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Ph.D., University of Iowa (2006)

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#### **TEXTBOOKS & READINGS**

There is no textbook required for this course. Instead, we will use a wide variety of readings, which will be available on D2L or via Polk Library. I recommend that you either print them or keep them in a file on an electronic device so you have easy access to them. *You should bring all readings to class with you on the day they appear on the syllabus.*

**\*NOTE:** During AY 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 I will be serving as the Interim Director of Quest (First-Year Experience) for the new University Studies Program (USP). This means I may not be in the department as frequently as I'd like, but I am still around and am happy to meet with you. See Angie Hammond in the main office or send me an email to schedule an appointment.

## **84/37:388 Global Environmental Politics**

Fall Semester 2013  
TTh, 9:40-11:10am, Sage Hall 1216

*"The ultimate test of a man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."*

**-Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day**

*"...environmental challenges have the power to deny equality of opportunity and hold back the progress of communities."*

**-Lisa P. Jackson, former EPA Administrator (2009-2013)**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

All of us can probably agree that protecting the environment is, by and large, a good idea. And yet, comprehensive agreements on how to accomplish that goal are often complicated at worst and watered-down at best. Why is it so difficult to come up with global environmental policy? In this course, we will examine the global environmental regime through the lenses of both comparative politics (the domestic decision-making of countries outside the United States) and international relations (global decision-making). Finally, through a treaty-drafting exercise at the end of the semester, we'll experience first-hand the intricacies of the international environmental negotiations.

#### **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

Although I am willing to sign interested students from any discipline into this course, students who have completed Political Science 101 (Introduction to Comparative Politics), 115 (Introduction to International Relations), 393 (International Organization) or 301 (European Union Politics) will find that those courses provide a useful foundation for concepts and issues addressed in this course. I do not intend to cover material from these courses extensively here, so some knowledge (especially from introductory courses) will be assumed. Students who are struggling with the course because of the lack of background knowledge should see me for background readings and feel free to discuss them with me at any time.

#### **COURSE FORMAT**

This is an upper-division course in political science, and as such it will be taught in a seminar style as much as is practical. This means that student input is required for the course to be successful (and fun). As such, I expect that students will attend class each week prepared to discuss the readings; completing the readings ahead of time is essential. *My ability to teach is severely limited if you do not read.*

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- *Identify* the major actors influencing environmental politics internationally;
- *Understand* the different ethical and philosophical positions on environmentalism;
- *Describe and critique* different political responses to environmental problems;
- *Assess* the reasons for inaction on environmental issues;
- *Create* new ways to understand and respond to environmental issues; and
- *Formulate* strategies for negotiating between actors with different amounts of power in order to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

### IMPORTANT REQUEST

Please bring your assigned reading materials to class each day we meet so that we can discuss them either as a large group or in smaller working groups. *If you cannot locate a reading*, please let me know ASAP so you can read it before our class meeting.

### SPECIAL NOTE TO POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS

If you are currently a Political Science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class, preferably in your D2L ePortfolio. Seniors in our department are required to take Political Science 401, a seminar in which students' progress through the major is surveyed and a portfolio of their work is created. If you have questions, please see me after class.

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

I will not tolerate plagiarism of any kind. All students should familiarize themselves with the University's policies on academic dishonesty and know the consequences of plagiarism or cheating. In this course, plagiarism on any assignment will result in a grade of F for the course and the Dean of Students Office will be notified. If you are uncertain about methods of attribution, please see me any time.

### GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

The grading scale I use for this course is **93/90/87**. Grades are determined as follows:

- ***Participation and Discussion Leadership (15%):*** Students are expected to actively engage the material and contribute to class discussions, whether in class or online. At various points in the semester you will be called upon to lead discussion. If you attend every single class but rarely say a word you can expect a C for this portion of your grade; that grade goes down even further if you don't attend class meetings. I also use a "Present and Prepared" list for attendance and keeping track of participation; more details on that will follow in class.
- ***International Agreements Project (5% for draft, 25% for final version):*** Each student (or groups of two students each) will examine a particular international environmental agreement/treaty and assess its effectiveness based on a set of indicators drawn from readings in the first part of the course. Additional details will be distributed in class.
- ***Critical Reflection Essays (two essays, 10% each; or 20% total):*** Each student will submit TWO of these essays during the semester. The essays should demonstrate deep thinking about the course readings and attempt to synthesize them in an original way. These essays are short (2-4 pages) and must be submitted according to a schedule we will work out together.
- ***Treaty Revision and Renegotiation (35%):*** Students will be organized into three or four "working groups," each of which is drafting a new climate change treaty to serve as a starting point for the next meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (known as CoP19) that will take place in Warsaw, Poland in November 2013. This is the first round of negotiations since the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. Our job will be to figure out where the impasses are and determine how to incentivize international cooperation among actors with very different priorities. Further details will follow in class.

### CHANGES

I reserve the right to change any portion of this syllabus at any time in the semester in order to accommodate the needs and pace of this particular group.

