26:790:538 Global Environmental Issues

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Tuesdays 10.00 am – 12.40 pm
Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 11.30-12.30 or by arrangement

Focus: 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
- Environmental security

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 9, 2015 (via Blackboard)
- **Final paper** (40%): There will be a final paper covering the second half of the course.

Fair warning: 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 20, 2015
Introductory meeting: discussion of course aims and content, assignment of presentation activities, essay titles etc.

Meeting two: January 27, 2015
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: February, 3, 2015
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, 2010 (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 10, 2015
Environmental governance and regimes – part 2
J. Wettestad, The effectiveness of environmental policies (in Betsill et al)

Presentations
The biodiversity regime

Meeting five: February 17, 2015
Environmental institutions and governance – critical perspectives

R. Lipschutz, Global environmental politics – power, perspectives, practice, chapter 5, CQ Press (on Blackboard).

Presentations
David Humphreys, Logjam

Meeting six: February 24, 2015
Environmental governance – the role and rise of global social movements and global civil society

Presentations
Keck & Sikkink, Activists beyond borders

Meeting seven: March 3, 2015
Mid-term paper – no class and one-on-one meetings in my office instead.

Meeting eight: March 10, 2015
Environmental governance- economy versus environment

Jennifer Clapp, International Political Economy and the environment (on Blackboard)

Presentations
Peter Newell, Climate capitalism

Spring Break

Meeting nine: March 24, 2015
Consumption


Presentations
Tim Jackson, Prosperity without growth
Meeting ten: March 31, 2015
Development

Pratap Chatterjee & Matthias Finger, The Earth Brokers (on Blackboard)

Presentations:
The Neem tree study

Meeting eleven, April 7, 2015
Environmental security


Presentations
Research one of the case studies of Homer Dixon

Meeting twelve, April 14, 2015
Ecological security

Simon Dalby, Ecological politics, violence and the theme of empire, Global Environmental Politics, 4:2, 2004.

Presentations
Any case study chapter from Peluso & Watts
Meeting thirteen, April 21, 2015
Ecological justice

Bradley Parks & J. Timmons Roberts, Environment and ecological justice (Blackboard)

Presentations
R. Bullard, Dumping in Dixie

Meeting fourteen, April 28, 2015
Discussion of your final paper – one-on-one meetings