

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS
PO739, Fall 2021
(Final, October 18, 2021)

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I. Content of Seminar: This seminar introduces students to international relations scholarship on global environmental politics and policy. In addition to providing a broad but systematic overview it also aims to catalyze and advance the students' own research interests. The topics covered fall roughly into four categories: a theoretical and analytical overview, global political economy/ecology, environmental security and conflict and environmental governance. Each student will contact a semester-long writing project that explores additional topics and literatures or goes into more depth on a particular topic. The goals of these projects will reflect the students' background in IR and GEP.

Upon completion of the seminar students will have a sophisticated understanding of the central issues and debates amongst IR scholars in the field of global environmental politics and policy and will have advanced their own research agendas. Specifically students will be able to:

- Address questions of global environmental politics and policy from different theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches;
- Identify the key concepts and debates that comprise this field of academic study;
- Be aware of key issues and approaches on which the field is silent;
- Research, analyze and write about global environmental politics as a social scientist.

II, Operation of Seminar. As things stand this will be a person to person seminar. However, if COVID cases rise or there are related developments affecting any of us, we will move to a virtual seminar. Even if this remains a person to person seminar, there will be some virtual meetings towards the end of the semester. More on these soon.

III. Course Materials: The vast majority of readings are articles, a smaller consists of number of chapters from books (particularly BHS) and a monograph. If our library has electronic versions of the journals you will be expected to get the articles directly from the journals [electronic]. Articles and chapters that are not readily available will be placed on canvas. While I will provide some background and advance guidance I will not lecture.

The books you should purchase are:

Betsill, Michele, Kathryn Hochstetler and Dimitris Stevis, eds. 2014. *Advances in International Environmental Politics*, 2nd edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan (BHS in syllabus).

Stevenson, Hayley (2017) *Global Environmental Politics: Problems, Policy and Practice*. Cambridge University Press.

IV. Contact Hours and External Work: The seminar will meet from 2:00pm to 4:50pm every Monday. Students are expected to invest at least 3 hours of external work every week for every credit hour.

V. Class Etiquette and Disruptive Behavior: I fully appreciate the utility of smartphones and other electronic devices (other than those you use to take notes or read class material) but they can be disruptive. I am therefore requesting that they not be used in any fashion nor be visible in class.

VI. Academic Integrity. This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. Colorado State University has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. The General Catalog's "Policies and Guiding Principles" asserts that CSU "expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution" - citing "principles of academic honesty" as the first example. (1.6 Page 1).

VII. Course Requirements and Evaluation.

Precis/short synthesis essays (25% total): Six précis/review essays of not more than 500 words, not including references (of which the **five** best will be counted), (5% of your grade each). **Please note that you have to submit six precis regardless of whether you are satisfied with your evaluations. For every precis missing I will subtract 5% of your final grade.** Please see guidelines below. These should be as spaced as possible by avoiding sequential ones (unless appropriate for your research and approved by me). That will help in spreading preparation even more evenly. Distribute copies of your precis to everyone through email by noon on the day of the seminar. Precis should provide frequent and appropriate references to the readings. Please see samples in Samples Learning Module. **You should write a précis for any session that you will be missing, even if that leads to more than six precis.**

Class facilitation and participation in weekly discussions (25%): Regular and thoughtful participation is a requirement. The expression of doubts and difficulties in understanding particular issues are as important as strong insights into them. They should all be based, however, on a strong engagement with the class material. I would ask those of you who are more comfortable talking in public to be attentive to the class dynamics. Please see guidelines below (VII and VIII). Each of you will be asked to provide peer evaluations/comments for the short research proposal and for the research product. The timeliness and constructive nature of these comments will also be part of your evaluation.

Research project and presentations (Total 50% - Research Idea 10%; Research Question 15%; Short or Long Draft 25%). The result of the research project will reflect

your state of preparation and degree to which you have settled on a project. The project will take place in stages and should be strongly articulated to the rest of your class work, including the HF dimension below. In all cases this research project will help you make progress in terms of your research agenda. Guidelines will be distributed and discussed.

VIII. Facilitators and Facilitation Outlines. Each week 2-3 of you will serve as facilitators. Assuming that there will be 2-3 facilitators each week you should plan on **three non-sequential facilitations**. During those weeks you should also prepare a précis. We will start each meeting by asking the facilitators to initiate and direct the discussion. Please see guidelines in Part IX below but you are encouraged to go beyond them, provided this does not become a list of overlapping themes. Please avoid summaries since everyone will have read the same material. Class exercises and other imaginative forms of facilitation are welcome. It is important that you meet in advance to prepare an outline that you post on Canvas by noon before class. Bring copies to distribute in class and include your names, the date and the syllabus heading for the week. See samples in Samples Learning Module.

