

UFSC – Graduate Seminar Course – Intensive
International Law and Governance: Humans, Nature, and Neo-colonialism
Prof. Kathryn Gwiazdon

MWF, 25 April 2022-06 May 2022

1st class 2022 – Orientation; and, introduction to neo-colonialism in international law and governance (neo-colonialism, justice, and the rule of law, roots of justice, information, access, accountability)

2nd class 2022 – neo-colonialism in global governance (power, state responsibility, negotiations, treaty-making)

3rd class April 2022 – neo-colonialism and national and global security (war, peace, conflict, attacks on democracy)

4th class 2022 – neo-colonialism and international economic law, trade, and development (international business transactions, public and private accountability, consumption/production)

5th class May 2022 – neo-colonialism and human rights (environmental defenders, harms to women/vulnerable, eco-feminism, COVID)

6th class May 2022 – neo-colonialism and climate change (refugees, costs, trophy hunting, biodiversity loss)

This course will offer an introduction to neo-colonialism in international law and global governance and its particular harms to humans and nature, through its destruction of humans and nature. To set a proper context, we will first explore the history and evolution of neo-colonialism and discuss its impacts on democracy, the rule of law, and justice. We will then look at its influence on global governance – as seen through global institutions, negotiations, and treaty-making. We will then narrow our focus to particular areas of concern, yet all inter-related: (1) national and global security; (2) international economic law, trade, and development; (3) human rights; and (4) climate change.

At the conclusion of this seminar, students will be able to define neocolonialism and understand its history, evolution, methodology, principles, purposes, and actors; identify its harms in different aspects of international law and governance; think critically about local, state, and global responses to its systemic harms; and offer possible solutions forward.

Final grade: 5000-word paper