

GEOG3551: Political Ecology Perspectives on Just Transitions

**Exchange possibility at
Department of Politics and
Government,
Universitas Gadjah Mada,
Indonesia**



Introduction

The Department of Geography and Social Anthropology offers graduate students from human and political geography backgrounds at NTNU the opportunity to participate in a joint course taught in collaboration with the Department of Politics and Government (DPG) at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Over four weeks, students will attend lectures at UGM and travel to resource-rich locations across Indonesia to explore the interrelations between environmental change and social, political, and economic factors—particularly how socio-environmental processes affect resource control, access, and use, and vice versa.

The course provides opportunities for students to engage with green transitions through research, field trips, and dialogues with governments, industries, communities, and fellow students. Participants will gain hands-on research and practical experience working with natural resource issues and stakeholders in the Global South.

Students participating in the course will get field trip expenses, accommodation, and meals covered by the EnJuST project, in addition to accommodation and travel support from Lånekassen.

About the Department

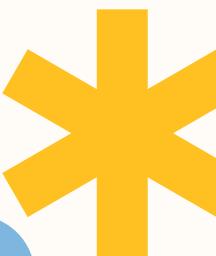
The Department of Politics and Government (DPG) is an academic institution under the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Universitas Gadjah Mada. In addition to offering undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs, the Department conducts research, community engagement, and advocacy on political and governance issues through the Research Center for Politics and Government (PolGov) and collaborative academic projects with global partners. The Department is located in Sleman District, in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

About PolGov

Established in 2009, the Research Center for Politics and Government (PolGov) operates under the Department of Politics and Government (DPP) within the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (FISIPOL), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM). PolGov has extensive experience in conducting research, community engagement, and advocacy on a wide range of political and governance issues.



Joint course activities



1

Seminar and lectures

The Political Ecology Course in DPG uses a "block system", meaning the course runs in a concentrated schedule where students finish one course at a time within several weeks, instead of juggling multiple courses at the same time. This course will run in four weeks with each week consisting of independent studies and mandatory lectures.

2

Field trips to resource-rich regions in Indonesia

Students will spend 4 days doing field-trips. The trip will be divided into two parts. The first part will be a visit to geothermal and wind turbine sites in Central Java, to observe the impacts of green energy transition on local livelihoods. The second trip will visit the hydropower facilities in Yogyakarta to examine citizen-led electricity plants and energy distribution.

3

Group work reports

Students will be divided into groups of 4 to work on an academic report using experiences in the field trip and theoretical framework gained throughout the course. The assignment is compulsory and approved prior to taking the exam.

4

Academic Roundtable Discussion

Students are expected to present findings or substance from their research tasks during the field trip in an internal academic roundtable discussion organized by the course, with other students from the course present as participants who will provide inputs.



Course - Political Ecology Perspectives
on Just Transitions - GEOG3551

Course Coordinators and Lecturers



Nanang Indra Kurniawan

Nanang is a lecturer at the Department of Politics and Government, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, UGM. His research interests include Civil Society, Environmental Politics, Natural Resource Politics, and Politics of Technology. He is the course coordinator of the UGM course Political Ecology, which is taught in collaboration with GEOG3551.



Henrik Brynthe Lund

Henrik is an Associate Professor at the Department of Geography and Social Anthropology, NTNU. His research interests focus on regional development and transition, with an emphasis on the roles of public and private actors in development and transition processes.



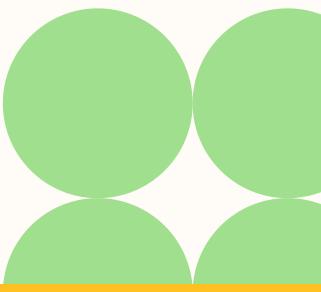
Primi Suharmadi Putri

Primi is a lecturer at Department of Politics and Government, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, UGM. Her interests include natural resource governance, local politics, transparency and disclosure of information, and environmental, development and sustainability issues.



Hilde Nymoen Rørtveit

Hilde is an Associate Professor Department of Geography and Social Anthropology, NTNU, and the course coordinator of GEOG3551. Her research engages with the intersections between policy, planning and people's everyday productions and mobilisations of landscapes with a particular focus on sustainable transitions and citizen participation.



