

## The Politics and Policy of the Global Environment

Prof. Green  
Fall 2014  
POSC 388 / ESTD 388

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*Note: I reserve the right to change the readings*

### Course Overview

Environmental problems are now at the forefront of political discussions. This course examines the law, politics and policy of global environmental issues including energy, climate, biodiversity, food and water. The course aims to provide a broad overview of the key concepts, actors, debates and issues in global environmental politics. It demonstrates the complexities both of the nature of the problems as well as the solutions. The proliferation of global institutions and international actors and the absence of central enforcement mechanisms are hallmarks of addressing environmental problems.

The course has six parts. First, we examine the causes of environmental degradation and examine competing views on the gravity of the problem. Second, we examine the actors and institutions of global environmental politics, to understand how environmental problems are created, law is made, and policy is implemented. In short, we ask, "who solves global environmental problems and how?" We then turn to understanding the conditions under which environmental lawmaking is successful, and the role of science in that process. Fifth, we look at linkages between environmental issues and economic globalization. In the final section of the course, we apply the tools and concepts to the problem of climate change.

By the end of the semester, you should:

- Be able to identify the major actors in global environmental politics and their roles;
- Understand different types of legal, market and informal policy mechanisms for addressing environmental problems;
- Be able to explain the political challenges to international cooperation on transboundary environmental problems;
- Locate and use independent evidence to explain the nature of those challenges.

### Course Requirements

**Readings.** You are expected to complete *all* of the readings for *every* class. Classes will be a mix of lecture and discussion. You are expected to participate in discussions, and this will be **significant** part of your final grade (see below). Simply

sitting in the class sessions will not earn you full marks on participation; coming to class with questions and comments will. You should try to complete all of the readings by Monday.

There will be two textbooks for the course:

Simon Nicholson and Paul Wapner. 2014. *Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.

Kate O'Neill. 2009. *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

The other readings will either be posted on Blackboard (indicated as **on BB** in the syllabus), or you will have to find them using the KSL website. All articles are electronically available. This is to get you comfortable with using the website to find sources.

**Exams.** There will be a mid-term in class on **OCTOBER 22th**. This will cover basic concepts and readings in the course to date. There will be a final take home exam due on **DECEMBER 15th**.

**Commentaries.** There are four written assignments during the course of the semester. These are due to me electronically on the day of class *before class meets*. The goal of these is to get you thinking about the readings and the issues we will be discussing that day in class.

**Research paper.** You will also be required to write a 15-20 page double-spaced page research paper on an environmental problem and the political and legal responses to it. You are encouraged to examine issues not discussed in the course, though this is not a requirement. The paper should clearly pose a question about international environmental politics. Using both the concepts discussed in the class, *as well as independent evidence*, it should try to answer the question and build a persuasive argument for your view. You should reference *scholarly writings*, but may also use contemporary journalistic sources. Please consult the *Chicago Manual of Style* for examples of citation systems. You will be evaluated on the quality of the argument, its logical consistency as well as evidence presented. Style counts too: If I have difficulty understanding your prose, I will certainly struggle to understand the argument. I encourage you to proofread your papers carefully, and consider trading papers with classmates for proofreading purposes. Before each interim due date (see below), we will devote some time in class to your questions.

To avoid leaving the paper to the end of the term, there will be several interim assignments and deadlines. You will primarily be graded on turning them in promptly. I will give you feedback and comments at each stage.

1. Research topic and preliminary bibliography. You will submit a topic, a research question, and at least three scholarly sources that you have used in formulating the topic. Grading will be based on whether such an abstract is submitted. **Due 22 Sept.**
2. Research Report. This will be a description of what work you have done on the research project. You may wish to include works you read that are particularly useful, trouble you have encountered with your topic, questions you have, plans for moving forward. **Due 6 Oct.**
3. Rough drafts. I am requiring that you turn in TWO rough drafts. These do not have to be finished products. Rather, they are to help you in the writing process in three ways. First, they provide a deadline. Second, they help you think through the different pieces of the paper. Third, they provide me with an opportunity to give you feedback on different occasions. The first draft is due on **3 November**. The second one is due on **24 November**. I **strongly** recommend that you turn in a complete rough draft. The more feedback you get from me at the outset, the better your paper will be.
4. *The final paper is due 10 Dec. No exceptions.*

**Extra credit.** I will give extra credit for attending environment-themed lectures and discussions on campus. I will announce these as I become aware of them. To get credit (+2 points per lecture), you must turn in a one page summary of the event. There is a 6 point limit on these (roughly half a grade).

