

POSC 268-00
Global Environmental Politics and Policy

Syllabus

Monday and Wednesday: 9:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Friday: 9:40 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

Winter 2011: January 4 – March 9, 2012

Willis Hall 211
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Course Goals

Global environmental politics and policy is perhaps the most prominent field that challenges traditional statecentric ways of thinking about international problems and solutions. Dominant theoretical lens and language of statecentric international relations theories alone cannot capture and explain the dynamic forces of global environmental politics. The uncontested intellectual faith on these theories and language centered on states is epistemological impasse to advancing our understanding of global environmental politics and policy making processes. Therefore, this course will employ both statecentric and non-statecentric approaches to unpack, analyze, and understand dynamics of global environmental politics and policy.

This course asks questions such as: (1) how do individuals and groups shape local-global dynamics of global environmental politics? (2) How can we understand how economic, legal, political, and social processes at multiple domains shape global environmental changes, including climate change? (3) How can we understand the challenges of global environmental politics and policy formulations to face the challenges of global environmental and social changes? These nonexclusive overarching questions serve as the framework of this course.

To encompass the framework of the course, this course covers five arenas crucial to understanding the nature and dynamics of global environmental issues and political processes: (1) global and international political orders; (2) international environmental law; (3) human-environment interactions through market and politics; (4) political and societal challenges of sustainability; and (5) dynamics of human values and rules.

In so doing, this course is designed to equip students to: (1) understand global environmental politics from both statecentric and non-statecentric views; (2) gain knowledge about international

environmental laws and to be able to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of legal approaches; (3) understand the fate of Kyoto Protocol and the future of climate change treaty; and (4) prepare for the challenges in the practice of global environmental governance and the theoretical underpinnings of these challenges. To achieve these goals, the course is organized with the following topics.

Course Outline

Week 1:	You and Global Environmental Politics
Week 2:	Globalization and the Environment
Week 3:	The Fate and Future of Climate Change Treaty
Week 4:	International Environmental Law
Week 5:	Local Dynamics of Global Environmental Changes
Week 6:	Democracy and the Environment
Week 7:	Multilayer Environmental Governance
Week 8:	Rethinking International Environmental Institutions
Week 9:	Commodity Chains and Environmental Changes
Week 10:	Conclusion

Assignments and Due Dates

January 22:	Essay on GEP is due (graded)
February 4:	Commodity Chain Nodes and Coordinates are due (graded)
February 12:	Policy Paper on the Future of Climate Change Treaty is due (Graded)
February 22:	Commodity Chain Maps are due (graded)
February 28:	Final Draft of Group Paper is due (graded)
March 5-9:	Group Presentations (graded)
March 12:	Final group paper is due (graded)

NOTE: Group members will provide evaluation of the performance and contribution of peers to the group work based on guidelines provided. This membership grade is 5% of total 30% group project grade. Thus, 25% is assigned to the group as a whole.

Course Assignments, Expectations, and Grade

There are five interconnected course assignments. These five components will be used to evaluate your performance in this course. The percentage for each assignment for your final grade is in parentheses. The descriptions of assignments are as follow:

- (1) Participation (15%):** Your participation in this course begins with reading assigned materials *before* the class. This course will be conducted mostly in interactive lecture style. There will also be group-led and group-based discussion sessions. What this means is that you will have many opportunities to participate during the class. There will also be group simulations. To be

an effective participant, I encourage you to read leading news websites regularly and seeking news about global environmental politics and policy. To be a good standing citizen of this course, you are required to:(1) have good attendance; (2) read assigned materials before the class; (3) have timely notification and communication with me when you have to be absent or if you need to request extension for personal reasons; (4) exercise self-respect and responsibility of a student for the success of learning mission of this course and the Carleton College as a whole; and (5) exercise your intellectual freedom in discussions and the assignments for the course.

