Global Environmental Politics

GVPT 306
University of Maryland/ Fall 2011

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

Jennifer Hadden
Email: jhadden1@umd.edu

Office: Tydings 3114M
Phone: 301-405-1770
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.


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](http://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

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/](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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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| 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

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| 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 13th)                                      |

### Week 7-8: Cross-Cutting Issues

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<th>Date</th>
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| 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

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<th>Date</th>
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| 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 13th)                                      |
| 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

September 6: Classifying Global Environmental Problems

September 8: History of Global Environmental Governance
- CDB, p. 19-30
- 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
- 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.

**September 20:** Identifying Environmental Problems

**September 22:** Science, Risk and Politics

**Week 4-6:** Negotiating Solutions to Environmental Problems

**September 27:** Environmental Institutions
- CDB, p. 63-91
- 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

**October 4:** Non-State Actors: NGOs and Social Movements
- CDB, p. 91-102
October 6: Non-State Actors: Multinational Corporations

- CDB, p. 102-109

October 11: Determinants of Regime Effectiveness

- CDB, p. 271-318

October 13: Mid Term Examination

Week 7-8: Cross-Cutting Issues

October 18: Environment and Development


October 20: North-South Divides

- CDB, p. 320-330
- 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.

October 27: Environment and Security
• 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

November 3: Cases of Environmental Policy: Whaling
• CDB, p. 203-214

November 8: Cases of Environmental Policy: Acid Rain
• CDB, p. 117-129

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].

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].

November 22: Approaches to Emissions Reductions and Climate Finance

November 29: What to Expect in Future Climate Negotiations
• 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

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.