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COURSE PROPOSAL: GEOGRAPHIES OF WASTE

Description:

What counts as waste? Who benefits from its production and management? Where does it go, and how does it get there? How do waste economies change environments, communities, cultures, and the nature of people's work? What informal practices and forms of life emerge in the shadow of waste's movements? What happens to sites of waste management and disposal when they are decommissioned? What happens to waste that gets away?

With a critical approach to the systems, logics, and legacies of disposability, we explore "the role of waste and wasting as a technique of power" (Liboiron and Lepawsky) specifically as a mode of spatial production, in the United States and the extranational spaces of its waste entanglements. Our studies will encompass sites of containment, sites of extraction, routes of transit, and routes of drift.

Topics include environmental planning and policy; environmental justice, infrastructure, landscape, colonialism, contamination, cultural geography, and cultural history.

Sample Reading List:

Marco Armiero, "The Case for the Wasteocene," *Environmental History* 26, no. 3 (2021): 425–30.

Alan Berger, *Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America*, 1st edition (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2007).

Lily Baum Pollans, *Resisting Garbage: The Politics of Waste Management in American Cities* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2022).

Heather M. Davis, *Plastic Matter*, Elements (Durham: Duke University Press, 2022).

Max Liboiron, *Pollution Is Colonialism*, 2021.

Max Liboiron and Josh Lepawsky, *Discard Studies: Wasting, Systems, and Power*, 2022.

Peter C. Little, *Burning Matters: Life, Labor, and e-Waste Pyropolitics in Ghana*, 2022.

Martin V. Melosi, *The Sanitary City: Environmental Services in Urban America from Colonial Times to the Present*, 2008.

Susan Strasser, *Waste and Want: A Social History of Trash*, 1999.

Reading/Writing Assignments:

One-page weekly writing responses; Midterm Paper and Final Paper.