(2) Personal Essay on Global Environmental Politics (20%): Each student is required to collect qualitative and quantitative data that illustrate her or his personal relationship to global environmental politics and the nature. The suggested data collection template that explains what to collect is provided on January 9. Students will collect this data for 2 consecutive days beginning on January 11. All items that are used by student during 24 hour period should be entered into data sheet. This data collection effort is worth 5% of total grade for this assignment. After collecting data, students will select three items. Students will analyze: (1) how three items illustrate their livelihoods; (2) how illustrated livelihoods connect to global environmental politics; and (3) how they are connected to nature via three items. Based on the analysis, each student will write a personal essay defining global environmental politics **between 6 and 8 double-spaced pages**. The assignment guidelines are distributed electronically. The essays are **due at 5:00p.m on January 22**. Send them to me by email at tmyint@carleton.edu

(3) Country Position Paper on the Future of Climate Change Treaty (25%): This is a policy paper for which students are required to assess the position of a selected country among top twenty five Green House Gases (GHG) emitting countries. Student will: (1) identify the policy of selected country on the Kyoto Protocol; (2) analyze the country's current standing and status in terms of ratification and implementation of Kyoto Protocol, (3) provide critical assessment of the country's policy on Kyoto Protocol leading to ongoing negotiations; and (4) analyze and project what the selected country's future position on post-Kyoto climate change treaty might be beginning with the position at the Copenhagen meeting held on December 7 – 18, 2009. This assignment is for students to analyze and understand how the selected country's issues, interests, and actors dominate the country's ongoing diplomatic efforts. Students will find Dessler and Parson's *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change: A Guide to the Debate* as a reference to write this paper. Danya Leebaw at the Gould Library has a resource guide for this course with particular attention to this assignment here: <http://gouldguides.carleton.edu/posc268> . Make a good use of this resource. The paper should be **between 8 and 10 pages**. This paper is **due at 5 p.m. on February 12**.

(4) Group Project Paper (30%): Based on the personal essays on definition of global environmental politics and data collected for the assignment No. 2, a group of four students will select an item and conduct analysis of commodity chain processes. I will establish groups on January 12. Each group will select one item or product that the group as a whole is interested in conducting research for term project. There are four components to the assignment. The **first**

step is to map out the *material processes* defined by history, geography, and the movements of these items from the state of nature to a finished product you bought from a store. Each group will first identify and describe each nodes of the commodity chain of the item from raw material extraction node to waste site of the item. Student will use google earth to locate coordinates with the help of GIS Lab to map out the commodity chain of the item. The **second** step is to discuss *political economic processes* that govern material processes identified in the previous step. The **third** step is to identify *political and legal institutions* that govern both the material processes and economic processes. Finally, the paper must provide analysis of: (1) how commodity chain analysis challenges the statecentric theories and approaches of international environmental politics; (2) what nodes within the chain has most complex networks of economic, political, and environmental consequences; and (3) what type of policy and institutional arrangements your group recommend to minimize negative environmental consequences. This group paper should be **between 20 and 25 double-spaced pages** excluding references, maps, pictures, and figures. The final draft of group paper is due on February 28. The **final paper is due on March 12**. More details with assignment guidelines for this group project will be distributed on January 12.

- (5) **Group Presentations (10%)**: Each group will present the research findings of the commodity chain of the group item. The groups are required to submit powerpoint slides before the day of presentation to me. Based on your group presentation and my reading of your final draft of the group paper, I will provide written comments on your final draft. Your presentation and my comments should prepare you to polish your final draft.

NOTE: All written assignments should be double-spaced with 12 point Times New Roman fonts and with page numbers inserted on one inch margin page layout.

Required Texts:

Andrew E. Dessler and Edward A. Parson, *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change: A guide to the debate*, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Alf Hornborg and Juan Martínez Alier, eds, *Rethinking Environmental History: World-System History and Global Environmental Change*, Altamira Press, 2007.

Ronnie D. Lipschutz, *Global Environmental Politics: Power, Perspectives, and Practice*, CQ Press, 2004.

Thomas Prugh, Robert Costanza, and Herman E. Daly, *The Local Politics of Global Sustainability*, Island Press, 2000.

