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Global Environmental Politics

GVPT 306
University of Maryland/ Fall 2011

Course Times: T & TH 12:30-1:45
Course Location: Tydings 1102

Office: Tydings 3114M
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Office Hours: T 2:00-4:00

Course Description

Why is it so difficult to develop solutions to global environmental problems? There are a number of potential impediments. Environmental problems often require extensive scientific knowledge, and involve risk and uncertainty. Existing incentives for different kinds of behavior can channel individuals and states away from environmental protection. The structure of political decision-making may disadvantage environmental activists. In this course, we explore three processes of environmental policy development – identifying problems, negotiating solutions, and implementing agreements – through a range of case studies. These include whaling, ozone depletion, deforestation, acid rain, and especially climate change. We will ask: under what circumstances do countries negotiate treaties to resolve important environmental problems? How can future agreements be improved?

Course Objectives

This course will serve as an introduction to the study of global environmental politics. By the end of the semester you should have a good idea how environmental treaties are made, and will have a solid understanding of several concrete cases of environmental decision-making. This includes work on a comparative essay about the determinants of effective environmental policy-making. This course will require a lot of effort, but I expect that by the end of the semester you will have learned essential skills that will serve you throughout your time at UMD.

Course Prerequisites

This course requires that students have already completed GVPT 200, an introductory course in international relations. I will assume a basic familiarity with key concepts and approaches in this field.

Course Texts

Books: The following books will be used extensively in the course, and are available for purchase at the Bookstore. If ordering online, please pay particular attention that you get the most recent edition, as the latest versions are substantially revised. Copies will also be held on reserve at the library.

- Chasek, Pamela S., David L. Downie, and Janet Welsh Brown. 2010. *Global Environmental Politics, 5th edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Conca, Ken and Geoffrey D. Dabelko (eds.). 2010. *Green Planet Blues: Four Decades of Global Environmental Politics*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: I expect students to attend every class, and will take attendance. If you have an emergency or medical problem and must be absent, please notify me in advance. It is your responsibility to inform me in advance if you will be absent in order to attend religious observances. I also expect you to arrive on time and stay until class ends. Repeated absences will result in grade penalties. I also expect students to show up ready to discuss the readings assigned for that session. Effective participation consists of making thoughtful comments and asking good questions, as well as actively engaging with classroom debates.

If you are going to miss class on an exam day or when a paper is due and would like your absence to be excused, you are required to email me regarding your absence in advance of the class and bring documentation to support your excused absence on the day you return. The new absence policy (one sick absence without a health center note) does not apply to days where we have scheduled papers to turn in, midterms or the final.

Blackboard: We will be using the Blackboard website every week. The site is available at: www.elms.umd.edu. You must make sure you are enrolled in our course - please let me know if you have any problems. I will be posting documents, schedule revisions, and other important information on blackboard.

Papers and Exams: You will be required to complete two exams and a final paper. The paper will be due at the beginning of class on December 13th. The mid-term exam will be held on October 13th, and the final exam is scheduled for December 20th, from 1:30-3:30pm. Final exams may only be rescheduled due to a personal emergency, serious illness or three exams scheduled on the same day.

Office Hours and Email: I will be holding office hours Tuesdays 2-4pm. If you are having difficulty with the course or need to discuss particular assignments or accommodations you might require, it is your responsibility to meet with me during this time.

Assignments and Grading

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Assignments

This course has three main assignments, in addition to reading and other activities:

- Exam 1: There will be a mid-term exam held in class on October 13th. The exam will cover key concepts, terms and debates from the first half of the course. The exam will be closed book, and you will not be allowed to use your notes or other materials.
- Final Paper: A final paper will be due to me via email by 5pm on December 20th. This will be a comparative essay, in which you will be asked to draw on two cases of environmental decision-making to come up with hypotheses about why treaties succeed or fail. Your final product will be 7-8 pages. You will receive detailed instructions on how to complete this paper at the start of week 9 of the semester.
- Exam 2: There will be a second exam held in class on December 13th. The exam will have two parts. The first part will cover the key concepts, terms and debates from the second half of the course. The second part will ask you to write answers to essay questions that address themes of the second half of the course. The exam will be closed book, and you will not be allowed to use your notes or other materials.

Grade Breakdown: Your grade will be a combination of your scores on these assignments as well as your course participation:

25%	Exam 1
30%	Final Paper
35%	Exam 2
10%	Participation

Late Work: For written assignments I subtract one letter grade per day (24 hours) that the paper is late. All assignments are due at the beginning of class, and should be submitted via the electronic drop box on Blackboard. Classroom assignments cannot be made up.

