

POLS 739 – INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Fall 2015

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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:

Scott Burchill, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Terry Nardin, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit, and Jacqui True. 2013. *Theories of International Relations, 5th edition*. Palgrave Macmillan. *Earlier editions are ok.*

Kate O'Neill. 2009. *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

TOPICS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

8/26	The study and practice of global environmental politics
9/2	Conceptualizing global environmental problems
9/9	Exploring environmental issues through IR theories and methods
9/16	State and non-state actors in global environmental politics

· Royalties earned will be contributed to the CSU Political Science scholarship fund.

9/23	Global environmental problem assignment due; student presentations; deadline for selecting research paper option
9/30	Global economic interactions and the environment
10/7	Reorganizing the global economy for a more sustainable future
10/14	Global environmental justice
10/21	The environment and international security; research proposal or book review due
10/28	Human and ecological security
11/4	Multilateral environmental governance
11/11	Global environmental governance beyond multilateralism
11/18	Research week (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

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.

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*

Political Science (\$6), which is available through the American Political Science Association (<http://www.apsanet.org>). For more detailed guidance on academic writing, see Kate L. Turabian. 2007. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th edition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

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.
- Conca and Dabelko, C&D "Introduction: From Stockholm to Sustainability?" and "The Debate Begins" in C&D, pp. 1-23.
- Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne. 2009. The Globalization of Environmentalism in *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment, 2e*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, pp. 47-72.

9/2: Conceptualizing Global Environmental Problems

- Garrett Hardin. 1967. The Tragedy of the Commons. In C&D, pp. 38-45.
- Kate O'Neill. 2009. International Environmental Problems. In *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 24-47.
- Kelly Levin, Benjamin Cashore, Steven Bernstein, and Graeme Auld. 2012. "Overcoming the Tragedy of Super Wicked Problems: Constraining Our Future Selves to Ameliorate Global Climate Change." *Policy Sciences* 45 (2): 123-52.
- Peter Newell and Matthew Paterson. 2010. Histories of Climate, Histories of Capitalism in *Climate Capitalism: Global Warming and the Transformation of the Global Economy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 11-35.
- Donella H. Meadows et al. 1972. The Limits to Growth. In C&D, pp. 25-29.
- Eva Löwbrand et al. 2015. Who speaks for the future of Earth? How critical social science can extend the conversation on the Anthropocene. *Global Environmental Change* 32: 211-218.

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.

- Heleen de Coninck and Karin Bäckstrand. 2011. An International Relations Perspective on Carbon Capture and Storage. *Global Environmental Change* 21(2): 368-378.
- Carl Death. 2014. Critical, Environmental, Political: An introduction. In *Critical Environmental Politics* (C. Death, ed.). London: Routledge, pp. 1-12
- Hochstetler and Laituri. Methods in International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 82-109.
- O'Neill, Kate, Erika Weinthal, Kimberly M. Suiseeya, Steven Bernstein, Avery Cohn, Michael W. Stone, and Benjamin Cashore. 2013. Methods and Global Environmental Governance: Reflection, Relevance and Rigor. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 38: 441-471.

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

- Andonova, Liliana B. and Ronald B. Mitchell. 2010. The Rescaling of Global Environmental Politics. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 35 (1): 255-282.
- Karin Bäckstrand and Annica Kronsell. 2015. The Green State Revisited. In *Rethinking the Green State: Environmental Governance Towards Climate and Sustainability Transitions* (K. Bäckstrand and A. Kronsell, eds.). London: Routledge, pp. 1-24.
- Michele Betsill, Transnational Actors in International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 172-202.
- Levy, David L. and Peter J. Newell. 2002. Business Strategy and International Environmental Governance: Toward a Neo-Gramscian Synthesis. *Global Environmental Politics* 2(4): 84-101.
- Eva Lövbrand, Knowledge and the Environment, in BHS, pp. 161-184.
- Rebecca Witter et al. 2015. Moments of Influence in Global Environmental Governance. *Environmental Politics*. DOI: 10.1080/09644016.2015.1060036.

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

9/30: Global Economic Interactions and Environmental Degradation

- Jennifer Clapp, International Political Economy and the Environment, in BHS, pp. 107-136.
- Working Group on Development and Environment in the Americas, Globalization and the Environment: Lessons from the Americas, in C&D, pp. 107-115.
- Pauline Jones Luong and Erika Weinthal. 2006. Rethinking the Resource Curse: Ownership Structure, Institutional Capacity and Domestic Constraints. *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9: 241-263.
- J. Timmons Roberts et al. 2009. Has Foreign Aid been Greened? *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development* 51(1): 8-21.
- Kate J. Neville. 2015. The Contentious Political Economy of Biofuels. *Global Environmental Politics* 15(1): 21-40.
- Peter Dauvergne and Jane Lister. 2010. The Power of Big Box Retail in Global Environmental Governance: Bringing Commodity Chains Back into IR. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*. 39(10): 145-160.

