

26:790:538 Global Environmental Issues

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Tuesdays 2 pm – 4.40 pm in Hill Hall 216

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11.30 am – 1pm or by arrangement

This is a graduate course focused on the global environmental "problematique" and the ways in which it is being played out in a variety of political and policy arenas. Apart from introducing the student to the concepts and literature in global environmental politics, the course is intended to provide students with insights into the political structure and context of transnational environmental issues; the ways in which individuals are implicated in these issues; the intergovernmental mechanisms established for addressing environmental problems; the treatment of environmental problems that occur in many different places but are not necessarily linked; transnational environmental activity, including that through social movements, non-governmental organizations, and corporate actors. We will approach these matters through a focus on four general aspects of the environmental problematique: Environmental governance; civil society and transnational actors; critical debates on justice, development and economic issues; and environmental security.

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate broad familiarity with and understanding of core concepts and debates in the literature on global environmental politics
- Demonstrate knowledge of the global governmental processes and mechanisms through which environmental questions are addressed
- Demonstrate understanding of the roles of and relationships between various governmental and non-governmental actors implicated in global environmental politics
- Analyze environmental problems in relation to debates on justice, development, economy and environmental security

Skills that will be practiced and developed

- Mapping the broad structure and content of an area of academic literature and debate
- Critical engagement with texts of various kinds pertaining to the global environment, including academic literature, policy documents, NGO reports
- Participation in small and large group discussion
- Oral presentation skills
- Student-led research within the framework of the course and designated reading list
- Academic writing skills

Assignments

In addition to attendance and active participation in class exercises (20% of grade: 10 % on the presentation, 10% active engagement with subject matter in the classroom), students must read the assigned texts and articles. There are several written requirements:

- **Mid-term paper** (40%): due March 2, 2018 (via Blackboard)
- **Final paper** (40%): due May 1, 2018 (via Blackboard)

Both papers have a length of 3,000 words and a list of essay questions will be released two weeks before the respective due date.

Fair warning and integrity policy

I reschedule exams and extend deadlines only if you provide documentation of extenuating circumstances and if you notify me in advance. I will prosecute to the fullest any breach of the University's integrity policy or any act of plagiarism by reporting it to the appropriate authority. Plagiarism is defined by the university as "the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the passing off of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism".

There will be no textbook and we will rely on journal articles and Blackboard uploads in the interest of your finances and to expose you to a variety of views and concepts.

Classes

Meeting one: Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Introductory meeting: discussion of course aims and content, assignment of presentation activities, essay titles etc.

Meeting two: January 23, 2018

Environmental literature in global context – from the origins of social environmental thought to the history of global environmental politics

- Dimitris Stevis (2005), The trajectory of the study of international environmental politics (on Blackboard)
- Lipschutz,R (2005), Global environmental politics – power, perspectives, practice, chapter 1, CQ Press (on Blackboard).

- Jennifer Clapp & Peter Dauvergne (2005), *Paths to a green world*, chapter 1, MIT Press, (on Blackboard)

Presentations

Gro Harlem Brundtland, The Brundtland report

Meeting three: January 30, 2018

IR and the environment – international law and politics

- John Vogler, ‘International Relations and the environment’ in: G Kütting (ed), *Global Environmental Politics – concepts, theories and case studies*, Routledge, 2018 (on Blackboard),
- Oran Young, ‘Inferences and indices, evaluating the effectiveness of international environmental agreements’, *Global Environmental Politics*, 2001, 1, 1, pp 99-121.
- Ron Mitchell, chapter 5 (on Blackboard)

Presentations

The Climate Change regime

Meeting four: February 6, 2018

Environmental governance and regimes – part 2

- Biermann, Frank, and Philipp Pattberg. 2008. Global environmental governance. Taking stock, moving forward. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 33, 277–294.
- Trudeau, Helène, Isabelle Duplessis, Suzanne Lalonde, Thijs Van de Graaf, Ferdi deVille, Kate O’Neill, Charles Roger, Peter Dauvergne, Jean-Frederic Morin, Sebastian Oberthuer, Amdandine Orsini, Frank Biermann, Hiroshi Ohta and Atsushi Ishii (2013), “Insight from Global Environmental Governance—Forum,” *International Studies Review*, 15 (4), pp. 562-589
- Pattberg, P. And O. Widerberg, 2015, ‘Theorising Global Environmental Governance: Key findings and Future Questions’, *Millennium*, 43 (3), pp. 484-705.
- Case study (on Blackboard)

Presentations

The biodiversity regime

Meeting five: February 13, 2018

Environmental institutions and governance – critical perspectives

- M. Paterson, 'Radicalizing regimes? Ecology and the critique of IR theory' in: *Boundaries in question* J. Macmillan & A. Linklater eds), Pinter Publishers, 1995 (on Blackboard).
- R. Lipschutz, Global environmental politics – power, perspectives, practice, chapter 5, CQ Press (on Blackboard).
- Gabriela Kütting, 2001: "Back to the future: Time, IR and the environment", *Global Society*, Vol. 15 (4), 345-360 (on Blackboard).