IMPORTANT: This is a provisional syllabus and subject to change depending on the ebb and flow of the course and surrounding worlds.

Course Conducts

- a. **Attendance:** Attendance is required for this course. If you need to be absent from the class, it is your responsibility to notify me in advance. When you are absent, it is in your benefit to borrow notes from your classmate or ask your classmates to learn what you missed. If you wish, I will be available during office hours or by appointment at your request to meet with you and go over what you missed while you were absent.
- b. **Plagiarism:** There is zero tolerance for plagiarism. A summary of the College's policy on plagiarism states: "*At Carleton College, an act of academic dishonesty is therefore regarded as conflicting with the work and purpose of the entire College and not merely as a private matter between the student and an instructor; all cases involving such dishonesty are referred for appropriate action to the Academic Standing Committee (ASC) via the Associate Dean of Students or the Associate Dean of the College.*" For more information on Carleton's policy on academic honesty, please consult http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/dos/handbook/academic_regs/?policy_id=21359
- c. **Late assignments:** Assignments are due on the dates specified in this syllabus or in the assignment sheet. Late work **will receive one point reduction per late day.** If you are unable to complete an assignment on time due to illness or personal emergency, you can request an extension with the supporting documents such as a medical note from a doctor or the Wellness Center.
- d. **Special needs:** If you require special accommodation due to a documented physical or medically classified different learning capacity, please come see me as soon as possible during the first week of class or any time throughout the semester to discuss how I might best assist you in meeting the objectives and requirements of this course.

IMPORTANT: The key for you to be successful as a student and for me as a teacher in this course is timely and effective communication between you and me. In addition, Carleton offers numerous resources for you to excel in your learning. If you do not know them, do not be shy to ask. Make good use of resources on campus!

Schedule of Readings

WEEK 1: YOU AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

January 4: Introduction

This syllabus

January 6: Local-Global Dynamics

Ronnie D. Lipschutz, *Global Environmental Politics: Power, Perspectives, and Practice*, CQ Press, 2004.

Chapter 1: What are global environmental politics?, pp. 1-32.

Thomas Prugh, Robert Costanza, and Herman E. Daly, *The Local Politics of Global Sustainability*, Island Press, 2000.

Chapter 1: Introduction, pp. 1-12.

Alf Hornborg and Juan Martínez Alier, eds, *Rethinking Environmental History: World-System History and Global*, Altamira Press, 2007.

Introduction: Environmental History as Political Ecology, pp. 1-24.

WEEK 2: GLOBALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

January 9: Global Environmental Politics & You

Ronnie D. Lipschutz, *Global Environmental Politics: Power, Perspectives, and Practice*, CQ Press, 2004.

Chapter 2: Deconstructing “global environment”, pp. 33-85

Chapter 3: Capitalism, globalization, and the environment, pp. 87-131.

Alf Hornborg and Juan Martínez Alier, eds, *Rethinking Environmental History: World-System History and Global*, Altamira Press, 2007.

Chapter 9: Extractive Economy: An Early Phase of Globalization of Diet, and Its Environmental Consequences, pp. 179-197.

January 11: Consequences of Globalization on the Environment

Ronnie D. Lipschutz, *Global Environmental Politics: Power, Perspectives, and Practice*, CQ Press, 2004.

Chapter 4: Civic Politics and Social Power: Environmental Politics on the Ground, pp. 132-176.

Alf Hornborg and Juan Martínez Alier, eds, *Rethinking Environmental History: World-System History and Global*, Altamira Press, 2007.

Chapter 6: Silver, Ecology, and the Origins of the Modern World, 1450-1640, pp. 123-142.

January 13: What Do We Mean by “Global?”

Ronnie D. Lipschutz, *Global Environmental Politics: Power, Perspectives, and Practice*, CQ Press, 2004.

Chapter 5: The National Origins of International Environmental Policies and Practices: “My Country is *in* the World,” pp. 177-223.

Chapter 6: Global Environmental Politics and You: “The World Is My Country,” pp.224-244.

