26:790:538 Global Environmental Issues

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Thursdays 2.00 – 4.40 pm
Office Hours: 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 October 30th, 2013 (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: Thursday, September 5, 2013
Introductory meeting: discussion of course aims and content, assignment of presentation activities, essay titles etc.

Meeting two: September 12, 2013
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

E. Ostrom, Governing the Commons

Meeting three: September 19, 2013
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.

Presentations
The Climate Change regime

Meeting four: September 26, 2013
Environmental governance and regimes – part 2

Presentations
The biodiversity regime

**Meeting five:** October 3, 2013
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:** October 10, 2013
Environmental governance – the role and rise of global social movements and global civil society

Michele Betsill, Transnational actors in international environmental politics, (on Blackboard)
Paul Wapner, Politics Beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics, World Politics, 47:3, 1995.

Presentations
Keck & Sikkink, Activists beyond borders

**Meeting seven:** October 17, 2013
Environmental governance- economy versus environment

Jennifer Clapp, International Political Economy and the environment (on Blackboard)
Kate O’Neill, 2009, The environment and international relations, chapter 7, Cambridge University Press (on Blackboard)

Presentations
Peter Newell, Climate capitalism

**Meeting eight:** October 24, 2013

Mid-term paper – no class

**Meeting nine:** October 31, 2013

Consumption


Presentations
Tim Jackson, Prosperity without growth

**Meeting ten:** November 7, 2013

Development

Hans Bruyninckx, Sustainability and sustainable development (on Blackboard)

Presentations:
The Neem tree study

**Meeting eleven,** November 14, 2013

Environmental security

Presentations
Research one of the case studies of Homer Dixon

Meeting twelve, November 21, 2013
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, November 26, 2013
Ecological justice

Bradley Parks & J. Timmons Roberts, Environment and ecological justice (Blackboard)
Gabriela Kütting, The global political economy of environment and tourism, 2010, chapter 4 (on Blackboard)
David Schlosberg & David Carruthers, ‘Indigenous struggles, environmental justice and community capabilities’, Global Environmental Politics, 2010, 10, 4..

Presentations
R. Bullard, Dumping in Dixie

Meeting fourteen, December 5, 2013
Discussion of your final paper – one on one meetings