the course interrogates the foundations of contemporary human organization in order to lay new foundations for the oncoming transitions in energy and social form. Students study the theoretical roots of carbon form in the works of Le Corbusier, Hilberseimer, Koolhaas, and others, and speculate on new human settlement patterns by examining the relationship between the energy grid and the urban grid, i.e., between energy and urban form.

ER&M 226/AMST 196/SOCY 190/EVST
196/AFAM 196

Race, Class, and Gender in American Cities

Laura Barraclough

MW 10:30am-11:20am

Examination of how racial, gender, and class inequalities have been built, sustained, and challenged in American cities. Focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics include industrialization and deindustrialization, segregation, gendered

public/private split, gentrification, transit equity, environmental justice, food access, and the relationships between public space, democracy, and community wellbeing.

EMD 537

Water, Sanitation, and Global Health

Ying Chen

Elsio Wunder

T 3pm-4:50pm

Water is essential for life, and yet unsafe water poses threats to human health globally, from the poorest to the wealthiest countries. More than two billion people around the world lack access to clean, safe drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH). This course focuses on the role of water in human health from a public health perspective. The course provides a broad overview of the important relationships between water quality, human health, and the global burden of waterborne diseases. It discusses the basics of water compartments and the health effects from exposures to pathogenic microbes and toxic chemicals in drinking water. It also covers different sanitation solutions to improve water quality and disease prevention and discusses future challenges and the need for intervention strategies in the new millennium.

GLBL 505

Environmental Security in the Middle East

Instructor & Time TBA

This course examines how environmental, water, food, energy, and climate change have increasingly become linked to human and national security in the Middle East. It begins by exploring the state of the environment in the region and how the policies of the Middle East governments have led to serious environmental degradation and subsequent loss of jobs, migration, social tension, violence, and regional conflicts. Drawing on an in-depth analysis of contemporary case/country studies, students learn how these problems can serve as major human and national security threats.

GLBL 574

International Human Rights

Samuel Moyn

M; 2:10-4PM; TH - 10:10-12PM

This course surveys a selection of topics in contemporary human rights law, with attention to broader principles and problems in international law, as well as to cognate fields like international criminal and international humanitarian law. A consistent focus is how the United States relates to the international human rights system—and how, conversely, that system impinges on diverse areas of American law and policy. The course also takes up the ways in which both the international system and the rights jurisprudence of other countries might differ from approaches in American law, as for example in socioeconomic rights adjudication or the regulation of religious practice.

HIST 236/SHM 226

The Age of the Scientific Revolution

Ivano Dal Prete

MW 11:35am-12:25pm

The material, political, cultural, and social transformations that underpinned the rise of modern science between the 14th and 18th century, considered in global context. Topics include artisanal practices and the empirical exploration of nature; global networks of knowledge and trade; figurative arts and the emergence of a visual language of anatomy, astronomy, and natural history.

HIST 913/SHM 713

Geography and History

Bill Rankin

W 9:25am-11:15am

A research seminar focused on methodological questions of geography and geographic analysis in historical scholarship. We consider approaches ranging from the Annales School of the early twentieth century to contemporary research in environmental history, history of science, urban history, and more. We also explore interdisciplinary work in social theory, historical geography, and anthropology and grapple with the promise (and drawbacks) of GIS.

HSAR 487/ER&M 384

Art in the Anthropocene

Instructor TBA

F 1:30pm-3:20pm

There is widespread consensus that we are living in a state of emergency and ecological collapse. This seminar explores how contemporary artists are responding to the Anthropocene, a geological epoch defined by the impacts of human activity on the natural world. The converging crises of our present have revealed how structural inequality has created an uneven distribution of environmental risk along the lines of class, ethnicity, gender, and race. Engaging critical issues in the environmental humanities and focusing on the intersections of environmental and social justice, the course focuses on contemporary art from the 1970s to the present, with attention to how the legacies of colonization, empire, and the transatlantic slave trade shape the present. We consider how art bears witness to ecological crisis while exploring how arts worldmaking potential might help us imagine more just futures. Through a survey of contemporary art in the Anthropocene, we critically examine the interface between art, activism, and knowledge production.

HSAR 705

Representing the American West

Jennifer Raab

T 1:30pm-3:20pm

The American West holds a powerful place in the cultural and political imagination of the United States. Taught at the Beinecke, this course examines settler colonial art and visual culture from the early republic to the

present, considering changing conceptions of the land across media—from maps, aquatints, and guidebooks to paintings, panoramas, and photographs. We consider the representation of railroads, National Parks, ghost towns, and highways; terms such as distance, aridity, seriality, mythology, and the frontier; artists' engagement with ecological questions; the construction of whiteness in and through the landscape; and sites of indigenous resistance.

LITR 345/HUMS 228/EVST 228/HIST 459J

Climate Change and the Humanities

Katja Lindskog

MW 11:35am-12:50pm

What can the Humanities tell us about climate change? The Humanities help us to better understand the relationship between everyday individual experience, and our rapidly changing natural world. To that end, students read literary, political, historical, and religious texts to better understand how individuals both depend on, and struggle against, the natural environment in order to survive.

PHIL 436/PLSC 329

Democracy, Science, and Climate Justice

Helene Landemore-Jelaca

Time TBA

Why is democracy, the most common regime form around the world, so slow in handling

the vital threat of climate change? What role do scientists play and should play in a democracy? How should we approach the question of climate and environmental justice both at the local level, where climate change and pollution have a differential impact on different socio-economic and racialized communities, and at the global level, where the countries and people most affected by climate change have the least say and the biggest culprits few incentives to change their ways? This course aims to explore the intersection of democratic theory, science, and climate and environmental justice from the perspective of an empirically-informed political philosophy.

PLSC 212/EVST 212/EP&E 390

Democracy and Sustainability

Michael Fotos

Th 9:25am-11:15am

Democracy, liberty, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Concepts include institutional analysis, democratic consent, property rights, market failure, and common pool resources. Topics of policy substance are related to human use of the environment and to U.S. and global political institutions.

PSYC 775

Research Topics in Animal Cognition

Laurie Santos

F 9am-11am

Investigation of various topics in animal cognition, including what nonhuman primates know about tools and foods; how nonhuman primates represent objects and number; whether nonhuman primates possess a theory of mind.

URBN 353/ARCH 353

Urban Lab: Urban Field Geography

Elihu Rubin

W 1:30pm-4:40pm

A methods seminar in urban field geography. Traveling on foot, students engage in on-site study of architecture, urban planning and design, cultural landscapes, and spatial patterns in the city. Learn how to "read" the urban landscape, the intersection of forces that have produced the built environment over time.

ENGL 114

Writing Seminars

Instruction in writing well-reasoned analyses and academic arguments, with emphasis on the importance of reading, research, and revision. Using examples of nonfiction prose from a variety of academic disciplines, individual sections focus on topics such as the city, childhood, globalization, inequality, food culture, sports, and war.

Into the #Wild

Tess Grogan | MW 1pm-2:15pm

Environmental Memory

Anna Hill | TTh 1pm-2:15pm

Decay

Margaret Jones | MW 2:30pm-3:45pm

Black and Indigenous Ecologies

Rasheed Tazudeen | MW 2:30pm-3:45pm

For a full list of ENG 114 courses, see <https://courses.yale.edu/?keyword=engl%20114&srcdb=202103>