

## **GOVT 322: Global Environmental Governance**

Spring 2013

Classroom: Morton 40

Professor: Mark T. Buntaine

Office Hours: Wednesday 5-7pm and by appointment (Morton 13; online appointments)

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### **Course Description**

Many environmental issues can only be successfully addressed through international cooperation. Examples are numerous. Air pollution in one country can harm people in another country. Greenhouse gases emitted in one place cause damages around the world. Resources like ocean fisheries are shared by whichever countries and companies have the ability to harvest 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 states. In this course, we will examine the challenges involved with establishing and maintaining international cooperation related to environmental issues, given that there are structural impediments to the 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 political bodies play in international negotiations. By the end of the course, we will be able to articulate both the challenges involved with addressing transboundary environmental problems, but also the opportunities to address problems through new modes of governance.

### **Student Evaluation**

Blog Response Posts	35%
Group Research Project	25%
Participation	20%
Final Take-home Essay	20%

Blog Response Posts: Each student must complete at least five blog posts (7% each) that apply arguments and concepts presented in the readings to analyze a recent or ongoing environmental issue at the international level. You must analyze a situation, agreement, transboundary issue, or international negotiation that is not primarily derived from the assigned readings. You can complete a maximum of one post per week and the post must be submitted by 8am the day of the relevant class. You may complete as many blog posts as you would like; only the top five posts will count towards your final grade. You must complete at least three blog posts before spring break.

Group Research Project: In teams of 2-3 people, each group will write a policy memo (~10 double-spaced pages) evaluating current international efforts to deal with a transboundary environmental issue. The memo will include a description of the transboundary issue, an analysis of existing efforts to address the issue, and a critical assessment of future options available to address the issue. Each group will be responsible for giving a 15 minute presentation of their project during the sessions scheduled for research presentations.

<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. I expect you to come to each class 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. Every Friday, we will run an activity related to global environmental governance. You will read all instructions prior to class and come prepared to fully participate. In addition, I expect that every student will provide a one-paragraph comment on at least ten blog posts over the course of the semester. The quality of these responses will be factored into your participation grade.

Final Take-Home Essay: Your final assignment for the course will be a take-home essay. The essay will be 8-10 double-spaced pages in length, and will test your mastery of concepts covered in the course. The prompt for the essay will be distributed during the last day of classes and is due Tuesday, May 7 at 5:00pm.

## **Grading Policies**

Assignment completion policy: You must complete all assignments to pass the course. If you do not complete any of the major writing assignments, you will automatically fail the course.

Re-grades: I take student evaluation very seriously and do not entertain requests to re-grade assignments unless I have made a technical mistake (adding scores incorrectly) or 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 if I decide that an assignment needs re-grading, so plan accordingly. That being said, I strongly encourage you to meet with me during office hours to discuss the substance of my comments about your assignments.

Attendance: Regular attendance is important for your success in this course. I will take attendance at all our meetings. Over the course of the semester, you will be allowed two undocumented absences without any penalty. Additionally, you can receive a documented absence without penalty if you (1) present a note from the Dean of Students; (2) present a note from the student health service; (3) send me an email at least two days before the relevant class meeting with a link to a campus or professional event that requires your attendance and an explanation about your role in the event. For the third and each subsequent undocumented absence, two points will be deducted from your final grade.

Syllabus: I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as circumstances require.

**W January 16 – Class Canceled**

Assignment: read the syllabus in detail and come prepared with questions for Friday

## **F January 18 – Foundations of Global Environmental Politics**

- United Nations Environmental Programme. 2011. *Keeping Track of Our Changing Environment: From Rio to Rio+20 (1992-2012)*. Nairobi: UNEP. [http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/Keeping\\_Track.pdf](http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/Keeping_Track.pdf)
- Barkin, J. Samuel, and George E. Shambaugh. 1999. "Hypotheses on the international politics of 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. 1-25. [Blackboard]

## **W January 23 – Tragedy of the Commons and Global Fisheries**

- Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162: 1243–1248.
- Ostrom, Elinor, and et al. 1999. Revisiting the commons: local lessons, global challenges. *Science* 284 (5412): 278-282.
- Alcock, Frank. 2002. Bargaining, Uncertainty, and Property Rights in Fisheries. *World Politics* 54 (04): 437-461.

## **F January 25 – FishBanks Simulation**

- 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. [Blackboard]
- DeSombre, Elizabeth R. 2005. Fishing under flags of convenience: using market power to increase participation in international regulation. *Global Environmental Politics* 5 (4): 73-94.