Format for Papers: All papers must be typed, with the exception of work that we do in class. Papers should be formatted in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, stapled, with one inch margins on all sides. Your name, the date, and the assignment name should appear on the first page in the top left corner. Subsequent pages should have your last name and page number in the top right corner.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense at UMD, and can be ground for dismissal from the university. Plagiarism constitutes knowingly misrepresenting someone else's work as your own. This does not just apply to things like buying a paper off the internet; knowingly appropriating another author's quotes or ideas can also qualify as plagiarism. The University's plagiarism policy can be found on the web site of the Office of Student Conduct at: <http://www.inform.umd.edu/jpo/>. Please familiarize yourself with this policy, and ask any questions you may have in advance of submitting your work. Professors are required to bring all cases of suspected plagiarism to the attention of the OSC. Penalties include automatic course failure and an explanatory note on the student's transcript indicating that he or she has violated the rules of academic integrity.

Overview Course Calendar

Week 1-3: Identifying Global Environmental Problems	
Sept 1	NO CLASS
Sept 6/8	Introduction to Global Environmental Problems History of Global Environmental Governance
Sept 13/15	Tools of Analysis: Approaches to Global Environmental Politics The Tragedy of the Commons
Sept 20/22	Identifying and Classifying Environmental Problems Science, Risk and Politics
Week 4-6: Negotiating Solutions to Environmental Problems	
Sept 27/29	International Environmental Institutions States and Bargaining
Oct 4/6	Non-State Actors: NGOs and Social Movements Non-State Actors: Multinational Corporations
Oct 11/13	Determinants of Regime Effectiveness Exam 1 (In Class, October 13 th)
Week 7-8: Cross-Cutting Issues	
Oct 18/20	Environment and Development North-South Divides
Oct 25/27	Environment and Trade Environment and Security
Week 9-15: Cases of Environmental Policy Making and Policy Implementation	
Nov 1/3	Cases of Environmental Policy: The Ozone Layer Cases of Environmental Policy: Whaling
Nov 8/10	Cases of Environmental Policy: Acid Rain Cases of Environmental Policy: Deforestation
Nov 15/17	Global Climate Change Politics: From Rio to the Kyoto Protocol Global Climate Change Politics: The Post-Kyoto Negotiations
Nov 22	Approaches to Emissions Reductions and Climate Finance
Nov 29/Dec 1	What to Expect in Future Climate Negotiations Tools of Analysis: Comparing Environmental Regimes
Dec 6/8	Tools of Analysis : Developing Hypotheses Course Review and Summary
Dec 13	Exam 2 (In Class December 13 th)
Dec 20	Final Paper Due (Via Email by 5pm)

Readings and Assignments

Readings are to be completed before the start of each class. To aid in your understanding, please do the readings in the order that they are listed on the syllabus. I recommend that you bring copies of the readings to class in order to better facilitate discussion. Readings marked as ‘CDB’ are from Chasek, Downie, and Brown (eds.) *Global Environmental Politics, 5th Edition*. Readings marked as ‘GPB’ are from Conca and Dabelko (eds.) *Green Planet Blues: Four Decades of Global Environmental Politics, 4th Edition*. All other readings are available on Blackboard.

Week 1-3: Identifying Global Environmental Problems

September 1: NO CLASS

- Read the syllabus and online plagiarism policy
- Access and familiarize yourself with the Blackboard website
- *Economist*: “Welcome to the Anthropocene.” May 26, 2011.

September 6: Classifying Global Environmental Problems

- O’Neill, Kate. 2009. “International Environmental Problems.” In *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 24-47.
- Lomborg, Bjørn. 2001. “Things are Getting Better.” In *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 3–33 (read 1-12, 32-33).
- Schneider, Stephen et al. “Misleading Math about the Earth: Science Defends Itself Against the Skeptical Environmentalist.” *Scientific American*, January 2002, p. 61-71.

September 8: History of Global Environmental Governance

- CDB, p. 19-30
- Haas, Peter M., Mark A. Levy and Edward A. Parson. 1992. “Appraising the Earth Summit: How should we judge UNCED’s success?” *Environment* 34(8): 12–36.
- Najam, Adil et al. 2003. “From Rio to Johannesburg: Progress and Prospects.” *Environment* 44(7), 26–38.
- Ivanova, Maria. 2010. “Moving Forward by Looking Back: Learning from the UNEP’s History.” In GPB.

