

International Environmental Policy
Spring 2012 - 11:374:315:01
Tuesdays, 10:55 am to 1:55 pm, Blake 131

Instructor:

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Office Hours:

Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 and other times by email appointment

Course Description

This course examines the processes at play in the management, use, and protection of the global environment, involving different stakeholders from local to international levels, and through policy and governance in multiple forms. Relevant laws, policy tools, and institutions are examined, with a focus on such issues as deforestation and climate change, among others. Emphasis of the course will be on understanding the social, political and economic factors that have contributed to global environmental change and the degree to which communities, nations and transnational institutions have the ability to manage these global problems.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, students will

- (1) understand theoretical approaches to the study of international environmental problems and the history of global policy in this field
- (2) apply class concepts to real-world policy development
- (3) develop analytical skills to assess the processes and tradeoffs involved in environmental policy-making at all levels.

To meet these goals, the course focuses on three primary activities: (1) core readings, lectures and discussion on aspects of environmental policy; (2) periodic written assignments on substantive issues; and (3) real world examples through films that highlight the issues involved in environmental policy-making.

Assessments for the above goals include:

Goal 1: Complete a reading summary of key texts for one week of the semester

Goal 2: Produce an analytical review of one of the films shown in class demonstrating a real-world policy problem

Goal 3: Compose a policy brief on a global/international policy of the student's choosing, pointing out the pathways to policy development, impacts of the policy, and an evaluation of the outcomes of the policy.

Required Reading

There are three required texts for the course, available at the Rutgers bookstore and other online bookstores. Please ensure you purchase the correct edition of the text if you buy used copies. The texts are:

- * Lambin, E (2007). *The Middle Path: Avoiding Environmental Catastrophe*. Chicago: U of Chicago Press. ISBN: 978-0226468532
- * Adams, WM (2008). *Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in a Developing World*. New York: Routledge. 3rd Edition. ISBN: 978-0415395083.
- * Timmons, JT and Parks, B. (2006). *A Climate of Injustice: Global Inequality, North-South Politics, and Climate Policy*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. ISBN: 978-0262681612

Requirements & Grading

This course will serve as a vehicle to emphasize reading skills, discussion skills, and writing skills of the student. There will be a fairly intense amount of reading spread throughout the semester; since we only meet once a week the readings will be the equivalent of two twice-a-week classes. Please budget your time for homework that you can devote the necessary time to staying up to date with the readings. Students are expected to do all of the required readings for the assigned dates and to be prepared to discuss them in class. I reserve the right to call on any student in class: please be prepared! Pop quizzes may be given at any time throughout the semester, particularly if I feel discussion is suffering from a lack of preparation. Written work and their points are listed in the table below. Dates and details of assignments will be finalized throughout the course. Please discuss with me if any assignment or due date is unclear.

There are 100 points that are possible to achieve in the work in this class. I will grade according to the following university scale. Cutoffs are firm, especially given the use of pluses and minuses

A	90-100
B+	89-88
B	80-87
C+	79-78
C	70-77
D	60-69
F	59 and under

The points you will be graded on in the class include the following assignments:

Assignment	Points (100 total)	Due Date
Reading Summary	25	Depends on dates chosen by student
Film Review	25	Depends on dates chosen: Mar 13 or April 10
Policy Brief Final	35	May 1
Attendance/Participation/Discussion (may include pop quizzes)	15	All semester

Written Assignments:

Written assignments are to be turned in on Sakai in the designated slot. This means assignments are NOT to be emailed to the instructor, or given to me in class, or dropped off at my mailbox, etc. Any assignment not turned in to Sakai begin to be considered late immediately following the time in which it was due. **Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per 24 hours late**; there are no exceptions.