**Grading.** The grading for each of the assignments will break down as follows:

Participation:	20%	
Midterm:	15%	
Commentaries:	15%	
Final exam:	15%	
Final paper:	35%	(This will include the interim assignments as well)

### **Legal**

1. **All deadlines are final.** For each day an assignment is late, a half grade will be deducted. This means if an A- paper is one day late, it will be a B+. If a B paper is two days late, it will be a C. THE ONLY exception to this rule is if you have a note from the Dean. Unless you have a note from the Dean, no extensions will be granted.
2. **Please read the policy on academic honesty and plagiarism.** (<http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/acintegrity.htm>). **Academic dishonesty** (plagiarism, cheating on examinations, etc.) **is a serious offense that can result in loss of credit, suspension, and possibly expulsion from the university.** All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

- a. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please feel free to ask me.
3. An unexcused absence for an exam will result in a failing grade for that exam.
4. I reserve the right to consider extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
5. Re-grade requests for exams will be honored only if accompanied by a comprehensive written explanation of why you deserve a higher grade. Note that if accepted, a request for re-grading may result in the raising or *lowering* of your grade.

### **Other Class Policies**

1. **No laptops.** Please bring *hard copies* of the readings to class. The only exception is if you have permission from ESS. Here's why:

"Experimental tests of immediate retention of class material have also found that Internet browsing impairs performance. Moreover, recent research suggests that even when laptops are used solely to take notes, they may still be impairing learning because their use results in shallower processing." Pam Mueller and Daniel Oppenheimer, "The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard." *Psychological Science*, Forthcoming. DOI: 10.1177/0956797614524581.

2. **No texting.** If I see you texting, you will be asked to leave class and will be marked absent for the day. **Please turn off your cell phones.**
3. Please save paper; submit everything to me electronically VIA EMAIL. Your name and POSC 388 should be in the title of the email.
4. Graduate students will have additional assignments to be worked out with me during the course of the semester.
5. During the semester I am prepared to meet by appointment with any and all students enrolled in this course. I would like especially to meet with students with disabilities who are registered with the Coordinator of Disability Services (368-5230) and who may need individual arrangements.

*Week 1: Introduction*

25 Aug: Introduction (no reading)

27 Aug: NO CLASS

*Week 2: The state of affairs*

1 Sept: NO CLASS (Labor Day)

**Commentary #1:** The Time Machine (N&W, p. 33). 500-800 words, due electronically before class on 3 Sept.

3 Sept: The big picture

- Nicholson and Wapner, Chaps 1-3
- Bjorn Lomborg, *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, Chaps 1-2. **BB**
- Will Steffen, Paul Crutzen and John McNeill. 2007. "The Anthropocene: Are Humans Now Overwhelming the Forces of Nature?" Available at [https://www.pik-potsdam.de/news/public-events/archiv/alter-net/former-ss/2007/05-09.2007/steffen/literature/ambi-36-08-06\\_614\\_621.pdf](https://www.pik-potsdam.de/news/public-events/archiv/alter-net/former-ss/2007/05-09.2007/steffen/literature/ambi-36-08-06_614_621.pdf).

*Week 3: What's the problem?*

8 Sept: The environmental problem

- Simon and Nicholson, Chaps 4-7.
- Before class: Play the Tragedy of the Commons Start Game, available at <http://pages.uoregon.edu/rmitchel/commons/1cow/index.shtml>.  
In class: We will play a joint simulation. *Please bring laptops to class.*

10 Sept: The political problem: O'Neill, Chap 2.

- **In class discussion: How to write a research paper.** Before class, please read the sample paper circulated.

