POLS 739 – INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS
Fall 2015
Updated 8/26/2015

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Office Hours: Mondays 2-4; by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
This seminar introduces students to international relations scholarship on global environmental politics. The course is designed to give students a broad overview of the field and to advance students’ own research interests in this area. The topics and readings have been organized to reflect some of the major issues and debates related to the political economy of global environmental change, global environmental change as a security issue, and global environmental governance. Each student will conduct a semester-long research project that explores additional topics and literatures or goes into greater depth on a particular topic. Students should expect to spend at least 6 hours outside of class completing readings and assignments. This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code.

Upon completion of this seminar, students will have a sophisticated understanding of the central issues and debates amongst IR scholars in the field of global environmental politics and will have advanced their own research agendas. Specifically, students will be able to:
• address questions of global environmental politics from different theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches;
• identify the key concepts and debates that comprise this field of academic inquiry; and
• research, analyze and write about global environmental change as a social scientist.

COURSE MATERIALS
I have ordered two books for the course, which should be available in the CSU Bookstore.
Michele M. Betsill, Kathryn Hochstetler and Dimitris Stevis, eds. 2014. Advances in International Environmental Politics, 2e. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. (Referred to as BHS in the reading list)
Ken Conca and Geoff Dabelko, eds. 2015. Green Planet Blues: Critical Perspectives on Global Environmental Politics. Boulder: Westview Press. (Referred to as C&D in the reading list)

Additional course readings will consist of journal articles and book chapters designed to give students a broad overview of this area of study. Readings will be available through CSU Libraries using either their journal databases or electronic reserve.

Students who do not have a background in international relations may wish to purchase the following books as useful references:
Earlier editions are ok.

TOPICS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>The study and practice of global environmental politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>Conceptualizing global environmental problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Exploring environmental issues through IR theories and methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>State and non-state actors in global environmental politics</td>
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Royalties earned will be contributed to the CSU Political Science scholarship fund.
Chic

For all writing assignments, students will be expected to use the “author-date” citation style as outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style. If you are unfamiliar with this style, you may wish to purchase the Style Manual for

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>Global environmental problem assignment due; student presentations; deadline for selecting research paper option</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Global economic interactions and the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Reorganizing the global economy for a more sustainable future</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/14</td>
<td>Global environmental justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>The environment and international security; research proposal or book review due</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>Human and ecological security</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Multilateral environmental governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Global environmental governance beyond multilateralism</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>Research week (individual meetings)</td>
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<td>11/26</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>Research presentations</td>
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<td>12/6</td>
<td>Draft papers due</td>
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<td>12/9</td>
<td>Peer reviews due</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>Final papers due</td>
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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

**Participation (20%)**: The class will meet for approximately 3 hours each week and follow a seminar format (no lectures). Regular attendance and participation will be integral to the success of the seminar. Students are expected to attend all seminar meetings having completed assigned readings and assignments and to make regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussions. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the major question, methodology, empirical scope and main arguments of each reading as well as compare and make connections between readings. In addition, each student is expected to provide a review and lead a discussion on 8 assigned readings (no more than 1 per week) and provide a peer-review of a draft research paper.

**Synthesis Papers (20%)**: Each student will write four brief (not more than 750 words) essays synthesizing and critically reflecting on the set of assigned readings for a given week (students may choose which weeks). This should NOT be a reading-by-reading summary. Rather, students should identify one or two central themes of the readings and situate the individual readings accordingly, highlighting similarities and differences among the readings and evaluating authors’ arguments and methods. Papers are due within 1 week after we have discussed the topic in class.

**Global Environmental Problem Assignment (20%)**: Each student will give a presentation on a global environmental problem of your choice and submit an annotated bibliography of key IR texts on the problem along with a 1500-2000 word essay summarizing key themes and debates within this body of literature.

**Research Project and Presentation (40%)**: Each student will complete a major research project on a topic of your choice related to international environmental politics. The specific nature of the project will depend upon your degree level and background in IR.

- **Option 1**: (required for POLS PhD students who have completed POLS 530): Original research paper (approximately 5000 words) that is theoretically grounded and draws on empirical evidence to generate conclusions.

- **Option 2**: Book review and literature review. Write a 1500 word review of a book on global environmental politics published within the last three years AND complete a literature review of 4000 words on a topic in international environmental politics for an audience of scientific peers or a research proposal that includes an in-depth literature review.

Each student should meet with me to discuss options and gain approval for their proposed project by September 23.