Activity: FishBanks

<https://mitsloan.mit.edu/LearningEdge/simulations/fishbanks/Pages/fish-banks.aspx>

## **W January 30 – International Negotiations: Actors and Influence**

- Auer, M. R. 2000. Who participates in global environmental governance? Partial answers from international relations theory. *Policy Studies* 33: 155-180.
- Andonova, Liliana B., and Ronald B. Mitchell. 2010. The Rescaling of Global Environmental Politics. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 35 (1): 255-282.

## **F February 1 – Stakeholder Analysis**

- Reed, Mark S., Anil Graves, Norman Dandy, Helena Posthumus, Klaus Hubacek, Joe Morris, Christina Prell, Claire H. Quinn, and Lindsay C. Stringer. 2009. Who's in and why? A typology of stakeholder analysis methods for natural resource management. *Journal of Environmental Management* 90 (5): 1933-1949.
- Few, Roger, Katrina Brown, and Emma L. Tompkins. 2007. Public participation and climate change adaptation: avoiding the illusion of inclusion. *Climate Policy* 7 (1): 46-59.

Activity: Conduct a stakeholder analysis for a global or regional environmental issue

## **W February 6 – Asymmetries in Environmental Interests and Impacts**

- Mäler, Karl-Göran. 1990. International environmental problems. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 6 (1): 80-108.
- Connolly, Barbara. 1999. "Asymmetrical rivalry in common pool resources and European responses to acid rain." In *Anarchy and the Environment: The International Relations of Common Pool Resources*, eds. J. Samuel Barkin and George R. Shambaugh. Albany: SUNY Press. [Blackboard]

## **F February 8 – Upstream-Downstream Negotiations**

- 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.
- Zweig, D., and J. H. Bi. 2005. China's global hunt for energy. *Foreign Affairs* 84: 25-38.
- Hirsch, P. 2010. The changing political dynamics of dam building on the Mekong. *Water Alternatives* 3 (2): 312-323.

Activity: Mekong River Basin negotiation

## **W February 13 – International Environmental Agreements and Compliance**

- Bernauer, Thomas. 1995. The Effect of International Environmental Institutions: How We Might Learn More. *International Organization* 49 (2): 351-377.
- Mitchell, Robert B. 2003. International environmental agreements: a survey of their features, formation, and effects. *Annual Review of Environmental Resources* 28: 429-61.

## **F February 15 – Compliance Activity**

- Chayes, Abram, and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. On compliance. *International Organization* 47 (2): 175-205.
- Downs, George W., David M. Rocke, and Peter N. Barsoom. 1996. Is the good news about compliance good news about cooperation? *International Organization* 50 (3): 379-406.

Activity: Does Crime Pay? A Classroom Demonstration of Monitoring and Enforcement  
<http://wmpeople.wm.edu/asset/index/irande/doescrimepay>

## **W February 20 – Domestic Sources of International Environmental Policy**

- DeSombre, Elizabeth R. 2000. *Domestic Sources of International Environmental Policy: Industry, Environmentalists, and U.S. Power*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Chs. 1, 3. [Blackboard]
- Dai, Xinyuan. 2007. *International Institutions and National Policies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1, 3 [Blackboard]

## **F February 22 – Develop National Biodiversity Strategies**

- Anand, Nikhil. 2006. Planning Networks: Processing India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. *Conservation and Society* 4 (3): 471-487.

Read/skim at least three National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans at:  
<http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>

Activity: update a previously written NBSAP based on background research

## **W February 27 – Civil Society Organizations in Global Environmental Governance**

Raustiala, Kal. 1997. States, NGOs, and international environmental institutions. *International Studies Quarterly* 41: 719-40.

Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Ch. 1, 4 [Blackboard]

## **F March 1 – Develop an International Advocacy Platform and Strategic Plan**

Bernauer, Thomas, and Carola Betzold. 2012. Civil Society in Global Environmental Governance. *The Journal of Environment & Development* 21 (1): 62-66.

Betsill, Michele M., and Elisabeth Corell. 2001. NGO influence in international environmental negotiations: a framework for analysis. *Global Environmental Politics* 1 (4): 65-85.

Activity: Pick an environmental NGO and develop an action plan to address an international environmental issue

## **W/F March 6/8 – SPRING BREAK**

## **W March 13 – Climate Change in the International Context**

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2007. *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report*, Chs. 1-3. [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4\\_syr.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr.pdf).

Michaelowa, Katharina, and Axel Michaelowa. 2012. Negotiating climate change. *Climate Policy* 12 (5): 527-533.

## **F March 15 – Climate Change Negotiation**

Browne, John. 2004. Beyond Kyoto. *Foreign Affairs* 83 (4): 20-32.