WEEK 3: THE FATE AND FUTURE OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE TREATY

January 16: Future of Global Climate Treaty

Andrew E. Dessler and Edward A. Parson, *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change: A guide to the debate*, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Chapter 1: Global climate change: a new type of environmental problem, p. 1-16

Chapter 5: Present impasse and steps forward

UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol Status of Ratification,

http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/status_of_ratification/items/2613.php

TUESDAY, January 17: MOVIE SCREENING: *An Inconvenient Truth*, at Gould Library room TBA at **7:00p.m.**

January 18: Science, Policy, and the State of Kyoto Protocol

Andrew E. Dessler and Edward A. Parson, *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change: A guide to the debate*, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Chapter 2: Science, politics, and science in politics, p. 18-45

Chapter 4: Climate-change policy debate: impacts and potential responses

UNFCCC, Text of Kyoto Protocol, see at

http://unfccc.int/essential_background/kyoto_protocol/background/items/1351.php

January 20: Library section for research

WEEK 4: INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

January 23: Sources of International Environmental Legal Orders

Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=97&ArticleID=1503>

Perrez, Franz Xaver, The relationship between "permanent sovereignty" and the obligation not to cause transboundary environmental damage.

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/The+relationship+between+%22permanent+sovereignty%22+and+the+obligation...-a019109151>

January 25: Theories of State's Environmental Rights

Dellapenna, Joseph W., "The customary international law of transboundary fresh waters," Int. J. Global Environmental Issues, vol 1(3/4) 2001.

Case Study: *The Rhine River Pollution and International Law* [see handouts],
<http://www.iksr.org>

January 27: Successes and Failures of International Environmental Law

Sand, Peter H., "International Cooperation: The Environmental Experience," in J. Tuchman Matthews (ed), *Preserving the Global Environment: The Challenge of Shared Leadership*, W.W. Norton, 1991, pp. 236-279.

Montreal Protocol and lessons, see handout.

WEEK 5: LOCAL DYNAMICS OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

January 30: "New Species" of International "Law"

Davidson, Stacy, "Guyana, Conservation International in unique forest deal" *Guyana Chronicle*, 2001.

<http://www.biodiversityreporting.org/article.sub?docId=356&c=Guyana&cRef=Guyana&year=2001>

Abelson, Reed, "THE BUSINESS WORLD; Preserving the Forest By Leasing the Trees," *The New York Times*, September 24, 2000.

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=990CE2DA1E3BF937A1575AC0A9669C8B63&sec=&spon=&pagewanted=print>

Case Study: *The Nam Theun 2 Dam*, <http://www.namtheun2.com>

February 1: Social Processes of Global Environmental Politics

Coase, Ronald, "The Problem of Social Cost," *Journal of Law and Economics*, Vol. 3 (Oct., 1960), pp. 1-44 Published by: The University of Chicago Press, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/724810>

Clark, Tim W., "The Policy Process: A Practical Guide for Natural Resources Professionals, 2002, Yale University Press.

Chapter 3: Social Processes: Mapping the context, pp. 32-55.

February 3: Policy Problems and Prescriptions

Hardin, Garrett, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*, 163: 1243-1248.

url: <http://www.sciencemag.org/sciext/sotp/pdfs/162-3859-1243.pdf>

[See also, for optional reading, Extensions of "The Tragedy of the Commons," by Hardin at <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/280/5364/682>]

Ostrom, Elinor, Joanna Burger, Christopher B Field, Richard B. Norgaard, and David Policansky, "Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges," *Science*, 284 (5412): 278-282, <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/284/5412/278.pdf>

February 4 – 7 MIDTERM BREAK

WEEK 6: DEMOCRACY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

February 8: Polycentric Governance: Local Politics and Global Sustainability

Thomas Prugh, Robert Costanza, and Herman E. Daly, *The Local Politics of Global Sustainability*, Island Press, 2000.

Chapter 2: Minimum Technical Requirement for Sustainability, pp. 15-39.

Chapter 3: Aiming for Genotopia, pp. 41-61.

