

## **ESM 297: International Environmental Politics and Policy**

Spring 2015

Meeting: Bren 1510, Monday / Wednesday 2:30-3:45

Professor: Mark T. Buntaine (buntaine@bren.ucsb.edu)

### **Course Description**

Many environmental problems can only be successfully addressed internationally. Air pollution in one country can harm people in another country. Greenhouse gases emitted in one place cause harm around the world. Ocean fisheries are shared by whichever countries and companies have the ability to fish them. In all of these cases, states and non-state groups that have an interest in managing natural resources or pollutants must find ways to cooperate across international borders. This can be difficult, since there is no world authority available to enforce agreements between countries or to ensure that all countries contribute to international efforts. In this course, we will examine the challenges involved with establishing and maintaining international cooperation to solve environmental problems, given that there are structural impediments to the creation and enforcement of agreements. We will not only examine the opportunities and limitations of interstate cooperation, but also new modes of interaction at the international level, such as civil society partnerships, business-state relations, and the role subnational entities in international governance. By the end of the course, we will be able to articulate both the challenges and opportunities involved with solving transboundary environmental problems.

### **Student Evaluation**

Group Research Project	40%	Due: Friday, April 24
Participation	30%	
Final Essay	30%	Due: Wednesday, May 6

**Group Research Project:** In teams of 2-3 people, you will write a policy memo (4-5 single-spaced pages) evaluating current international efforts to deal with a transboundary environmental problem. The memo will include a description of the transboundary problem, a diagnosis of the results of existing efforts to address the problem, and a critical assessment of future options to address the problem. Each group will give a 15-minute presentation of their project during the designated course section. Select one unique combination of a region and issue below.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Issue</u>
Central & South America	Air quality
Central Asia	Flooding
East Asia	Drought
European Union	Fresh water
North Africa & Middle East	Industrial waste
North America	Deforestation
South Asia	Desertification
Southeast Asia	Carbon emissions
Sub-Saharan Africa	Land use/ownership

**Participation:** Your active participation is required for this class to be successful. You should come to each session fully prepared to discuss the readings and ready to participate in the activities. This means that you will have actively taken notes on the assigned readings and identified important questions raised by the readings. In addition, each student will serve as a discussion starter for one session, when you will be responsible for presenting the assigned readings and starting the discussion with 2-3 main questions.

Final Essay: Your final assignment for the course will be a take-home essay. The essay will be 4-5 single-spaced pages and will assess your mastery of concepts covered in the course.

### **Grading Policies**

Assignment completion policy: You must complete all assignments to pass the course.

Re-grades: I take student evaluation seriously and do not re-grade assignments unless I receive a formal, written request for a re-grade that compellingly documents a serious oversight on my part. A serious oversight on my part indicates that the entire assignment should receive further attention. Your final score may go up or down. That being said, I strongly encourage you to meet with me during office hours to discuss my comments about your assignments.

### **Session 1 (M 3/30) – Introduction & Foundations of International Relations**

#### **Session 2 (W 4/1) – Common-Pool International Problems**

DeSombre, Elizabeth R. 1999. Tuna fishing and common pool resources. In *Anarchy and the Environment: The International Relations of Common Pool Resources*, eds. J. Samuel Barkin and George E. Shambaugh. Albany: State University of New York Press. 51-67.

Cullis-Suzuki, S., & Pauly, D. 2010. Failing the high seas: a global evaluation of regional fisheries management organizations. *Marine Policy*, 34(5), 1036-1042.

Outside Case Research: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

#### **Session 3 (M 4/6) – Upstream-Downstream International Problems**

Berardo, Ramiro, and Andrea K. Gerlak. 2012. Conflict and Cooperation along International Rivers: Crafting a Model of Institutional Effectiveness. *Global Environmental Politics* 12 (1): 101-120.

Orr, S., Pittock, J., Chapagain, A., & Dumaresq, D. 2012. Dams on the Mekong River: Lost fish protein and the implications for land and water resources. *Global Environmental Change*, 22(4), 925-932.

Outside Case Research: Mekong River Basin negotiations over dams

#### **Session 4 (W 4/8) – Public Goods International Problems**

Barrett, S. 2007. *Why Cooperate? The Incentive to Supply Global Public Goods*. New York: Oxford University Press, Introduction & Ch. 4.

Martin, P. L. 2011. Global governance from the Amazon: leaving oil underground in Yasuni National Park, Ecuador. *Global Environmental Politics*, 11(4), 22-42.

Outside Case Research: International financing of forest conservation in Ecuador

#### **Session 5 (M 4/13) – Domestic Sources of International Environmental Policy**

*Global Commons, Domestic Decisions: The Comparative Politics of Climate Change*. Edited by Kathryn Harrison and Lisa M. Sundstrom. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2010, Chs. 3 & 8

Outside Case Research: Domestic sources of US and China climate change positions towards Paris 2015

### **Session 6 (W 4/15) – International Environmental Agreements**

Mitchell, Robert B. 2003. International environmental agreements: a survey of their features, formation, and effects. *Annual Review of Environmental Resources* 28: 429-61.

Axelrod, M. 2014. Clash of the treaties: Responding to institutional interplay in European Community–Chile swordfish negotiations. *European Journal of International Relations*, 20(4), 987-1013.

Outside Case Research: EU-Chile Swordfish Dispute

### **Session 7 (M 4/20) – Group Research Project Presentations**

**Group Research Project memo due Friday, April 24 @ 4pm**

### **Session 8 (W 4/22) – Civil Society Organizations in Global Environmental Governance**

Raustiala, K. 1997. States, NGOs, and international environmental institutions. *International Studies Quarterly*, 41(4), 719-740.

Duffy, R. 2013. Global environmental governance and North–South dynamics: the case of the CITES. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 31(2), 222-239.

Outside Case Research: the role of NGOs in combating the international wildlife trade

### **Session 9 (M 4/27) – Financial Transfers in International Bargaining**

Gomez-Echeverri, L. 2013. The changing geopolitics of climate change finance. *Climate Policy*, 13(5), 632-648.

Buntaine, M. T., & Pizer, W. A. 2014. Encouraging clean energy investment in developing countries: what role for aid? *Climate Policy*.

Outside Case Research: negotiations over the Green Climate Fund

### **Session 10 (W 4/29) – International Conflict: West Bank Water Negotiation**

Hsiang, S. M., Burke, M., & Miguel, E. 2013. Quantifying the influence of climate on human conflict. *Science*, 341(6151), 1235367.

Feitelson, E., Tamimi, A. and Rosenthal, G., 2012. Climate change and security in the Israeli–Palestinian context. *Journal of Peace Research* 49 (1): 241-257.

Activity: Water on the West Bank negotiation

<http://www.pon.harvard.edu/shop/water-on-the-west-bank/>

**Final Essay prompt will be distributed at the end of the final session**

**Final Essay due Wednesday, May 6 @ 4pm**