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.
- Sharachandra M. Lélé, Sustainable Development: A critical review, in C&D, pp. 195-207.
- Olivia Bina. 2013. The Green Economy and Sustainable Development: An uneasy balance? *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* 31: 1023-1047.
- Mol, Arthur, Gert Spaargaren, and David Sonnenfeld. 2009. Ecological Modernisation: Three Decades of Policy, Practice and Theoretical Reflection. In *The Ecological Modernisation Reader: Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice*, A.P.J. Mol, D.A. Sonnenfeld, and G. Spaargaren, eds. London: Routledge. Pp. 3-14.
- Frances Westley et al. 2011. Tipping Toward Sustainability: Emerging Pathways of Transformation. *Ambio* 40: 762-780.

- James Meadowcroft. 2009. What about the politics? Sustainable development, transition management and long-term energy transitions. *Policy Science* 42: 323-340.

10/14: Global Environmental Justice

- Chuks Okereke and Mark Charlesworth, Environmental and Ecological Justice, in BHS, pp. 328-355.
- Dimitris Stevis and Romain Felli. 2015. Global Labour Unions and Just Transition to a Green Economy. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 15(1): 29-43.
- Timothy Ehresman and Dimitris Stevis. 2014. Transparency and Environmental Equity: The International Finance Corporation's Disclosure Practices. In *Transparency in Global Environmental Governance: Critical Perspectives* (A. Gupta and M. Mason, eds.). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, pp. 297-320.
- Nancy Peluso, Coercing Conservation, in C&D, pp. 347-358.
- 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.
- Thomas Bernauer, Tobias Bohmelt and Vally Koubi. 2012. Environmental Changes and Violent Conflict. *Environmental Research Letters* 7(1): 015601.
- Shlomi Dinar. 2009. Scarcity and Cooperation along International Rivers. *Global Environmental Politics*. 9(1): 109-135.
- Peter Harris. 2015. Militarism in Environmental Disguise: The Greenwashing of an Overseas Military Base. *International Political Sociology* 9, (1): 19-36.
- Nicole Detraz and Michele Betsill. 2009. Climate Change and Environmental Security: For whom the discourse shifts. *International Studies Perspectives* 10(3): 303-320.
- Daniel Deudney, The Case Against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security, in C&D, pp. 273-283.

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).
- Dalby, Simon. 2015. Anthropocene Formations: Environmental Security, Geopolitics and Disaster. *Theory, Culture & Society* doi:10.1177/0263276415598629.
- Biermann, Frank and Ingrid Boaz. 2010. Preparing for a Warmer World: Towards a Global Governance System to Protect Climate Refugees. *Global Environmental Politics* 10(1): 60-88.
- Nicole Detraz, Gender and International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 137-160.
- O'Brien, Karen and Jane M. Leichenko. 2010. Global Environmental Change, Equity and Human Security. In *Global Environmental Change and Human Security*, R.A. Matthew, J. Barnett, B. McDonald and K.L. O'Brien, eds. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, pp. 157-176.
- Conca, Ken. 2005. Global Water Prospects. In *From Resource Scarcity to Ecological Security: Exploring New Limits to Growth*, D. Pirages and K. Cousins, eds. Cambridge: MA: The MIT Press, pp. 59-82.

11/4: Multilateral Approaches to Global Environmental Governance

- Frank Biermann, Global Governance and the Environment, in BHS, pp. 245-270.
- Bernstein, Steven. 2002. Liberal Environmentalism and Global Environmental Governance. *Global Environmental Politics* 2 (3): 1-16.
- Norichika Kanie, Governance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements: A healthy or ill-equipped fragmentation? In C&D, pp. 137-153.
- Christoph Humrich. 2013. Fragmented International Governance of Arctic Offshore Oil: Governance Challenges and Institutional Implications. *Global Environmental Politics*. 13(3): 79-99.
- Oran Young, The Effectiveness of International Environmental Regimes, in BHS, pp. 273-299.

- Heike Schroeder and Heather Lovell. 2012. The Role of Non-Nation-State Actors and Side Events in the Climate Negotiations. *Climate Policy* 12(1): 23-37.