September 13: Tools of Analysis: Approaches to Global Environmental Politics

- Patterson, Michael. 2005. “Theoretical Perspectives on International Environmental Politics.” In M. Betsill, K. Hochstetler and D. Stevis (eds.) *Palgrave Advances in International Environmental Politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 82-112.
- Hochstetler, Kathryn and Melinda Laituri. 2005. “Methods in International Environmental Politics.” In M. Betsill, K. Hochstetler and D. Stevis (eds.) *Palgrave Advances in International Environmental Politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 82-109 (read 82-85, skim rest).
- Conca, Ken. 2010. “Rethinking the Ecology-Sovereignty Debate.” In GPB.

September 15: Tragedy of the Commons

- Hardin, Garret. 2010. "The Tragedy of the Commons." In GPB.
- Buck, Susan. 2010. "No Tragedy of the Commons." In GPB.
- Dietz, Thomas, Elinor Ostrom and Paul C. Stern. 2009. "The Struggle to Govern the Commons." *Science* 302 (5652): 1907-1912.

September 20: Identifying Environmental Problems

- Mitchell, Ron. 2010. "The International Emergence of Environmental Problems." In *International Politics and the Environment*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, p. 80-111.
- Epstein, Charlotte. 2006. "The Making of Global Environmental Norms: Endangered Species Protection." *Global Environmental Politics* 6(2): 32-54 (Read only 35-50).

September 22: Science, Risk and Politics

- DeSombre, Elizabeth. 2007. "Science, Uncertainty and Risk" In *The Global Environment and World Politics*. New York: Continuum Publishers, p. 39-54.
- Dessler, Andrew and Edward Parson. 2006. "Science, Politics, and Science in Politics." In *The Science and Politics of Climate Change: A Guide to the Debate*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 18-45.
- Myers, Nancy and John D. Graham. 2007. "Is the Precautionary Principle a Sound Basis for International Policy?" In Thomas A Easton (ed.) *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Environmental Issues*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Week 4-6: Negotiating Solutions to Environmental Problems

September 27: Environmental Institutions

- CDB, p. 63-91
- Najam, Adil. 2003. "The Case Against a New International Environmental Organization." *Global Governance* 9(3): 367-384.
- Kanie, Norichika. 2010. "Governance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements: A Healthy or Ill-Equipped Fragmentation?" In GPB.

September 29: States and Bargaining

- CDB, p. 53-62
- Sprinz, Detlef and Tapani Vaahtoranta. 1994. The Interest-Based Explanation of International Environmental Policy. *International Organization* 48 (1):77-105 (read only 77-95).
- Chasek, Pamela. 2007. "U.S. Policy in the UN Environmental Arena: Powerful Laggard or Constructive Leader?" *International Environmental Agreements* 7:363-381.

October 4: Non-State Actors: NGOs and Social Movements

- CDB, p. 91-102
- Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 2009. "Transnational Activist Networks." In Robert Art and Robert Jervis (eds.) *International Politics*. New York: Longman, p. 447-483.

- Humphreys, David. 2004. "Redefining the Issues: NGO Influence on International Forest Negotiations." *Global Environmental Politics* 4(2): 51-74.

October 6: Non-State Actors: Multinational Corporations

- CDB, p. 102-109
- Stigson, Bjorn. 2010. "The Business Case for Sustainable Development." In GPB.
- Meckling, Jonas. 2011. "The Globalization of Carbon Trading: Transnational Business Coalitions in Climate Politics." *Global Environmental Politics* 11(2): 26-50.

October 11: Determinants of Regime Effectiveness

- CDB, p. 271-318
- O'Neill, Kate. "The Impacts and Effectiveness of Environmental Treaty Regimes." In *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 104-134.
- Mitchell, Ron. 2002 "A Quantitative Approach to Evaluating International Environmental Regimes." *Global Environmental Politics* 2(4): 58-83 (read only 58-61).

October 13: Mid Term Examination

Week 7-8: Cross-Cutting Issues

October 18: Environment and Development

- Clapp, Jennifer and Peter Dauvergne. 2011. "Economic Growth in a World of Wealth and Poverty." In *Paths to a Green World: the Political Economy of the Global Environment*. Cambridge: MIT Press, p. 87-125.
- World Commission on Environment and Development. 2010. "Towards Sustainable Development." In GPB.
- Lélé, Sharachchandra M. 2010. "Sustainable Development: A Critical Review." In GPB.

October 20: North-South Divides

- CDB, p. 320-330
- Najam, Adil. 2010. "The View from the South: Developing Countries in Global Environmental Politics." In Regina Axelrod, Stacy VaDeveer and David Downie (eds.) *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, p. 239-258
- de Araujo Castro, Joao Augusto. 2010. "Environment and Development: The Case of Developing Countries." In GPB.

October 25: Environment and Trade

- CDB, p. 342-363
- Cameron, Hugo. 2010. "The Evolution of the Trade-Environment Debate at the WTO." In GPB.