Case Study: *Pak Mun Dam*, read:

http://www.searin.org/Th/PMD/Research/pmd_tb_research_final_en.pdf .

February 10: The Danger of Panaceas and Monocentric Thinking

Berkes, Fikret, Going Beyond Panaceas Special Feature: Community-based conservation in a globalized world, *PNAS*, 104: 15188-15193; published online before print September 19 2007.

url: <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/104/39/15188>

Alf Hornborg and Juan Martínez Alier, eds, *Rethinking Environmental History: World-System History and Global*, Altamira Press, 2007.

Chapter 19: Scale and Dependency in World Systems: Local Societies in Convergent Evolution by Joseph A. Tainter, pp. 361-378.

WEEK 7: RETHINKING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

February 13: Reform Agenda?

Adil Najam, Minhaela Papa, and Nadaa Taiyab, *Global Environmental Governance: A Reform Agenda*, IISD, 2006. Online at <http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2006/geg.pdf>

Chapter 3: Elements of Reform Agenda, pp. 71-90.

Your country study briefs.

February 15: Non-State Actors

Auer, Matthew R., "Who participates in global environmental governance? Partial answers from international relations theory," *Policy Sciences*, 33(2); 155-180, June 2000.

Charnovitz, Steve, "Two Centuries of Participation: NGOs and International Governance," *Michigan Journal of International Law*, 18: 183-286, 1997.

February 17: Linking Theory and Practices

Esty, Daniel C., "From Local to Global: The Changing Face of the Environmental Challenge," *SAIS Review*, vol XXVI (2), Summer-Fall, 2006.

WEEK 8: MULTILAYER ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

February 20: Does Democracy Promote Sustainability?

Thomas Prugh, Robert Costanza, and Herman E. Daly, *The Local Politics of Global Sustainability*, Island Press, 2000.

Chapter 4; Prelude to Politics, pp. 65-84.

Chapter 5: Engaging Politics, pp. 87-123.

February 22: Local-Global Dynamics

Berkes, Fikret, "Cross-Scale Institutional Linkages: Perspectives from the Bottom-Up," in *The Drama of the Commons*, The National Research Council, 2002.

Young, Oran, "The Problem of Scale in Human-Environment Relationship," in Robert O. Keohane and Elinor Ostrom, eds., *Local Commons and Global Interdependence: Heterogeneity and Cooperation in Two Domains*, pp. 27-45, Sage Publication, 1995.

Case Study: *International Water Tribunal in the Rhine* [No readings].

February 24: Democracy and Sustainability

Thomas Prugh, Robert Costanza, and Herman E. Daly, *The Local Politics of Global Sustainability*, Island Press, 2000.

Chapter 6: The Once and Future Democracy, pp. 129-154.

Chapter 7: Sustainability and Strong Democracy, pp. 159-165.

WEEK 9: COMMODITY CHAINS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

February 27: De We Need a Global Environmental Organization?

Bierman, Frank, "The Case for a World Environmental Organization," *Environment*, 42 (9), November 2000.

Najam, Adil, "The Case Against a New International Environmental Organization," *Global Governance*, 9, pp. 367-384, 2003.

February 29: Meetings with Groups and Preparing for Presentation

March 2: Group Presentations

WEEK 10: FINAL WEEK

March 5: Group presentations

March 7: Group presentations

March 9: Group presentations and Concluding Remarks

March 12: Final group paper is due by 5:00p.m

Appendix A

GEP Essay
POSC268 – Global Environmental Politics and Policy
Winter 2012
Carleton College
Northfield, MN

Name: _____
Subj: IEP Essay
Date: _____

The following is the rubric I use to evaluate your personal GEP essay.

Category	Comments
Identifying and stating personal definition of GEP.	
Organization, appropriate language and control of errors	
Application of the concepts from readings and class discussions in discussing personal definition	
Critical thinking & creativity with the definition and findings	
Use of concrete evidences (qualitative and quantitative) from self-study	
Quality of Data sheet	
TOTAL Points	