Presentations

David Humphreys, Logjam

Meeting six: February 20, 2018

Environmental governance – the role and rise of global social movements and global civil society

- Lucy Ford (2018), Global civil society and non-state actors (on Blackboard)
- Paul Wapner, Politics Beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics, *World Politics*, 47:3, 1995.
- Holmes, George (2011). "Conservation's Friends in High Places: Neoliberalism, Networks and the Transnational Conservation Elite". *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol 11, no 3, pp 1-21.

Presentations

Keck & Sikkink, Activists beyond borders

Meeting seven: February 27, 2018

Mid-term paper – no class and one-on-one meetings in my office instead.

Meeting eight: March 6, 2018

Environmental governance- economy versus environment

- Thomas Hickmann and Markus Lederer (2018), Global political economy and development (on Blackboard)
- Katherine Goodwin, 'Reconstructing automobility', *Global Environmental Politics*, 2010, 10, 4.
- Andonova, Lilian (2010). "Public-private Partnerships for the Earth: Politics and Patterns of Hybrid Authority in the Multilateral System". *Global Environmental Politics*, vol 10, no 2, pp 25-53.

Presentations

Peter Newell, Climate capitalism

Spring Break

Meeting nine: March 20, 2018

Consumption

- Maniates, M (2001): Individualization: plant a tree, buy a bike, save the world. *Global Environmental Politics* 1(3), 31-52.
- Doris Fuchs & Frederike Boll, 'Sustainable consumption', in: G Kütting (ed), *Global Environmental Politics – concepts, theories and case studies*, Routledge, 2018 (on Blackboard),
- Gabriela Kütting, 2013: 'Modern lifestyle: consumption and materialism', in Paul Harris (ed), *Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics*, Routledge (on Blackboard).

Presentations

Tim Jackson, Prosperity without growth

Meeting 10: March 27, 2018

Democracy and the environment

Guest lecture by Professor Frank Fischer

- John S. Dryzek and Hayley Stevenson. 2011. '[Global Democracy and Earth System Governance](#)'. *Ecological Economics* 70: 1865–1874.
- Book excerpt by Professor Fischer to follow

Meeting 11: April 3, 2018
Development

- Pratap Chatterjee & Matthias Finger, The Earth Brokers (on Blackboard)
- Pamela Martin, 'Global governance from the Amazon', *Global Environmental Politics*, 11,4, 2011.
- Vandana Shiva:
<http://pi.library.yorku.ca/ojs/index.php/cws/article/viewFile/8884/8061>

Presentations:
The Neem tree study

Meeting 12: April 10, 2018
Environmental security

- Val Percival & Thomas Homer Dixon, Environmental Degradation as a Source of Conflict: The Case of South Africa, in: P. Diehl & P. Gleditsch eds., *Environmental conflict* (2001), on Blackboard.
- Nils Petter Gleditsch, Environmental Conflict: A Future Research Agenda, in: P. Diehl & P. Gleditsch eds., *Environmental conflict* (2001), on Blackboard.
- Hannah Hughes, Environmental Security, in Gabriela Kütting ed. *Global Environmental Politics: Concepts, Theories and Case Studies*. Abingdon: Routledge (on Blackboard)

Presentations
Research one of the case studies of Homer Dixon

Meeting 13: April 17, 2018
Ecological security

- Simon Dalby, Ecological politics, violence and the theme of empire, *Global Environmental Politics*, 4:2, 2004.
- Nancy Peluso & Michael Watts (2001) (eds), *Violent environments*, Cornell University Press, New York, chapters 1+2 (on Blackboard)
- Shane Mulligan, 'Energy, environment and security', *Global Environmental Politics*, 2010, 10, 4.

Presentations
Any case study chapter from Peluso & Watts

Meeting 14: April 24, 2018
Ecological justice

- Bradley Parks & J. Timmons Roberts, Environment and ecological justice (Blackboard)
- David Schlosberg & David Carruthers, 'Indigenous struggles, environmental justice and community capabilities', *Global Environmental Politics*, 2010, 10, 4.
- Ehresman, Timothy and Dimitris Stevis (2018). International Environmental and Ecological Justice, in Gabriela Kütting ed. *Global Environmental Politics: Concepts, Theories and Case Studies*. Abingdon: Routledge (on Blackboard)

Presentations

R. Bullard, Dumping in Dixie