Syllabus

Themes	Topics and Questions	Room/ Date	Method Learning	Materials
Introduction: Understanding human and nature relations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the relations between 'politics and ecology'? • How is the ecology political? • Grand transitions: demographic transition, energy development, food production. • Environmental impacts 	Week 1	Lecture	Leonard (2009), Smil (2021)
Core concepts and key debates in political ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is political ecology? What are key main approaches in Political Ecology? • Power structure in decision making and distribution of risks and benefits, winners and losers • Marginalization, access and control to resources. • The role of knowledge and discourse 	Week 1	Independent Study	Bryant (1998), Robbins (2012) Ch 1.
		Week 1	Lecture and Discussion	
Fieldtrip Environmental knowledge, discourse, and power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Dieng Geothermal and Yogyakarta Hydropower facilities (approximately 4 working days) 	Week 2	Interview with local stakeholder, group essay, independent study	Escobar (1996), Nygren 1998
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do environmental narratives and knowledge systems shape resource governance and struggles over resources? 	Week 2	Lecture and Discussion	
Fieldtrip Economic system and commodification of nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does capitalism transform nature? • Commodification of nature: from use value to exchange value • Enclosure: privatization of commons, forced dispossession, destruction of subsistence economies. 	Week 2	Interview with local stakeholder, group essay, independent study	
		Week 2	Lecture and Discussion	

Syllabus



Themes	Topics and Questions	Room/ Date	Method Learning	Materials
Environmental identities and unequal access to resources: gender and indigeneity dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do environmental identities influence access to and control over natural resources in unequal power structures? 	Week 3	Independent Study	Elmhirst (2015), Rye and Kurniawan (2017); Hale (2005)
	Week 3	Lecture and Discussion		
Spatiality and Temporality Environmental justice: conflicts, struggle, and sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do socio-political and ecological changes shape, and are shaped by the organization, use, and meaning of space? • How does time shape and is shaped by political processes, power relations, and human-environment relations? 	Week 4	Independent Study	Kurniawan and Rye (2024); Rasmussen and Lund (2018); Fent and Kojola (2020)
	Week 4	Lecture and Discussion	Haarstad, Grandin, Kjærå, Johnson (2023, Chapter 1); Svarstad and Benjaminsen (2020)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does unequal access to and control over resources manifest in everyday struggles? • How can the principles of political ecology inform solutions to environmental conflicts and promote environmental justice? 	Week 4	Lecture and Discussion	For enrichment: Rangan and Kull (2009), Neumann (2009)
<p>Deadline for report/research draft from the field trip submission: Date [TBA]</p>				
Final Exam		TBA	Written	



Requirements

General Requirement

- Graduate student at Department of Geography and Social Anthropology;
- Be interested in just, sustainable transitions and natural resource governance issues;
- Be fully available for the four-weeks course in Indonesia

Specific Conditions

Admission to a programme of study is required:

- Geography (MGEOG)
- Globalisation and Sustainable Development (MSGLOPOL)
- Innovation, Society and Sustainable Development (MENTRESAM)

Required documents

- Curriculum vitae
- Motivational Letter for the EnJuST project; explaining your interest in the subject the course is focusing on

Application with documents should be sent in .pdf format to:

citres.fisipol@ugm.ac.id, with cc to

Associate Professor Hilde Nymoen Rørtveit
hilde.nymoen.rortveit@ntnu.no,

Associate Professor Henrik Brynthe Lund
henrik.b.lund@ntnu.no and

Dr. Primi Suharmadi Putri primiputri@ugm.ac.id

Important timeline

Activity	Date
Application deadline	Sep 1, 2025
Shortlisted notification	Sep 2, 2025
Online interview period	3 - 5 September 2025
Result	Sep 8, 2025
Application deadline to Lånekassen	Sep 12, 2025

Visa Application

Students will apply for a visa on arrival through the [eVisa website](#) for a 30-day stay.

Funding

Students will apply for funding to Lånekassen for travel and accommodation. All costs for the field trip in Indonesia will be covered. Accommodations will be at one of UGM house units and booked by the EnJuST project.

Engaging with Just and Sustainable Energy Transition

EnJuST

Contact

Hilde Nymoen Rørtveit (hilde.nymoen.rortveit@ntnu.no)

Primi Suharmadhi Putri (primiputri@ugm.ac.id)

Tane Andrea Hadiyantono (citres.fisipol@ugm.ac.id; cc to
taneandrehadiyantono@mail.ugm.ac.id)