

Course Syllabus

PLS 492 Seminar: Global Environmental Governance
Spring 2014 Dr. Aspin 426E Bradley Hall, Office Hours : MWF 10-12; TTh
9:00-12:00

Course Content

An increasing number of global environmental conferences marked the rise of environmental issues on the world agenda. This development was not without controversy and unknown outcomes. For example, are the consequences of the ecological problems as great a threat to the planet and human society as some analysts contend (e.g., "The importance of ecological issues is indicted by the fact that the survival of the human species is contingent upon the world's ability to summon the political will to devise policies that can preserve the earth's carrying capacity, on which life itself is dependent.")? The din of contradictory answers to such questions stemmed from many sources including fundamental disagreements not only about the nature and importance of the ecological problems, but also over preferred policies and structures to address them. Over the space of a few years a system of global environmental governance has slowly developed. Thus far there have been varying degrees of progress on the major problems? Why did this particular system develop? Is the current system capable of making more progress or must it be reformed? If reform is necessary, what are the needed reforms and are they attainable?

Understanding the rise of environmental issues on the world agenda and assessing the effectiveness of current structures and policies to resolve them requires a basic understanding of the major problems. Thus, we will begin with a brief examination of selected major ecological problems examining both their nature and efforts to address them. Then we will systematically look at the components of the current system including key concepts, mechanisms, and the principal international actors. When we are finished you will be able to articulate why the existing system has come into being, how effective it is, and what are the likely future developments. One of your six essay questions will be "The year is 2044 and you are starting your 6th decade on planet earth, you and the other 10 billion inhabitants of this over crowded world. Describe the existing state of global environmental problems, and the global governance system. Have either changed since 2014 and if so, how? What accounts for the changes that have taken place. Explain."

Course Materials

The following text is available in the bookstore:

[CDB] Pamela Chasek, David Downie, & Janet Welsh Brown, *Global Environmental Politics*,

6th edition, Westview Press, 2014

[AVD] Regina Axelrod, , Stacy D. Vandever, & David Downie (eds) *The Global Environment:*

Institutions, Law, and Policy, 3rd ed., CQ Press, 2010.

[OY] Oran R. Young, *On Environmental Governance: Sustainability, Efficiency, and Equity*,

Paradigm Publishers, 2013.

Other reading materials will be online or in the library. Library material will be at the reserve desk unless they are reference materials or periodicals. Those currently on reserve are:

[CD] Ken Conca, & Geoffrey Dabelko, *Green Planet Blues: Four Decades of Global Environmental Politics*, 4th ed, Westview Press, 2010.

[O'Neill] Kate O'Neill, *The Environment and International Relations*, Cambridge University Press, 2009.

The course web page has several important documents for the course. The URL is <http://hilltop.bradley.edu/~aspin/492www/index.htm>

One of the most important documents on the course web page is the syllabus. This has dozens of links to the required readings which you will find in various locations across the WWW. Also note that the syllabus is a dynamic document. When better selections are identified they will replace current reading assignments. Always use the online syllabus when preparing for class.

Course Requirements

Exam [40%] There will be one exam to be given April 14. This exam grade will constitute 40% of your course grade.

Participation [20%] This is a seminar and there will be no lectures. Each student will have read the material and be prepared to **contribute** to the discussion. On more than one occasion each student will have formal responsibility for leading the discussion. Your participation grade, computed daily, will constitute 20% of your course grade.

Research Paper [40%] The grade on your paper will constitute 40% of your total course grade. This is an original research paper on an **appropriate** aspect of the course. The paper may range from objectively testing hypotheses to policy prescription; HOWEVER, in no case is simple description sufficient.

Important paper dates to be announced in class:

- Topic proposal to be approved—March 5

- Detailed outline of the paper—April 9
- Class presentation (April 30 or May 5) and final submission— May 6

You must submit two copies of the final paper: (1) a printed copy, which will be returned, and (2) a soft copy (emailed, floppy disk, CD, etc.). The soft copy is for (1) archiving and (2) to check for originality, if I have any questions about authorship of the paper.

Course Policies

There will be no make-up exam given. While the date for the exam cannot be set at the beginning of the semester, you will have at least a one-week notice as to the exact date of the exam.

While class attendance is not mandatory, you obviously receive a zero for discussion on days you fail to appear.

Plagiarism, passing off the words and ideas of another as one's own, will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

No late papers will be accepted.

Course Schedule

Course Outline and Readings

I Introduction (1)

Readings:

- **AVD** Ch 1 "Introduction: Governing the International Environment,"
- **OY** "Introduction: Governing Human Environment Relations,"
- **CDB** Ch 1 "The Emergence of Global Environmental Politics"

II Selected Problems: What is the Problem? Actions to Date? By Whom? Effect?