**Environment and the State**

*Week 4: State-led approaches: Regime Formation and Design*

15 Sept: O'Neill, Chap 4; Nicholson and Wapner Chap 13

17 Sept: **Guest Speaker: Matthew Smith, University of Leeds. *Climate change and states of exception.***

*Week 5: Regime Formation and Design*

22 Sept: Developing Countries and Environmental Governance

- N&W, Chaps 12 & 15
- Najam, Adil. 2005. Developing Countries and Global Environmental Governance: From Contestation to Participation to Engagement.

*International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 5 (3): 303–321. **KSL**

- **Discussion: What's the difference between "environmental politics" and "sustainable development". If you are a developing country negotiator how does this change your negotiating position?**

**Paper topic due electronically by 22 Sept, 11.59 PM.** Please submit a research question and three sources that will be useful in preliminary research.

24 Sept: Why do we have treaties and how do they work?

- Barrett, Scott. 2010. *Why Cooperate? The Incentive to Supply Global Public Goods*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press. Introduction. **On BB.**
- Abbott, Kenneth, Robert Keohane, Andrew Moravcsik, Anne-Marie Slaughter, and Duncan Snidal. 2000. The Concept of Legalization. *International Organization* 54 (3): 401–419. **KSL**
- **Discussion: What's a good topic for a research paper? What are different ways of constructing a question?**

### *Week 6: Regime Compliance and Effectiveness*

29 Sept: Success and Failure (each student will be responsible for ONE of the following readings):

- Victor, David. 2001. *The Collapse of the Kyoto Protocol and the Struggle to Slow Global Warming*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chap 1. **On BB.**
- Dimitrov, Radoslav. 2002. "Confronting Nonregimes: Science and International Coral Reef Policy." *The Journal of Environment & Development* 11(1): 53 -78. **KSL**
- Levy, Marc A. 1995. "European Acid Rain: The Power of Tote-Board Diplomacy". In Peter Haas et. al. eds. *Institutions for the Earth*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. **On BB.**
- Barrett, Scott. 2003. *Environment and Statecraft*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 2, "The North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty". **On BB.**
- Vandever, Stacy. 2011. "Networked Baltic Environmental Cooperation" *Journal of Baltic Studies*. 42(1):37-55. Available at <http://pubpages.unh.edu/~sdv/BalticNetworks%20JBS2011.pdf>.

**Commentary #2:** Describe the key goals of the agreement assigned to you, and explain what elements contributed to its success or failure (1000 word max, due electronically by class on 29 Sept).

1 Oct: How do we know if a regime is effective?

- O'Neill, Chap 5

### *Week 7: IGOs and NGOs in GEP*

6 Oct: Understanding IGOs.

- O'Neill, Chap 3, pp. 52-61
- Ivanova, Maria, "Moving forward while looking back – UNEP's history. **On BB.**
- Peruse at least two of the following websites and be able to summarize their IGO's activities / mission:
  - [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)
  - [www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org)
  - <http://www.cbd.int/> (click on Secretariat tab)
  - <http://www.unemg.org/>

**Research report due electronically by 6 Oct, 11.59PM.** Please submit a description of what work you have done on the research project. You may wish to include works you read that are particularly useful, trouble you have encountered with your topic, questions you have, plans for moving forward.

8 Oct: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

- Raustiala, Kal. 1997. "States, NGOs and International Environmental Institutions." *International Studies Quarterly* 41: 719-740.
- Wapner, Paul. 1995. "Politics Beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics." *World Politics* 47(3): 311-340

### *Week 8: Civil Society and Science*

13 Oct: Civil Society

- N&W, Chaps 19-21
- Commentary: N&W, p. 221 (option #1)

15 Oct: Science

- O'Neill, pp. 95-101
- Haas, Peter. 1989. Do Regimes Matter? Epistemic Communities and Mediterranean Pollution Control. *International Organization* 43 (3): 377-403.

### *Week 9: Review and Midterm*

20 Oct: Review

22 Oct: MIDTERM

### **New issues, new actors, new approaches**

### *Week 10: Trade and Environment*

27 Oct: FALL BREAK NO CLASS

29 Oct: O'Neill, Chap 6

- Discussion: What's the main argument of your paper?