11/11: Global Environmental Governance Beyond Multilateralism

- Harriet Bulkeley et al. 2012. Governing Climate Change Transnationally: Assessing the evidence from sixty initiatives. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* 30(4): 591-612.
- Philipp Pattberg and Oscar Widerberg. 2015. Transnational Multistakeholder Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Conditions for success. *Ambio* DOI 10.1007/s13280-015-0684-2.
- M. Margulis and T. Porter. 2013. Governing the Global Land Grab: Multipolarity, Ideas, and Complexity in Transnational Governance. *Globalizations* 10(1): 65-86.
- Aarti Gupta and Michael Mason: Transparency in International Environmental Politics, in BHS, pp. 356-380.
- Hayley Stevenson and John S. Dryzek. 2012. The Discursive Democratization of Global Climate Governance. *Environmental Politics*. 21(2): 189-210.
- Falkner, Robert. 2003. Private Environmental Governance and International Relations: Exploring the Links. *Global Environmental Politics* 3(2): 72-87.

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.**

- Andonova, Liliana B., and Ronald B. Mitchell. 2010. The Rescaling of Global Environmental Politics. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 35 (1): 255-282.
- Andonova, Liliana B., M. Betsill Michele, and Bulkeley Harriet. 2009. Transnational Climate Governance. *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (2): 52-73.
- Bäckstrand, Karin. 2006. Multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development: rethinking legitimacy, accountability and effectiveness. *European Environment* 16 (5): 290-306.
- Barry, John and Robin Eckersley. 2005. *The State and the Global Ecological Crisis*, eds. John Barry and Robyn Eckersley. Cambridge: The MIT Press. 181-206.
- Bernstein, Steven. 2002. Liberal Environmentalism and Global Environmental Governance. *Global Environmental Politics* 2 (3): 1-16.
- Betsill, Michele M., and Elisabeth Corell, eds. 2008. *NGO Diplomacy: The Influence of Non-governmental Organizations in International Environmental Negotiations*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Betsill, Michele M., Kathryn Hochstetler and Dimitris Stevis, eds. 2006. *Advances in the Study of International Environmental Politics, 2e*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Clapp, Jennifer and Peter Dauvergne. 2009. *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment, 2e*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.
- Conca and Dabelko, eds. 2010. *Green Planet Blues: Four Decades of Global Environmental Politics*. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Dalby, Simon. 2009. *Security and Environmental Change*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Dauvergne, Peter. 2005. *Handbook of Global Environmental Politics*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Dinar, Shlomi. 2009. Scarcity and Cooperation along International Rivers. *Global Environmental Politics* 9(1): 109-135.
- Elliot, Lorraine. 2004. *Global Politics of the Environment, 2e*. New York: New York University Press.
- Hay, Colin. 1994. Environmental Security and State Legitimacy. In *Is Capitalism Sustainable? Political Economy and the Politics of Ecology*, M. O'Connor, ed. New York: Guilford Press.
- Homer-Dixon, Thomas. 1994. Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases. *International Security* 19(1): 5-40.
- Hurrell, Andrew B., and Benedict Kingsbury, ed. *The International Politics of the Environment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Jacobsen, Susanne. 1996. *North-South Relations and Global Environmental Issues: A Review of the Literature*. Copenhagen: Centre for Development Research.
- Laferrière, E., and Stoett, P.J. 1999. *International Relations Theory and Ecological Thought: Towards a Synthesis*. London: Routledge.
- Levy, David L., and Peter J. Newell, eds. 2004. *The Business of Global Environmental Governance*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Matthew, R.A., J. Barnett, B. McDonald, and K.L. O'Brien, eds. *Global Environmental Change and Human Security*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Miller, Marian A. L. 1995. *The Third World in Global Environmental Politics*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.

- Neumayer, Eric. 2001. *Greening Trade and Investment: Environmental Protection without Protectionism*. London: Earthscan.
- Newell, Peter. 2008. The political economy of global environmental governance. *Review of International Studies* 34 (03): 507-529.
- O'Neill, Kate, Erika Weinthal, Kimberly M. Suiseeya, Steven Bernstein, Avery Cohn, Michael W. Stone and Benjamin Cashore. 2012. Methods in Global Environmental Governance: Reflection, Relevance and Rigor. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 37 (1).
- O'Neill, Kate. 2009. *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Oran R. Young, Leslie A. King, and Heike Schrooeder, eds. 2009 *Institutions and Environmental Change: Principal Findings, Applications, and Research Frontiers* Cambridge: The MIT Press.
- Stavis, Dimitris, and Valerie J. Assetto, eds. 2001. *The International Political Economy of the Environment*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.
- Stavis, Dimitris. 2010. International Relations and the Study of Global Environmental Politics: Past and Present. In *International Studies Encyclopedia*. Edited by Robert A. Denemark, Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Vogler, J., and Imber, M. (eds.). 1996. *The Environment and International Relations*. London: Routledge.

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