Written assignments must meet the following requirements

1. The paper must be typed in 12 point font and be double spaced.
2. The paper must be in standard APA bibliographic format; see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. Cover sheets are not necessary, but please make sure you put a title and your name on the document at the top.
3. The paper must be in Microsoft Word document form (.doc).
4. The file name of the document you upload must be in the form of: YourlastnameFilmReview.doc, YourlastnameReadingSummary.doc, and YourlastnamePolicyBrief.doc
5. Papers should be proofed carefully, and please pay attention to readability and writing style, as well as to content.

-- Reading Summary:

You will be asked to choose one date for which you will write a 5-page review of the assigned readings for that day. You will summarize the full reading assignment (ALL readings assigned for that day), highlight the key points, and analyze the message of the readings for their relationship to class themes. Dates will be assigned the first week of class. Your summary is due 24 hours before (i.e. 10:55am on Mondays) the class in which we will discuss your chosen readings. You will be expected to be in class on your chosen day as well to help lead discussion of the readings.

-- Film Review:

We will show at least two films in class. You will choose one film to review in a written paper, summarizing the main points and key concepts learned. It should be around 5 pages and due no later than two weeks after the class session in which the film you chose was shown (e.g. by 10:55 am on the Tuesday that falls two weeks after the film). The paper should, at a minimum, discuss the key points the film made and the issues that emerged, provide a meaningful commentary on issues raised by the film, and provide an analysis of the context and content of the film's messages, particularly with regard to the themes of the class and textbook readings, such as the link between theories of environmental policy as discussed in readings and "real-world practice" that emerged in the films.

-- Policy Brief Final:

You will write an approximately 10-page policy brief on an environmental policy (either from a single non-US country OR a global policy that applies to multiple countries) of your choice that demonstrates your mastery of the concepts discussed in class. Your policy brief will provide a

brief but complete history of the selected policy, how the problem for which the policy was designed was defined, a timeline and description of how the policy was developed, who was involved in it (stakeholders and interest groups), how the policy was implemented, what policy alternatives were considered or what compromises were made, how the policy was enforced and by whom, and provide an evaluation of the outcomes, paying attention to what metrics have been used to evaluate this policy (i.e. cost-benefit analysis, etc). The policy brief is due on the appropriate submission site on Sakai one week after the last day of class (May 1 at noon). The brief will be discussed further in class.

Sakai Information

This course will have a Sakai site. The site will contain the syllabus, and I will post on the website announcements, some class notes and PowerPoint presentations, and handouts/readings. The website is only a supplemental aid, and not a replacement for attending class.

Attendance and Make-ups

Because this is a seminar-type class, attendance and participation is an important part of making the class work. Excessive absences will detract from your participation grade. You will need to actively participate in class sessions in order to earn the full 15 points for participation. Additionally, if you cannot attend a class it is YOUR responsibility to obtain notes, syllabi changes, assignments etc. from another student. If you know you will have to miss class in advance because of something beyond your control (NOT, for example, a routine appointment), let me know (with relevant documentation) in time to arrange when you should hand in any work. Make-up after the fact is available only for a documented emergency. Students who will miss class due to an athletic competition or other official university events are required to follow official university policies if they wish to make up an assignment. You must notify me immediately, and at that time we can make arrangements for turning in missed work. Those who fail to do so will not be accommodated.

Withdrawals and Incompletes

Please see me if you feel you will need to withdraw from the class. You will need to follow university rules on dates for withdrawal. I will not give incompletes for this course, except for extreme emergency situations such as family problems or illnesses that you or an immediate family member suffer that would make it impossible for you to come to class. Documentation is required.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in any shape or form. If you are unclear on what constitutes dishonesty, please see http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf. Dishonesty includes any form of plagiarism, cheating on tests, and other things. **I have a zero tolerance policy on academic dishonesty: An initial incident will result in the student receiving no credit for the assignment. A second incident will result in a failure in the class, and a grade of XF is an option for cases in which I feel there has been serious misconduct. It is your responsibility**

to be aware of what plagiarism is, and not to do it in any shape or form. There may be additional university consequences, including expulsion.

Other Policies

Please note the following.