- Jenkins, Leesteffy. 1996. "Trade Sanctions: Effective Enforcement Tools?" In James Cameron, Jacob Weksman and Peter Roderick (eds.) *Improving Compliance with International Environmental Law*. London: Earthscan.

October 27: Environment and Security

- Homer-Dixon, Thomas. 1999. *Environment, Scarcity and Violence*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Read: "Chapter Two: Overview" p. 12-27.
- Kahl, Colin. 2010. "Demography, Environment and Civil Strife." In GPB.
- United Nations Environment Program. 2010. "Sudan: Conflict and the Environment." In GPB.
- Deudney, Daniel. 2010. "The Case against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security." In GPB.

Week 9-15: Case of Environmental Policy-Making and Policy Implementation

November 1: Cases of Environmental Policy: The Ozone Layer

- CDB, p. 163-178
- Benedick, Richard Elliot. 1998. *Ozone Diplomacy*. Washington, DC: The World Wildlife Fund and the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University. Read only: "Chapter Four: Prelude to Consensus" and "Chapter Five: Forging the US Position" p. 40-67.

November 3: Cases of Environmental Policy: Whaling

- CDB, p. 203-214
- Peterson, M. J. 1992. "Whalers, Cetologists, Environmentalists and the International Management of Whaling." *International Organization* 46 (1):147-86 (read only p. 147-156).

November 8: Cases of Environmental Policy: Acid Rain

- CDB, p. 117-129
- Wettstad, Jorgen. 1997. "Acid Lessons? LRTAP Implementation and Effectiveness." *Global Environmental Change* 7(3): 235-49 (Read only 239-249).

November 10: Cases of Environmental Policy: Deforestation

- CDB, p. 253-264
- Peluso, Nancy Lee. 2010. "Coercing Conservation." In GPB.
- Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations of the Amazon Basin [COICA]. 2010. "Two Agendas on Amazon Development." In GPB.

November 15: Global Climate Change Politics: From Rio to the Kyoto Protocol

- CDB, p. 179-192
- Read the Kyoto Protocol [On Blackboard].
- Prins, Gwyn and Steven Rayner. 2007. "Time to Ditch Kyoto." *Nature* 449(25): 973-975.

November 17: Global Climate Change Politics: The Post-Kyoto Negotiations

- CDB, p. 192-202
- Read the Bali Action Plan, p. 1-6 only [On Blackboard].
- Read the Copenhagen Accord [On Blackboard].
- Dimitrov, Radoslav S. 2010. "Inside Copenhagen: The State of Climate Governance." *Global Environmental Politics*. 10(2): 18–24.

November 22: Approaches to Emissions Reductions and Climate Finance

- Bauer, Paul. 2010. "Greenhouse Development Rights: A Framework for Climate Protection that is 'More Fair' than Equal per Capita Emissions Rights." In Stephen Gardiner et al (eds.) *Climate Ethics: Essential Readings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 215-230.
- Sandel, Michael. "It's Immoral to Buy the Right to Pollute" *New York Times*, December 17, 1997.

November 29: What to Expect in Future Climate Negotiations

- Aldy and Stavins. 2001. "Lessons for the International Policy Community." In *Post-Kyoto International Climate Policy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Earth Negotiations Bulletin "Curtain Raiser" for COP 17 [will be posted when available]

December 1: Tools of Analysis: Comparing Environmental Regimes

- CDB, p. 264-269
- Review reading from October 11th

December 6: Tools of Analysis: Developing Hypotheses

- Bring to class your completed case selection handout

December 8: Course Summary and Review

- CDB, p. 370-380
- Clapp, Jennifer and Peter Dauvergne. 2011. "Paths to a Green World? Four Visions for a Healthy Global Environment." In *Paths to a Green World: the Political Economy of the Global Environment*. Cambridge: MIT Press, p. 227-245.

December 13: Exam 2

- Exam 2 in Class

Other Issues

Classroom Behavior: As always, I expect that everyone in our class will be treated with dignity. I will not accept disruptive or disrespectful behavior. Cell phones must be turned off before class, and food is not allowed. Drinks are ok, as long as they do not become a distraction. In class, laptop computers may be used, but email, chat and other programs that might disrupt your learning or that of those around you must be disabled.

Disabilities: In compliance with UMD policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. If you have a documented disability or feel that you need an assessment, you should contact Disability Support Services (0126 Shoemaker Hall). The rules for eligibility may be reviewed on the DSS web site: http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/receiving_serv.html. Each semester, students with documented disabilities should apply to DSS for accommodation request forms, which you can provide to your professors as proof of your eligibility for accommodations.