IX. Guidance for Class Discussions, Facilitation Outlines, and Precis.

The key goal of the seminar is for you to learn how to organize weekly readings/writings around key concepts, issues or themes while aiming to relate them to broader themes on the governance of the world political economy. Stated differently, you should view weekly readings as steps towards understanding broader themes and not as ends in themselves.

- a. **Specific Readings.** What is the purpose of each reading or why did the author write it? For example, to contribute to the debates over private governance. What is the specific argument that the author makes about private governance? How does the author support her argument or what is her evidence (you should follow the reading's outline).
- b. What is the central theme of the combined readings? The goal here is to organize and compare the readings around one or more key ideas, issues, questions, dimensions, debates, continuum/range, difference and so on. The fewer these are, the better. Tables and other visuals are always welcome and encouraged. This is the most important goal task every week.
- c. How do the themes, issues, or concepts raised by a particular week's readings relate to previous readings or other material you are familiar with?
- d. What is your view about the readings in terms of any other criterion that you find important?
- e. Do any of these themes or any of the readings help you with your research agenda?
- f. **'Hidden figures' theme:** Each one of you will be asked to identify important silences in the study of global governance and political economy (as well as loud presences). This does not refer to topics not covered by the seminar (given the length of time there are many). Rather, it refers to actors, issues and questions that ought to be covered and are usually not covered. Please do so with respect to weekly readings, and your synthetic essays.

X. Supplementary Readings.

A. Environment: These volumes provide historical and theoretical overviews

Guha, Ramachandra, *Environmentalism: A Global History* (Longman, 2000).

Conca, Ken and Geoffrey Dabelko (eds) (2019) *Green Planet Blues: Critical Perspectives on Global Environmental Politics*, 6th edition. Westview Press. Introductory comments and classics.

John Dryzek (2013) *The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses*, 3rd edition. Oxford University Press. This provides a good theoretical overview for those of you have not taken environmental politics/theory and related courses.

Chasek, Pamela and Downie (2021) *Global Environmental Politics*, 8th edition. Routledge. (A simpler introduction).

B. International Relations:

Balaam, David and Bradford Dillman (2018) *Introduction to International Political Economy*. 7th edition. Taylor and Francis.

Baylis, John, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (eds) (2020) *The Globalization of World Politics*, 8th edition. Oxford University Press.

Dunne, Tim, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith (eds) (2016) *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, 4th edition. Oxford University Press.

McGlinchey, Stephen, Rosie Walters & Dana Gold (eds). 2017. *International Relations Theory*. A very accessible introduction to various theoretical approaches to international relations. At <https://www.e-ir.info/publication/international-relations-theory/> and on Canvas.

Ravenhill, John (ed). 2020. *Global Political Economy*, 6th edition. Oxford University Press.

Stilwell, Frank (2011). *Political Economy: The Contest of Economic Ideas*, 3rd edition. Oxford University Press. SUPERB INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL ECONOMY.

Viotti, Paul and Mark Kauppi (eds) (2019) *International Relations Theory*, 6th edition. Rowman&Littlefield. IR

C. Databases

There are a number of databases that our Library subscribes to that can be of use to you. It is advisable that you become familiar with them. These include the Academic Search Premier, Google Scholar, JSTOR, Web of Science and WorldCat (for books).

SCHEDULE

August 23 **Introductions: Individual Background and Interests**
Seminar Logistics and Goals
Overview of International Relations
Overview of International Environmental Politics

August 30 **Context: Trajectory and Important Debates in IEP**

Stevis, Dimitris (2010) International Relations and the Study of Global Environmental Politics: Past and Present. Oxford Research Encyclopedia, International Studies. [Canvas, Context Readings].

Stevenson, Hayley (2017) Global Environmental Politics. Cambridge University Press. Chs 1-4 and 6.

****September 3 Email me 2-4 peer-reviewed readings related to your interests (pdf)****

September 6 **Labor Day**

September 13 **Context: Theoretical Perspectives**

Betsill, Hochstetler and Stevis, General Introduction in BHS, pp.1-10

Matthew Paterson, Theoretical Perspectives on International Environmental Politics in BHS, pp. 45-77.

