

Spring 2004

International Environmental Policy

Human Ecology 11: 374: 315

Professor David McDermott Hughes
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Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:30 or by appointment
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The course meets Monday and Thursday 2nd period (9:50-11:10) in 206 Thompson Hall

Course description

International policies designed to protect the environment encounter numerous obstacles. National governments defend their sovereign rights to use and abuse their natural resources. Poorer, developing nations cling to their plans for industrial growth while rural communities often cling simply to their cultures. Finally, policy-makers still debate about what the environment is, where it is, and whether various problems are truly global or merely local. To add to the confusion, scientists remain uncertain with regard to, say, climate change – and they are uncertain with regard to the *level of certainty* necessary for action. Meanwhile, economists are wading into political and ethical uncertainty as they attempt to give monetary values to environmental attributes. This course will explore these and other dilemmas before policy-makers. Readings from across the social sciences will sift through the major debates on areas of environmental policy – from species preservation to ozone depletion. Ultimately, students should come to appreciate the complexity of defining the environment, determining its problems, and addressing them with fairness.

Requirements

Students are expected to do all the weekly reading by the Thursday class meeting. Students are also responsible for the material in films listed on the syllabus. These will be shown in class, and will not be available for viewing at any other time. Class participation – including thoughtful discussion of the readings – contributes to the final grade, as does one midterm and a second midterm or final paper. Reading reports are also expected.

Reading reports: Students are expected to do all the weekly reading in a timely fashion. Beginning with week 4, students will submit “reading reports” weekly (due at the beginning of each recitation). Students may skip two of the reading reports without penalty. A reading report has the following format:

1. Give authors, titles, publishers, and dates of publication for all of the reading selections. In other words, write the citations. You may use the format of the syllabus as a guide.

2. State a question that the author addresses and answers. Choose one author if there are multiple selections. Answer that question in a paragraph.
3. State a question that the author does *not* address or answer. If the week's readings include more than one selection, choose a different author from the one you chose in part 2. Answer that question in a paragraph.

Participation in class – including thoughtful discussion of the readings – contributes to the final grade, as do one midterm and a final exam or final paper. You may choose whether to write the paper or take the exam. In the former case, you must discuss that paper with me beforehand. I will determine course grades as follows:

I will calculate final grades as follows:

15% for in-class participation
20% for reading reports
30% for the first midterm
35% for the second midterm or final paper

Readings

All reading materials are on reserve as hard copies in the Chang Science Library. Most of the readings are also on the Iris electronic reserve system. Finally, the Student Cooperative Store on the Cook/Douglass Campus has copies of the four main texts. They are listed below with prices.

- Adams, Jonathan S. and Thomas O. McShane. 1996. *The Myth of Wild Africa: Conservation without Illusion*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press (\$16.95)
- Derr, Patrick G. and Edward M. McNamara. 2003. *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield (\$24.95).
- Leggett, Jeremy. 2001. *The Carbon War: Global Warming and the End of the Oil Era*. New York: Routledge.
- Pearce, David W. 1993. *Economic Values and the Natural World*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (\$22)
- Wenzel, George. 1991. *Animal Rights, Human Rights: Ecology, Economy and Ideology in the Canadian Arctic*. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press (\$21.95).

Syllabus

Week 1 (22 Jan.): Introduction

Week 2 (26 Jan.): What is policy?

Wapner, Paul. 1996. *Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics*. Albany: State University of New York Press. Chapter 2 (pp. 17-40).

Susskind, Lawrence E. 1994. *Environmental Diplomacy: Negotiating More Effective Global Agreements*. Oxford, UK: Oxford Univ. Press. Pp. 151-75.

Shiva, Vandana. 1992. "The greening of global reach." *The Ecologist* 22(6): 258-59.

Stokke, Olav Schram and Øystein B. Thommessen, eds. 2002. *Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development 2002/2003*. London: Earthscan. Pp. 178-83.

Environmental Policy in Local Sites

Week 3 (2 Feb.): Animal rights

Wenzel, George. 1991. *Animal Rights, Human Rights* Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press. Pp. 11-55, 114-33, 142-84.

Singer, Peter. 1975. *Animal Liberation: A New Ethics for our Treatment of Animals*. New York: Avon. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-26).

Derr, Patrick G. and Edward M. McNamara. 2003. *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. Cases 2, 3 and 22.

Week 4 (9 Feb.): National parks and biodiversity

Adams and McShane. 1996. *The Myth of Wild Africa*, Chap 3-4 (pp. 37-84).