*Week 11: Business and Environment*

3 Nov: Corporate Action on the Environment

- N&W, Chaps 16&18.
- Peter Dauvergne and Jane Lister. 2013. *Eco Business: A Big Brand Takeover of Sustainability*. **On BB**
- Article in Grist magazine: <http://grist.org/business-technology/hey-american-ceos-wholl-be-the-first-to-lead-on-climate-change/>

**Research Paper First Draft due electronically by 3 Nov, 11.59 PM**

5 Nov: Self-Regulation

- Haufler, Virginia. 2010. Disclosure as Governance: The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and Resource Management in the Developing World. *Global Environmental Politics* 10 (3): 53–73.
- Additional reading TBA

*Week 12: Sustainable Consumption*

10 Nov: Private Regulation

- O'Neill, Chap 7.
- Look at one of the following websites
  - <https://ic.fsc.org/>
  - <http://www.climate-standards.org/>
  - <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/agriculture/certification>
  - <http://www.ifoam.org/pt/about-us-1>

12 Nov: Will it work?

- N&W Chaps 28-30

**Commentary #3:** N&W, pp. 183-4. 1000 words, **due 12 November before class**. Please address all three steps, though your response to step 1 can be brief – just to foreground the response to steps 2 & 3.

*Week 13: Climate Policy*

17 Nov: Climate Science

- Oreskes, Naomi. “The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change: How do we know we’re not wrong?” In Joseph DiMento and Pamela Doughman, eds. *Climate Change: What it means for us, our children and our grandchildren*. Cambridge: MIT Press. **On BB**.
- Mann, Michael. *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars*. New York: Columbia University Press. **On BB**.
- Check out <http://www.globalclimatescam.com>



19 Nov: Policy approaches

- International Emissions Trading Association, Cap and Trade basics: [http://www.ieto.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&catid=54%3A3-minute-briefing&id=205%3Acap-&trade-basics=&Itemid=135](http://www.ieto.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=54%3A3-minute-briefing&id=205%3Acap-&trade-basics=&Itemid=135)
- International Emissions Trading Association, Why trading is better than a tax: [http://www.ieto.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&catid=54%3A3-minute-briefing&id=207%3Awhy-emissions-trading-is-more-effective-than-a-carbon-tax&Itemid=135](http://www.ieto.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=54%3A3-minute-briefing&id=207%3Awhy-emissions-trading-is-more-effective-than-a-carbon-tax&Itemid=135).
- Global Warming Gridlock, Chap 1 **On BB**
- Cooper, Richard. "The Case for Charges on GHG Emissions" in Joseph Aldy and Richard Stavins, *Post-Kyoto international climate policy: implementing architectures for agreement*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5. **On BB**.
- Jessica F. Green, Thomas Sterner and Gernot Wagner. "The Politics of Market Linkage" Working paper. **On BB**.

Week 14: Energy Policy

24 Nov:

- Pacala, S., and R. Socolow. 2004. Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies. *Science* 305 (5686): 968–972.
- Kammen, Daniel M. 2006. The Rise of Renewable Energy. *Scientific American* 295 (3): 84–93
- [http://o.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/specialreportspages/2023538675\\_chinawindmainbarxml.html](http://o.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/specialreportspages/2023538675_chinawindmainbarxml.html)
- <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/06/19/industry-setback-changes-will-end-new-wind-farms-in-ohio/>
- Browse through Ohio incentives for renewables at <http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/index.cfm?re=0&ee=0&spv=0&st=0&srp=1&state=OH>

**Rough Draft due electronically by 24 Nov, 11.59PM.** You should have at least five pages of text. The more you can turn in, the more feedback you'll get and the better your final draft will be.

26 Nov: No reading, we will watch the documentary *Windfall* in class.

Week 15: The future

1 Dec: N&W, Chaps 33, 34, 36, 37

**Commentary #4:** N&W, p. 296. Given what you've learned this semester, what's your "sustainability idea"? What are its strengths and weaknesses? Be prepared to discuss in class. **Due electronically by class on 1 December.** 1200 word max.

3 Dec: Review and wrap up

**Take home final exam: due 14 December, 11.59PM. NO EXCEPTIONS**

**Final Paper due 10 December, 11.59PM. NO EXCEPTIONS**