Christoff, Peter. 2010. “Cold Climate in Copenhagen: China and the United States at COP15.” *Environmental Politics* 19 (4): 637-656.

Kasa, Sjur, Anne Gullberg, and Gørild Heggelund. 2008. The Group of 77 in the international climate negotiations: recent developments and future directions. *International Environmental Agreements* 8 (2): 113-127.

Activity: World Climate negotiation simulation

<https://mitsloan.mit.edu/LearningEdge/simulations/worldclimate/Pages/default.aspx>

## **W March 20 – Foreign Aid and Financial Transfers**

Connolly, Barbara. 1996. Increments for the Earth: the politics of environmental aid. In *Institutions for environmental aid: pitfalls and promise*, eds. Robert O. Keohane and Marc A. Levy. Cambridge: MIT Press. 327-366. [Blackboard]

Buntaine, Mark T., and Bradley C. Parks. Forthcoming. When Do Environmentally-Focused Assistance Projects Achieve their Objectives? Evidence from World Bank Post-Project Evaluations. *Global Environmental Politics*.

## **F March 22 – Design a Financial Transfer Scheme**

- Independent Evaluation Group. 2008. *Environmental Sustainability: An Evaluation of World Bank Group Support*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.
- van Kerkhoff, Lorrae, Imran Habib Ahmad, Jamie Pittock, and Will Steffen. 2011. Designing the Green Climate Fund: How to Spend \$100 Billion Sensibly. *Environment* 53 (3): 18-31.
- Ayers, Jessica M., and Saleemul Huq. 2009. Supporting Adaptation to Climate Change: What Role for Official Development Assistance? *Development Policy Review* 27 (6): 675-692.

Activity: Design a financial transfer scheme to promote environmental protection

## **W March 27 – Environment and Conflict**

- Homer-Dixon, Thomas. 1991. On The Threshold: Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict. *International Security* 16 (2): 76-116.
- Salehyan, Idean. 2008. From Climate Change to Conflict? No Consensus Yet. *Journal of Peace Research* 45 (3): 315-326.

## **F March 29 – West Bank Water Simulation / Negotiation**

- Weinthal, E., Vengosh, A. Marie, A., Gutierrez A, & Kloppmann, W. 2005. The Water Crisis in the Gaza Strip: Prospects for remediation, *Ground Water* 43: 653-660.
- Feitelson, Eran, Abdelrahman Tamimi, and Gad Rosenthal. 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/>

## **W April 3 (ISA) – Group Working Session I (No Class)**

## **F April 5 (ISA) – Group Working Session II (No Class)**

## **W April 10 – Research Presentations I**

## **F April 12 – Research Presentations II**

## **W April 17 – Globalization, International Trade, and the Environment**

- Dauvergne, Peter. 1997. *Shadows in the forest: Japan and the politics of timber in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge: MIT Press, Chs. 1, 5. [Blackboard]
- Ederington, Josh. 2007. NAFTA and the Pollution Haven Hypothesis. *Policy Studies Journal* 35 (2): 239-244.

### **F April 19 – Reporting on International and Regional Trade Talks**

- Gabler, Melissa. 2010. Norms, Institutions and Social Learning: An Explanation for Weak Policy Integration in the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment. *Global Environmental Politics* 10 (2): 80-117.
- Charnovitz, Steve. 2012. Organizing for the Green Economy: What an International Green Economy Organization Could Add. *The Journal of Environment & Development* 21 (1): 44-47.

Activity: write an environmental impact assessment of a recent trade agreement

### **W April 24 – International Business and the Environment**

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2003. Transnational corporate interests and global environmental governance: negotiating rules for agricultural biotechnology and chemicals. *Environmental Politics* 12 (4): 1-23.
- Levy, David L., and Peter J. Newell, eds. 2005. *The Business of Global Environmental Governance*. Cambridge: MIT Press, Chs. 1, 5 [Blackboard]

### **F April 26 – Develop Business Strategies / Solar Company Simulation**

- Buntaine, Mark T., and William A. Pizer. 2013. Leaders or Followers? Donor Financing of Clean Energy Projects in Developing Countries. [Blackboard]
- Hendry, Chris, Paul Harborne, and James Brown. 2010. So what do innovating companies really get from publicly funded demonstration projects and trials? innovation lessons from solar photovoltaics and wind. *Energy Policy* 38 (8): 4507-4519.

Activity: Eclipsing the Competition

<https://mitsloan.mit.edu/LearningEdge/simulations/solar/Pages/default.aspx>