Janzen, Daniel. 1986. "The future of tropical ecology." *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* 17: 305-24.

Guha, Ramachandra. 1997. "The authoritarian biologist and the arrogance of anti-humanism: wildlife conservation in the Third World." *The Ecologist* 27(1): 14-20.

Derr and McNamara. *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*. Cases 4, 11, 17, and 18.

Stokke and Thommessen, eds. 2002. *Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development 2002/2003*. pp. 186-89, 193-98.

Week 5 (16 Feb.): Community-based natural resource management

Berg, Peter. 1985. "Growing bioregional politics." *RAIN* July/August, pp. 14-16.

Adams and McShane, *The Myth of Wild Africa*. Chap. 7, 9.

Brody, Hugh. 1981. *Maps and Dreams*. New York: Pantheon Books. Pp. 256-70.

Week 6 (23 Feb.-): Review and midterm
Midterm on 26 Feb.

Science and Stories

Week 7 (1 March-): What is nature, after all?

Cronon, William. 1996. "The trouble with wilderness; or, getting back to the wrong nature." *Environmental History* 1(1): 7-28.

Adams and McShane, *The Myth of Wild Africa*. Chap. 1-2.

Fairhead, James and Melissa Leach. 1995. "False forest history, complicit social analysis: rethinking some West African environmental narratives." *World Development* 23(6): 1023-35.

Guha, R. 1989. "Radical American environmentalism and wilderness preservation: a Third World critique." *Environmental Ethics* 11(1): 71-83.

Week 8 (8 March-): The search for certainty

Carson, Rachel. 1994 [1962]. *Silent Spring*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 14 (pp. 219-43).

Leggett, Jeremy. 2001. *The Carbon War: Global Warming and the End of the Oil Era*. New York: Routledge. Chap 1-2.

Derr and McNamara. *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*. Case 37.

Week 9 (22 March-): Metaphor and biography

Clarke, Lee Ben. 1999. *Mission Improbable: Using Fantasy Documents to Tame Disaster*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 4 (pp. 219-43).

Antonetta, Susanne. 2001. *Body Toxic*. Washington, DC: Counterpoint. Chapter 12 (pp. 208-36).

Sebeok, Thomas A. 1986. *I think I am a Verb: More Contributions to the Doctrine of Signs*. New York: Plenum Press. Pp. 149-151, 167-173.

"The Scream," painting by Edvard Munch, 1893.

<http://www.museumsnett.no/nasjonalgalleriet/munch/eng/innhold/bio/939.html>

Policy and Economic Measures

Week 10 (29 March-): Environmental economics

Pearce, David. 1993. *Economic Values and the Natural World*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapters 1-5 (pp. 1-94).

Derr and McNamara. *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*. Cases 10 and 34.

Week 11 (5 April-): Pollution

- Baxter, William F. 1974, *People or Penguins: the Case for Optimal Pollution*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-13).
- Winslow, Philip C. 1997. *Sowing the Dragon's Teeth: Land Mines and the Global Legacy of War*. Boston: Beacon Press. Pp. 1-21, 138-44.
- Derr and McNamara. *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*. Cases 33 and 43.
- Stokke and Thommessen, eds. 2002. *Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development 2002/2003*. pp. 101-109, 112-15.

Week 12 (12 April-): Carbon

- Leggett, Jeremy. 2001. *The Carbon War: Global Warming and the End of the Oil Era*. Chapters 4, 9-11, Epilogue.
- Stokke and Thommessen, eds. 2002. *Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development 2002/2003*. pp. 92-100.

Week 13 (19 April-): Environmental crimes?

- Barker, Holly M. and Barbara Rose Johnston. 2000. "Seeking compensation for radiation survivors in the Marshall Islands: the contribution of anthropology." *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 24(1): 48-50.
- Kirsch, Stuart. 2001. "Lost worlds: environmental disaster, 'culture loss,' and the law." *Current Anthropology* 42(2): 167-78.
- Abbey, Edward. 1975. *The Monkey-Wrench Gang*. New York: Avon. Chapter 6 (pp. 67-91).
- Derr and McNamara. *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*. Cases 6, 21, and 35.

Week 14 (26 April-)

Recap and review for midterm

3 May: **Second Midterm**

Students who opt to write a paper instead of the exam must meet with the professor and submit an outline by 15 April. The paper itself is due by 4pm on 3 May in the Human Ecology department office (201 Cook Office Building).