A. Ecosystems and Human Society (2)

Readings:

- **OY** Ch 3 Eco System Services: Thinking in Systems
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment *Current State & Trends Assessment*, Ch 1 MA [Conceptual Framework](#), and Ch 28 [Synthesis](#)
(Index page is <http://www.maweb.org/en/Condition.aspx>)

B. Degradation of the Biosphere

1. Ozone Depletion (3)

Readings:

- **CDB** Ch 3, pp.101-120.
- WMO/UNEP "The 2010 Assessment of the Scientific Assessment Panel: Twenty Questions and Answers About the Ozone Layer"
http://ozone.unep.org/Assessment_Panels/SAP/Scientific_Assessment_2010/SAP-2010-FAQs-update.pdf
- "Health and Environmental Effects of Ozone Layer Depletion"
<http://www.epa.gov/ozone/science/effects/index.html>
- WMO/UNEP "The 2010 Assessment of the Scientific Assessment Panel: Executive Summary <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/csd/assessments/ozone/2010/executivesummary/>
- The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
http://www.multilateralfund.org/2_Global_Warming
- [The Arctic & the Ozone Layer](#) (Good Video touching on several aspects of the problem)

2. Climate Change (4)**Readings:**

- **CDB** Ch 3 pp.151-170.
- **AVD** "International Climate Change Policy: Toward the Multilevel Governance of Global Warming," Michele Betsill
- IPCC Climate Change 2013: [The Physical Science Basis---Summary for Policy Makers](#)
- The IPCC 2013 Synthesis Report summarizing all group reports is still in process. Thus review IPCC Climate Change 2007: AR4 Synthesis Report-- Summary for Policymakers http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr_spm.pdf
- Union of Concerned Scientists, [Global Warming Solutions](#), http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/solutions/ Examine in depth three of the four solutions---[Reduce Emissions](#), [Prepare for Impacts](#), and [Fight Misinformation](#)

3. Forest Degradation and Deforestation (5)**Readings:**

- **CDB** Ch 4, p. 222-232
- FAO "State of the World's Forests 2012" Ch 2 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i3010e/i3010e02.pdf> Rainforest basics can also be found at <http://rainforests.mongabay.com/>
- [High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change](#)
- Going to the roots: Addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation <http://www.fao.org/docrep/article/wfc/xii/ms12b-e.htm>
- At Loggerheads? Agricultural Expansion, Poverty Reduction, and Environment in the Tropical Forests http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTTROPICALFOREST/Resources/2463822-1161184206155/3060670-1161608416166/PRR-AL_SAOoverviewwebnonembargo.pdf

- How the World Bank and HSBC are investing in deforestation, http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/features/world-bank-congo-forest_300807/
- Union of Concerned Scientists, [Global Warming Solutions: Stop Deforestation](#)

4. Energy (6)

Readings:

- **AVD** "Energy and Environment in China: Achievements and Enduring Challenges," Gallagher and Lewis
- Union of Concerned Scientists, Clean Energy 101 (Also follow the [short history](#) of energy link) http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/clean_energy_101/
- Energy and Sustainable Development <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Magazines/Bulletin/Bull411/41104080206.pdf>
- Sustainable Development and Nuclear Power pages on The Energy Challenge and Salient Points <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Booklets/Development/index.html>
- Pros and cons: A reality check on alternative fuels <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2011/05/pros-and-cons-a-reality-check-on-alternative-fuels/index.htm>

III Select Concepts and Conflicts

A. Key Environmental Concepts (7)

Readings:

Tragedy of the Commons

- **OY** Ch 1 Natural Resources: Solving Collective-Action Problems
- **CD** Ch 3 "The Tragedy of the Commons," G. Hardin
- **CD** Ch 4 "No Tragedy of the Commons," S. Buck Cox

PreCautionary Principle

- **CDB** Review 42-46
- Debating the Precautionary Principle: "Guilty until Proven Innocent" or "Innocent until Proven Guilty"? <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC526264/>

Intergenerational Equity

- Human Rights, Environment, and Economic Development: Existing and Emerging Standards in International Law and Global Society <http://www.ciel.org/Publications/olp3iv.html>

Summary of Key Concepts

- UNEP, *Training Manual on International Environmental Law*, Ch 3 Principles and concepts of international environmental law

http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/documents/training_Manual.pdf

B. Sustainable Development (8)

Readings:

- **CDB** Ch 6, pp. 283-301, Also review pp.. 33-40
- "Sustainable Development Introduction," Global Issues Home Sustainable Development <http://www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/Development/Intro.asp>
- Re-Framing Sustainable Development: A Critical Analysis http://www.ciwem.org/media/853658/Reframing_Sustainability_WS.pdf
- Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Opportunities and Challenges for Business and Industry <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.353.aspx.pdf>
- [World Business Council for Sustainable Development](http://www.wbcsd.org/pages/edocument/edocumentdetails.aspx?id=219&nosearchcontextkey=true), Vision 2050: The New Agenda for Business in Brief Summary <http://www.wbcsd.org/pages/edocument/edocumentdetails.aspx?id=219&nosearchcontextkey=true>

C. Conflict Between Goals: Economic Growth vs Environment (9)

Readings:

- **CDB** Ch 6, pp. 301-319
- **O'Neill** Ch 6 Global Economic Governance and the Environment
- Taylor, Economic Growth and the Environment: A Review of theory and empirics (Introduction and Conclusion Only) <http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=taylor>
- Zhang, Is Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth Possible in China? <http://asiasociety.org/policy/environmentally-sustainable-economic-growth-possible-china>
- UNEP, Decoupling natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic growth <http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/Portals/24102/PDFs/DecouplingENGSummary.pdf>

D. Conflict Between Communities: Environment and Security/War (10)

Readings:

- **CDB** Review pp. 40-42
- Ronnfeldt, "Three Generations of Environment and Security Research," <http://www.jstor.org/stable/424868?cookieSet=1> or <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/424868.pdf>
- "An Uncommon Peace: Environment, Development, and the Global Security Agenda," Geoffrey D. Dabelko

http://www.environmentmagazine.org/Archives/BackIssues/May-June_2008/Dabelko-full.html

- Environment and Security: Core Ideas and US Government Initiatives http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/sais_review/v017/17.1dabelko.html
- UNEP, *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment* http://www.unep.org/pdf/pcdmb_policy_01.pdf
- Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases," T. Homer-Dixon <http://www.homerdixon.com/projects/evidence/evid1.htm>
- Alternative Definitions of Environmental Security <http://www.millennium-project.org/millennium/es-2def.html>

IV The Actors/Structures for Solutions?

A. Science and scientists

Readings:

- Restoring Scientific Integrity in Policymaking http://www.ucsusa.org/scientific_integrity/
- Summary of National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service Scientist Survey http://www.ucsusa.org/scientific_integrity/abuses_of_science/survey-noaa-fisheries.html
- **O'Neill** p. 63-66
- Climate Science [Summary Clip](#) [Science as a combat sport](#)
- Schneider lecture to be viewed in [class](#)

B. States and the International System (11)

Readings

- **CDB** Ch 2 Actors in the Environmental Arena p. 49-57
- **Peter Sand**, "Sovereignty Bounded: Public Trusteeship for Common Pool Resources?" http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/global_environmental_politics/v004/4.1sand.pdf
- **AVD** "Understanding United States Unilateralism: Domestic Sources of US International Environmental Policy," Elizabeth DeSombre
- **AVD** "The European Union as an Environmental Governance System," Regina Axelrod, Norman Vig, and Miranda Schreurs
- **AVD** "The View from the South: Developing Countries in Global Environmental Politics," Adil Najam

D. International Intergovernmental Organizations (12)

Readings:

- **AVD** "Global Institutions and the Environment: An Evolutionary Perspective," Marvin Soroos

- **CDB** Ch 2 "Actors in the Environmental Arena," pp. 58-84.
- "Global Environmental Governance: UN Fragmentation and Co-ordination"
http://www.fni.no/YBICED/01_01_andresen.pdf
- "A World Environment Organization" Steve Charnovitz
<http://www.wilmerhale.com/files/Publication/6ad8618d-6535-4a81-8046-cd084016b0f2/Presentation/PublicationAttachment/d61941b0-fa16-4ad1-9e19-254449cf83be/Charnovitz1.pdf>

E. International Nongovernmental Organizations (13)

Readings:

- **AVD** "The Role of Environmental NGOs in International Regimes," John McCormick
- **CDB** Ch 2 "Actors in the Environmental Arena," pp. 85-99
- The Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Global Environmental Governance
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/NGOs/082702ngo.pdf>

F. International Law (14)

Readings:

- If you have not had PLS 317, skim the [Overview of International Law](#)
- **AVD** "Environmental Protection in the Twenty-first Century: The Role of International Law," Jacqueline Peel
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Compliance Continuum
https://www.ipcc.int/sites/default/files/documents/1182330508307_Compliance_and_theory_MEAs.pdf
- Promoting Meaningful Compliance with Climate Change Commitments (especially sections I and II) <http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/compliance.pdf>
- Causes of Environmental Law Failures <http://www.ecovitality.org/badlaw.htm>
- **O'Neill** Ch 5 "The impacts and effectiveness of environmental treaty regimes"

G. International Environmental Regimes (15)

Readings:

- **O'Neill** Ch 4 "State-led global environmental governance: International cooperation and regime formation"
- **AVD** "Global Environmental Policy: Governance through Regimes," David Downie
- **CDB** Ch 6 "Effective Environmental Regimes: Obstacles and Opportunities"
- **AVD** "Compliance with Global Environmental Policy," Michael Faure and Jurgen Lefevere

H. Horizontal and Vertical Interplay (16)

Readings:

- **OY** Chs 4 and 5

I. Environmental Governance in the Anthropocene (17)

Readings:

- **OY** Chs 6 and 7

VII What Now? (18)

Readings:

- Adil Najam, Mihaela Papa, and Nadaa Taiyab, *Global Environmental Governance A Reform Agenda*, Chapter 1 and 2
<http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2006/geg.pdf>
 - **CDB** Ch 7
 - **OY** Conclusion Making Environmental Governance Work
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