Hochstetler, Kathryn and Melinda Laituri, Methods in International Environmental Politics, in BHS, 78-104.

Betsill, Hochstetler and Stevis, General Conclusion in BHS, pp. 381-390.

Dauvergne, Peter and Jennifer Clapp (2016) Researching Global Environmental Politics in the 21st Century. *Global Environmental Politics* 16(1): 1-12.

Green, Jessica and Thomas Hale (2017) Reversing the Marginalization of Global Environmental Politics in International Relations: An Opportunity for the Discipline. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 50(2):473-479.

****September 13-17 Consultations on Research Ideas (virtual)****

September 20 **Context: Hidden Figures in Global Environmental Politics**

Inoue, Cristina Yumie Aoki. 2018. Worlding the Study of Global Environmental Politics: Indigenous Voices from the Amazon. *Global Environmental Politics* 18(4): 25-42.
https://doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00479

David-Chavez, Dominique and Michael Gavin (2018) A global assessment of Indigenous community engagement in climate research. *Environmental Research Letters* 13 (12). At <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aaf300>

Räthzel, Nora, Dimitris Stevis and David Uzzell (2021) Introduction: The Expanding Boundaries of Environmental Labour Studies. Chapter 1 in their *The Palgrave Handbook of Environmental Labour Studies*. Palgrave Macmillan, 1-31 [Online Access].

Celermajer, Danielle et al. (2021) Multispecies Justice: Theories, Challenges and a Research Agenda for Environmental Politics. *Environmental Politics* 30 (1-2): 119-140.

Meyer, John and Joice Chang (2021) Continuities and Changes; Voices and Silences: A Critical Analysis of the First Three Decades of Scholarship in *Environmental Politics*. *Environmental Politics* 30 (1-2): 17-40.

Inoue, Cristina and Dimitris Stevis (2018) Hidden Figures: A methodology for Worlding Global Environmental Politics? Paper presented at 2018 ISA Conference. [Canvas, Context Readings]

September 27 The World as a Whole: From Limits to Growth to the Anthropocene

Malhi, Yadvinder. 2017. The Concept of the Anthropocene. *Annual Reviews of Environment and Resources* 42: 77-104.

Buttel, F.H., Hawkins, A.P., and Power, A.G. (1990) From Limits to Growth to Global Change: Constraints and Contradictions in the Evolution of Environmental Science and Ideology. *Global Environmental Change* 1 (1), 57–66. [The World as a Whole Readings].

Meadows, Donella, Jorgen Randers and Dennis Meadows (2002) Synopsis: Limits to Growth: The 30 Year Update. At <https://donellameadows.org/archives/a-synopsis-limits-to-growth-the-30-year-update/>

Crutzen, Paul and Eugene Stormer (2000) The “Anthropocene”. *Global Change Newsletter* 41 (May): 17-18. [Canvas, The World as a Whole Readings]

Crutzen, Paul (2002) Geology of Mankind. *Nature* 415 (January):23. At <https://www.nature.com/articles/415023a>

Lövbrand, Eva, Beck, Silke, Chilvers, Jason, Forsyth, Tim, Hedrén, Johan, Hulme, Mike, Lidskog, Rolf and Vasileiadou, Eleftheria (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.

Malm, Andreas and Alf Hornborg (2014) The Geology of Mankind? A Critique of the Anthropocene Narrative. *The Anthropocene Review* 1(1): 62-69.

[Moore, Jason (2016) Name the System! Anthropocene and the Capitalocene Alternative. At <https://jasonwmoore.wordpress.com/2016/10/09/name-the-system-anthropocenes-the-capitalocene-alternative/>]

October 4 The World as a Whole: From the Anthropocene to the Planetary

Biermann, Frank and Rakhyun Kim (2021) The Boundaries of the Planetary Boundary Network: A Critical Appraisal of Approaches to Define a “Safe Operating Space” for Humanity. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 45: 497- 521.

Steffen, Will et al. (2015) Planetary Boundaries: Guiding Human Development on a Changing Planet. *Science* 347(6223): 736-

Montoya, Jose, Ian Donohue and Stuart Pimm (2018) Planetary Boundaries for Biodiversity: Implausible Science, Pernicious Policies. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 33(2): 71-73.

