

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
& ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
University of Regina, Fall 2019

GEOG 396AI/ IS 390AF : Geographies of Mining and Extraction

Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30 pm to 3:45; CL 305

Instructor: Emily Eaton – emily.eaton@uregina.ca

Office hours: by appointment

Course Description:

Examination of environmental, social, political, and economic aspects of mining and resource extraction in particular sites and transnational spaces. Issues considered include: How does extraction shape local communities and environments? How have Indigenous claims and resistance influenced corporate strategies and vice versa? Is resource wealth a blessing or a curse?

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Summarize the main impacts associated with mining and extraction both locally and globally
- Explain the roles of governments and corporations in the development and regulation of mining of extraction
- Evaluate solutions to the problems of mining and extraction
- Understand how and why Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities have resisted mining and extraction projects
- Make arguments based on supporting evidence

Required Readings:

A selection of readings are available on-line through the Archer Library. The full bibliographic entry for each reading is available on UR Courses. Readings not available electronically through the library are posted as PDFs on UR Courses.

Assignments and evaluation:

Assignment one (Oct 24).....	30 %
Class presentation (week of Oct 22)	10 %
Class participation.....	20 %
Take home final exam	40 %

Class Participation:

For at least half of the class on Thursdays the course will be run as a seminar where students will discuss and analyse the selection of readings for that week. I have kept the reading load light in order for all students to be able to keep up with it on a weekly basis. Your participation (in both the classroom and on UR Courses) will be graded and reflected in your final mark (see the rubric on UR Courses).

Assignments:

Assignment guidelines will be available on UR Courses. Students will investigate a real-life mining conflict and apply course concepts and course readings to highlight the nature of the conflict, the local and global impacts of the extractive project and the potential solutions to the conflict. In addition to course readings, students will be expected to incorporate relevant scholarly articles into their analyses.

Policies:

Please read the attached announcements from the Faculty of Arts for information about academic misconduct (plagiarism), accessibility accommodations, help with writing, and other student supports. In addition to the attached policies please abide by the following:

1. Students are expected to access required information (including assignment details and lecture notes) and keep up-to-date with this course through **UR Courses**. You are responsible for making sure you are receiving course notifications, which will go to your **UofR email address**. Please check it regularly.
2. Please send all course-related written communication through UR Courses, not email.
3. Students are expected to **read the required weekly readings before class and to come prepared to discuss the readings every Thursday**.
4. Students are expected to participate in a respectful manner in class discussions and small groups and work with me to create a welcoming environment that is respectful of all forms of diversity.
5. **Late penalties** of 5% of the assignment's value per day (including weekends) will be applied to all written work unless an alternate due date has been negotiated in advance with your instructor.
6. Students should arrange appointments with me to have their course-related questions answered fully. I do not answer emails on the weekends, and students can expect to wait 2 days for replies to their emails.
7. All breast-fed children are welcome in class as often as necessary. Bringing children to class in order to cover gaps in care is sometimes necessary and completely acceptable.

Course Schedule

Part One: The problems

Sept 5	A geographical approach to mining and extraction	None
Sept 10 + 12	Colonization: breaking reciprocal relationships to land and each other	Holzmann, 1988 Simpson, 2017
Sept 17 + 19	The colonial and neo-colonial present	Hall, 2013
Sept 24 + 26	The impacts of mining and extraction	O'Rourke and Connelly, 2003
Oct 1 + 3	Captured states and the paradox of plenty	Karl, 1999
Oct 8 + 10	The corporate power of extractive industries	Kirsch, 2014 (chap 5)
Oct 15 + 17	The gendered and racialized geographies of extractive work and communities	O'Shaughnessy and Dogu, 2016

Part Two: The solutions

Oct 22 + 24	Class presentations of mining conflicts + Assign one due	None
Oct 29 + 31	Fossil fuel phase out	Briarpatch 48.3: 3-25
Nov 5	Just transition	Briarpatch 48.3: 27-50
Nov 12 + 14	Corporate accountability at home and abroad	Garvey and Newell, 2005
Nov 19 + 21	Ethical minerals and oil	Fisher, 2018
Nov 26 + 28	Degrowth and decolonization	Awasis, 2014 Pineault, 2019
Dec 3+ 5	Wrap up and Review	None