

GY328 Political Ecology of Development Assessments Political Ecology Field Guides

Students in GY328 will be using the analytical tools developed throughout the course to create Political Ecology Field Guides. The goal of this assessment is to bring the analytical lens of political ecology to bear on investigating a geographic space of the students' choosing. Specifically, students will identify different sites in their chosen space that illuminate power dynamics in different ways, and how these power dynamics shape ecologies.

An excellent example of a Political Ecology Field Guide can be found here: <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/a-field-guide-to-oil-in-santa-barbara/index>. You will also find another example from New York City on the course Moodle page.

On October 21st from 12-1pm. Dr Gökçe Günel of Rice University, a speaker visiting for the Social Life of Climate Change seminar series, will be in the Department to discuss with GY328 students her own version of a political ecology field guide of the United Arab Emirates. This meeting is on your Timetable but it is not mandatory. You will be asked to sign up to attend in advance.

This Assessment requires group work and will be assessed both individually (summative) and collectively (formative). You will have the opportunity to identify your own groups for this project, and if you do not do so then you will be assigned to one. If you have formed your own group, enter this information through the form on Moodle by **18 October at 12:00 noon**. If you have not done so by then, you will be assigned a group after this.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT (due 11 November)

Working in groups of approximately 4-5, select a space to be the focus of your Field Guide. You are free to select any scale that you find analytically useful: a city (or neighborhood), country, continent, etc. Select sites collectively for this Field Guide that illuminate power and politics in that space, either historically or in the present. Each member of the group should take two sites and write summaries of them (approximately 200-300 words).

We suggest that you use Google My Maps (<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/d/u/0/>) to create your map because it is relatively easy to use and share. If you have the skills to make maps using other tools, you are certainly welcome to do so.

When submitting the Formative Assessment, you will submit a link to your shared Field Guide map along with a word document including the text of the Field Guide entries that you authored.

Identifying these sites will require research into the geographies that are the focus of your Field Guide, though you are also welcome to select sites with which you are already familiar. As a group, you will submit a Bibliography of resources you consulted to create your Field Guide. This may include reference to academic literature, but that is not necessary – websites or other popular sources are perfectly acceptable for the Formative Assessment.

You will receive feedback on this formative assessment as a group.

After receiving feedback, each group member will add two more sites with entries to the Field Guide (again approximately 200-300 words).

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT (due 17 December)

For the summative assessment, students will subsequently individually write a reflective essay on the Field Guide that your group created through the formative assessment. In this essay, you will use key themes from the course to examine how power and politics shape the ecology of the space your group has explored. You will be expected to engage deeply with academic literature from the course (and beyond the course, if you choose, though this is not necessary) to develop your analysis in this essay.

The summative assessment will also include a self-evaluation in which you will be asked to reflect on your own work in the course, and to describe how this work was informed by the feedback your group received on the Formative Assessment. This self-evaluation will inform the marker's evaluation of your work.