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**GUIDELINES AND GRADING FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

For all writing assignments, students will be expected to use the “author-date” citation style as outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style. If you are unfamiliar with this style, you may wish to purchase the Style Manual for
All written assignments will be graded as follows:

- **A**: Student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the material and/or offers original insights. Essay is clearly written and well-organized with appropriate documentation. For the synthesis papers, student synthesizes (rather than summarizes) assigned material. Solid graduate-level work.
- **A-**: same as above but with some minor problems with clarity of writing, organization and/or documentation that do not detract from the overall discussion.
- **B+**: Student demonstrates a solid understanding of the material but lacks sophistication and/or original insights. For the synthesis papers, student synthesizes (rather than summarizes) assigned material but has some areas of minor misunderstanding. Acceptable graduate-level work.
- **B**: same as above but with some minor problems with clarity of writing, organization and/or documentation that do not detract from the overall discussion.
- **B-**: Student demonstrates a superficial understanding of the material. Essay contains significant problems with clarity of writing, organization and/or documentation that detract from the overall discussion. For synthesis papers, student summarizes (rather than synthesizes) assigned material or has some areas of major misunderstanding. Weak graduate-level work.
- **C+**: Student fails to demonstrate an understanding of the material; significant problems with clarity of writing, organization and documentation. Unacceptable graduate-level work.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

*Please note this is a draft list. For the final assignments, check the Canvas site.*

**8/26: The Study and Practice of Global Environmental Politics**

- Betsill, Hochstetler, and Stevis, General Introduction in BHS, pp. 1-10
- Stevis, The Trajectory of International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 13-44.

**9/2: Conceptualizing Global Environmental Problems**


**9/9: Exploring Environmental Issues through IR Theories and Methods**

*Students without a strong background in IR should start with “Contending Perspectives on International Politics” by Eric Shimko. Available on Canvas.*

- Mathew Paterson, Theoretical Perspectives on International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 54-81.
• Hochstetler and Laituri. Methods in International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 82-109.

Additional Assignment: Explore table of contents and abstracts for the last five years of *Global Environmental Politics* and come prepared to discuss how this journal reflects the theories and methods discussed in the readings and any particular articles that caught your attention.

9/16: State and Non-state Actors in International Environmental Politics

• Michele Betsill, Transnational Actors in International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 172-202.
• Eva Lövbrand, Knowledge and the Environment, in BHS, pp. 161-184.

9/23: Global Environmental Problem Presentations (no readings)

9/30: Global Economic Interactions and Environmental Degradation


10/7: Transforming the Global Economy for a More Sustainable Future

• Happaerts and Bruyninckx, Sustainable development: The institutionalization of a contested concept, in BHS, pp. 300-327.

10/14: Global Environmental Justice
• Chucks Okereke and Mark Charlesworth, Environmental and Ecological Justice, in BHS, pp. 328-355.
• Stiglitz, Inequality and Environmental Policy, pp. 368-371.
• Petit, Climate Justice: A new social movement for atmospheric rights, in C&D, pp. 122-127

10/21: The Environment and International Security
• Larry Swatuk, Environmental Security, in BHS, pp. 211-244.

10/28: Human and Ecological Security
• Dabelko, An Uncommon Peace: Environment, development and the global security agenda, in C&D, 244-257 (please also read pp. 237-243).
• Nicole Detraz, Gender and International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 137-160.

11/4: Multilateral Approaches to Global Environmental Governance
• Frank Biermann, Global Governance and the Environment, in BHS, pp. 245-270.
• Oran Young, The Effectiveness of International Environmental Regimes, in BHS, pp. 273-299.

**11/11: Global Environmental Governance Beyond Multilateralism**


• Aarti Gupta and Michael Mason: Transparency in International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 356-380.


**11/18: Research week (no class; schedule individual meetings)**

**11/26: Fall Break**

**12/2: Research presentations**

**12/6: Draft papers DUE**

**12/9: Peer-reviews DUE**

**12/15: Final papers due**
PhD Exams Reading List in International Environmental Politics
June 2014

***In addition to the readings list below candidates should familiarize themselves with the themes and readings of the most recent offering of POLS 739 and should locate and read recent articles on these themes that appear in the journals suggested below.


**Journals**

*Annual Review of Environment and Resources*
*Environmental Politics*
*Global Environmental Politics*
*Global Environmental Change*
*Review of International Political Economy*
*Journal of Environment and Development*