1. There is no extra credit work.
2. The classroom is a place of mutual respect. Everyone is expected to treat each other and his/her questions and comments with civility. Cell phones must be off or on silent. Please, no text messaging, surfing websites, reading outside material, and the like during class. If you are using a computer during class I reserve the right to ensure you are using it for class purposes.
3. Announcements and instructions throughout the course (in class and on Sakai) will amplify, supplement, and possibly change the syllabus. The student is responsible for keeping up-to-date on these announcements and for understanding any changes.
4. Email is a medium that should be used carefully. I do not answer emails immediately and especially not on nights and weekends, so be aware that emailing me the night before your assignment is due is not acceptable. Please plan ahead and try to make use of my office hours, not email, for more complicated or in-depth discussions.
5. If you have any disability or need any special consideration in the classroom or with assignments, please see me so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

Outline and Schedule of Class Periods and Readings

--This schedule is subject to change – pay attention to Sakai announcements--

* Indicates readings that will be posted on-line on Sakai. The rest are from the required books.

WEEK ONE: Introductions

Jan 17

First day of class

WEEK TWO: Major international environmental challenges

Jan 24

Lambin, Introduction, Ch 1 & 2 (pp 1-48)

Adams, Ch 1 (pp 1-25)

WEEK THREE: Theories of environmental change

Jan 31

Lambin, Ch 3, 4 and first half of 5 (pp 49-112)

WEEK FOUR: Emergence of global governance

Feb 7

Adams Ch 2, 3, 4 (pp 26-115)

WEEK FIVE: Sustainable development policy

Feb 14

Adams Ch 5, 6 & 7 (pp 116-201)

WEEK SIX: Climate change

Feb 21

*Gupta, J. (2010). A history of international climate change policy. *WIREs Climate Change* 1:636-653.

Timmons, Ch 1 & 2 (pp 1-66)

WEEK SEVEN: Climate vulnerability

Feb 28

Timmons Ch 3 & 4 (pp 67-132)

*Gemenne, F (2011). Climate-induced population displacements in a 4° C+ world. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A* 369: 182-195

In-class Film

WEEK EIGHT: Climate policy action

Mar 6

Timmons, Ch 5 & 6 (pp 133-210)

*Keohane, R and D Victor (2010.) The Regime Complex for Climate Change. The Harvard Project on International Climate Agreements Discussion Paper 10-33.

March 10-18 Spring Break – No Class

WEEK NINE: Climate policy for the future

Mar 20

Timmons, Ch 7 (pp. 211-242)

*Aldy, J and R. Stavins (2008) Climate policy architectures for the post-Kyoto world. *Environment* 50(3): 7-17.

*Lutsey, N and D. Sperling. (2008) America's bottom-up climate change mitigation policy. *Energy Policy* 36: 673–685

WEEK TEN: Forests and conservation

Mar 27

Adams, Ch 9 & Ch 10 (pp. 242-298)

Lambin second half of Ch 5 (pp 113-122).

In-Class Film

WEEK ELEVEN: Drylands & desertification

Apr 3

Adams Ch 8 (pp. 202-241)

Lambin Ch 6 (pp.123-133)

WEEK TWELVE: Industrialization & urbanization

Apr 10

Adams, Ch 12 (pp. 332-361)

* Carruthers, D. (2008). The Globalization of Environmental Justice: Lessons from the U.S.-Mexico Border. *Society & Natural Resources*, 21: 556-568 .

WEEK THIRTEEN: Water control

April 17

Adams, Ch 11 (pp 299-311)

* Micklin, P. (1988) Desiccation of the Aral Sea: A Water Management Disaster in the Soviet Union. *Science* 2 September 1988: pp. 1170-1176

* Furlong, K. (2010.) Neoliberal Water Management: Trends, Limitations, Reformulations. *Environment and Society: Advances in Research* 1: 46–75.

WEEK FOURTEEN: Conclusions

Apr 24

Adams Ch 13 (pp. 362-379)

Lambin Ch 7 and Conclusion (pp. 135-167)