Stockholm Resilience Institute (2017 and 2020) *A Fundamental Misrepresentation of the Planetary Boundaries Framework*. At <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2017-11-20-a-fundamental-misrepresentation-of-the-planetary-boundaries-framework.html>

Montoya, Jose, Ian Donohue and Stuart Pimm (2018) Why a Planetary Boundary if it is not Planetary, and Boundary is Undefined? A Reply to Rockstrom et al. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 33(4): 234. At <http://www.environnement.ens.fr/IMG/pdf/montoya-et-al-2018.pdf>

Pedersen, Stefan (2020). Planetarism: A Paradigmatic Alternative to Internationalism. *Globalizations* 18(2): 141-154.

Brand, Ulrich et al. (2021) From Planetary to Societal Boundaries: An Argument for Collectively Defined Self-Limitation. *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy* 17(1): 265-292.

October 10 Research Ideas Due on Canvas (5pm)

October 11 The World as a Whole: Power and Justice

Biermann, Frank and Agni Kalfagianni. (2020) Planetary Justice: A Research Framework. *Earth System Governance Journal*, 6 (December). At <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589811620300082>

Rockstrom et al. 2021. Identifying a Just Corridor for People and the Planet. *Earth's Future* 9. At <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2020EF001866>

Chakrabarty, Dipesh (2021) Four Theses. Chapter 1 in his, *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age*. Chicago University Press, 24-48. (Canvas, The World as a Whole Readings)

Malm, Andreas and Rikard Warlenius (2019) The Grand Theft of the Atmosphere: Sketches for a Theory of Climate Injustice in the Anthropocene. In Kum-Kum Bhavnani, John Foran, Priya Kurian, Debashish Munshi (Eds.) *Climate Futures: Reimagining Global Climate Justice*. Zed Books, London (2019), pp. 140-160. [Online Access]

Gonzalez, Carmen (2021) Racial Capitalism and the Anthropocene. In Sumudu Atapattu, Sarah Seck and Carmen Gonzalez (eds) *The Cambridge Handbook of Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development*. Cambridge University Press, 72-85 [Online Access].

Kalfagianni, Agni, Stefan Pedersen and Dimitris Stevis (2021) Planetary Justice as an Analytical Device and Practical Guide in Earth System Governance. Ms. (Canvas, The World as a Whole Readings).

October 12-15 Consultations on Research Questions (virtually)

October 18 Varieties of Green Political Economy

Hopwood, Bill, Mary Mellor and Geoff O'Brien (2005) Sustainable Development: Mapping Different Approaches. *Sustainable Development* 13(1): 38-52. [Canvas, Political Economy Readings]

Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne (2011) Peril or Prosperity? Mapping Worldviews of Global Environmental Change. Chapter 1 from their *Paths to a Green World*. The MIT Press, pp. 1-18. [Canvas PE readings]

Sander Happaerts and Hans Bruyninckx Sustainable Development: The Institutionalization of a Contested Policy Concept in BHS, pp. 300-327.

Tienhaara, Kyla (2014) Varieties of Green Capitalism: Economy and Environment in the Wake of the Global Financial Crisis. *Environmental Politics* 23(2): 187-204. [Canvas PE Readings]

Pollin, Robert (2018) De-Growth vs a Green New Deal. *New Left Review* 112: 5-25. (Canvas, PE Readings)

Hickel, Jason and Giorgos Kallis (2019) Is Green Growth Possible? *New Political Economy*, 25(4): 469-486. (electronic)

October 25 Transitions or Transformations?

Kohler, Jonathan et al. (2019) An Agenda for Sustainability Transitions Research: State of the Art and Future Directions. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* 31: 1-32.

Temper, Leah et al. (2018) A Perspective on Radical Transformations to Sustainability: Resistances, Movements and Alternatives. *Sustainability Science* 13: 747-764.

Iskander, Natasha and Nicola Lowe. 2020. Climate Change and Work: Politics and Power. *Annual Review of Political Science* 23: 111-131.

Burke, Matthew and Jennie Stephens. 2018. Political Power and Renewable Energy Futures: A Critical Review. *Energy Research & Social Science* 35: 78-93.

Sovacool, Benjamin et al. (2020) Sustainable Minerals and Metals for a Low-Carbon Future. *Science* 367 (6473), pp. 30-33. <https://www-science-org.ezproxy2.library.colostate.edu/doi/10.1126/science.aaz6003>

Brand, Ulrich and Markus Wissen (2018) What Kind of Great Transformation? The Imperial Mode of Living as a Major Obstacle to Sustainability Politics. *Gaia* 27 (3): 287-292. (Canvas, PE Readings)

November 1 Environmental Conflict and Peacemaking

Larry Swatuk, Environmental Security, in BHS, pp. 211-244.

