

# ENVIRONMENT + POWER

## Graduate Seminar Geography and Environmental Systems

### GES 700 with Prof Dawn Biehler

Spring 2022 — Mondays 2-5:30PM

This seminar course will engage graduate students in readings and discussions about the ways humans and ecosystems have been enrolled in systems of oppression and exploitation, and how social-ecological relationships might be reimagined, transformed, or restored for justice. We will examine theories about how power operates in and through environments within hierarchical systems of capitalism, state violence, colonialism, white supremacy, and patriarchy. Each week we will also explore the possibilities for challenging such systems through actually-existing examples of community environmental knowledge, creative transformation, and versions of what Julian Agyeman has called “just sustainabilities.” Readings will draw from fields including political ecology, environmental history, and critical human and physical geography, and related disciplines, emphasizing Black, queer, Indigenous, and intersectional feminist lenses on ecology. Student assignments include weekly reading journals; discussion-leader responsibilities; and a term project that investigates a community or movement engaged in just transformation of relationships among humans and ecosystems.

Graduate students from other USM schools welcome.

Advanced undergraduates may enroll with permission of instructor.

Questions? [dbiehler@umbc.edu](mailto:dbiehler@umbc.edu)

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