Bigger, Patrick and Benjamin Neimark (2017) Weaponizing Nature: The Geopolitical Ecology of the US Navy's Biofuel Program. *Political Geography* 60: 13-22.

Duffy, Rosaleen (2016) War, by Conservation. *Geoforum* 69: 238-248.

Ide, Tobias et al. (2021). The Past and Future(s) of Environmental Peacebuilding. *International Affairs* 97(1): 1-16.

Barquet, Karina (2015) "Yes to Peace"? Environmental Peacemaking and Transboundary Conservation in Central America. *Geoforum* 63: 14-24.

Yoshida, Keina and Lina M. Cespedes-Baez (2021) The Nature of Women, Peace and Security: A Colombian Perspective. *International Affairs* 97(1): 17-34.

November 5 (F) Research Question due (5pm)

November 8 Human Security and Global Survival

O'Brien, Karen and Jon Barnett (2013) Global Environmental Change and Human Security. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 38:373-391.

Elliott, Lorraine (2015) Human Security/Environmental Security. *Contemporary Politics* 21(1): 11-24.

Methmann, Chris and Delf Roth (2012) Politics for the Day after Tomorrow: The Logic of Apocalypse in Global Climate Politics. *Security Dialogue* 43 (4): 323-344.

Fagan, Madeleine (2017) Security in the Anthropocene: Environment, Ecology, Escape. *European Journal of International Relations* 23(2): 292-314.

Satgar, Vishwas (2018) The Anthropocene And Imperial Ecocide: Prospects for Just Transitions. In Vishwas Satgar (Ed) *The Climate Crisis: South African And Global Democratic Eco-Socialist Alternatives*. Wits University Press. [Dropbox]

Dalby, Simon (2017) Anthropocene Formations: Environmental Security, Geopolitics and Disaster. *Theory, Culture and Society* 34 (2-3): 233-252.

November 12- 18 Consultations on Draft Paper [Virtually]

November 15 Environmental Governance: Form and Purpose [Virtual]

Frank Biermann, Global Governance and the Environment, in BHS, pp.245-270.

Jennifer Clapp, International Political Economy and the Environment, in BHS, pp. 107-136.

Pattberg, Philipp and Oscar Witterberg (2016) Theorizing Global Environmental Governance: Key Findings and Future Questions. *Millennium* 43(2): 684-705.

Burch, Sarah et al. 2019. New Directions in Earth System Governance Research. *Earth System Governance* 1. At <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589811619300059>

Ciplet, David and R. Timmons Roberts. 2017. Climate Change and the Transition to Liberal Environmental Governance. *Global Environmental Change* 46: 148-156.

Swyngedouw, Erik. 2010. Apocalypse Forever? Post-Political Populism and the Spectre of Climate Change. *Theory, Culture and Society* 27 (2-3): 213-232.

November 22 Thanksgiving Break

November 29 Global Governance: Varieties of Justice [Virtual]

Okereke, Chukwumerije and Mark Charlesworth. Environmental and Ecological Justice, in BHS, pp. 328-355.

Alier, Joan Martinez et al. 2016. Is there a Global Environmental Justice Movement? *Journal of Peasant Studies* 43(3): 731-755.

Givens, Jannifer, Xiaorui Huang and Andrew Jorgenson. 2019. Ecologically Unequal Exchange: A Theory of Global Environmental Injustice. *Sociology Compass*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12693>

Rodriguez-Labajos, Beatriz et. al. 2019. Not So Natural an Alliance? Degrowth and Environmental Justice Movements in the Global South. *Ecological Economics* 157: 175-184.

Bettini, Gionanni, Sarah Louise Nash and Giovanna Giolli. 2017. One step forward, two steps back? The fading contours of (in)justice in competing discourses on climate migration. *The Geographical Journal* 183 (4): 348-358.

Cock, Jacklyn (2018) The Climate Crisis and a 'Just Transition' in South Africa: An Eco-Feminist-Socialist Perspective. Ch 3 in Vishwas Satgar (Ed) *The Climate Crisis: South African and Global Democratic Eco-Socialist Alternatives*. Wits University Press.[dropbox]

December 6 Presentations [Virtual]

December 15 (W) Paper Drafts Due (5pm)