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

**Note:** *In some sense these topic divisions are artificial; many of these themes work together, and so it is likely that we won't strictly adhere to this schedule as we move through the course. Numbers in parentheses ( ) indicate the book from which selections were taken. Full citations to these books can be found at the end of the syllabus under the number indicated in this Schedule of Topics and Readings.*

- September 4 Introduction to Course | The Tragedy of the Commons  
Print your syllabus and bring it to class!  
**Hardin, Garrett.** 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." (D2L) (8)  
**Maniates, Michael F.** 2001. "Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?" *Global Environmental Politics* 1: 31-52. (Political Science Complete)
- September 10 Environmental Philosophy  
**Connelly, James and Graham Smith.** "Environmental Philosophy." (D2L) (4)  
**Leopold, Aldo.** "The Land Ethic" (D2L) (8)
- September 12 Global Environmental Problems  
Mitchell, Ronald. "Sources of International Environmental Problems." (D2L) (11)
- September 17 Global Environmental Actors  
**Chasek, Downie, and Brown.** "Actors in the Environmental Arena." (D2L) (3)
- September 19 Legalization vs. Rights  
**Conca, Ken.** 2005. "Environmental Governance After Johannesburg: From Stalled Legalization to Environmental Human Rights?" *Journal of International Law and International Relations* 1: 121-138. (D2L)
- September 24 International Environmental Law: Key Concepts  
**Beyerlin and Marauhn.** *Students A-K read the following:* "No Harm," "Precautionary Action," and "Polluter Pays." (D2L) (10)  
**Beyerlin and Marauhn.** *Students L-Z read the following:* "Common But Differentiated Responsibilities," and "Sustainable Development." (D2L) (10)
- September 26 International Environmental Law: Key Cases  
**Trail Smelter Arbitration** (*U.S. v. Canada*), go to:  
<http://www.lfip.org/laws666/trailsm.htm>  
**Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Project** (*Hungary vs. Slovakia*), go to:  
<http://www.tjsl.edu/slomansonb/envHunSlov.html>
- October 1 All of This Machinery... Does It Work? How Would We Know?  
**Mitchell, Ronald.** "Evaluating the Effectiveness of International Environmental Institutions." (D2L) (11) (**NOTE:** this reading is crucial as you think about your International Agreement Project.)
- October 3 Negotiating the Environment: Impediments  
**Mitchell, Ronald.** "Negotiating Solutions to International Environmental Problems." (D2L) (11)  
👉 What MEA/IEA are you going to examine for your International Agreement Project paper? We'll talk about it today. If you still don't know, see me ASAP.

- October 8            Negotiating the Environment: Strategies  
**Karlsson, Parker, Hjerpe and Linner.** 2011. "Looking for Leaders: Perceptions of Climate Change Leadership among Climate Change Negotiation Participants." *Global Environmental Politics* 11:1, 89-107. (*Students A-K read this*)  
**Eckersley, Robin.** 2012. "Moving Forward in the Climate Negotiations: Multilateralism or Minilateralism?" *Global Environmental Politics* 12:2, 24-42. (*Students L-Z read this*)
- October 10           The North-South Divide  
**Roberts and Parks.** "Introduction: Wet Feet Marching." (D2L) (12)
- October 15           International Agreement Project Draft Day  
🐾 **A full draft of your paper is due today for peer review.**
- October 17           Climate Change: What We Know For Sure  
**Guest Lecture: Dr. Elsbeth McPhee** (Biology, Environmental Studies)
- October 22           Global Problems, National Responses  
**Sprinz, Detlef and Tapani Vahtoranta.** 1994. "The Interest-based explanation of international environmental policy." *International Organization* 48:77-105.  
🐾 **International Agreement Projects DUE**
- October 24           Climate Change: the U.S. Position  
**Harrison, Kathryn.** "The United States as Outlier: Economic and Institutional Challenges to U.S. Climate Policy." (D2L) [*Students A-M read this*] (5)  
**Kraft, Michael E.** "Making Environmental Policy." Chapter 3 in Michael E. Kraft, *Environmental Policy and Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Pearson. (D2L) [*Students N-Z read this*]
- October 29           Climate Change: the EU Position  
**Connelly, James and Graham Smith.** "European Integration." (D2L) [*Students A-M read this*] (4)  
**Schreurs, Miranda and Yves Tiberghien.** 2007. "Multi-level Reinforcement: Explaining EU Leadership in Climate Change Mitigation." *Global Environmental Politics* 7: 19-46. [*Students N-Z read this*]
- October 31           Climate Change: the Chinese Position  
**Heggelund, Gorild, Steinar Andresen, and Inga Fritzen Buan.** "Chinese Climate Policy: Domestic Priorities, Foreign Policy, and Emerging Implementation." (D2L) (5)
- November 5           Climate Change: the Russian/Post-Communist Position  
**Henry, Laura A.** 2010. "Between transnationalism and state power: the development of Russia's post-Soviet environmental movement." *Environmental Politics* 19: 756ff. (D2L)
- November 7           Climate Change: the Global South's Position  
**Najam, Adil.** "The View from the South: Developing Countries in Global Environmental Politics." (D2L) (2)
- November 12        **Negotiation Pre-Assessments**

November 14	Women and the Environment <b>Bretherton, Charlotte.</b> 2003. "Movements, Networks, Hierarchies: A Gender Perspective on Global Environmental Governance." <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> 3: 103ff. (Political Science Complete) (This reading may change.)
November 19	Security and the Environment Selections from <b>Conca, Ken and Geoffrey Dabelko.</b> <i>Green Planet Blues.</i> (TBA)(13)
November 21	Sustainable Development Selections from <b>Conca, Ken and Geoffrey Dabelko.</b> <i>Green Planet Blues.</i> (TBA)(13)
November 26	Trade and the Environment Selections from <b>Conca, Ken and Geoffrey Dabelko.</b> <i>Green Planet Blues.</i> (TBA)(13)
November 28	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b> Eat turkey or tofurkey. Think about the sustainability of turkey farming. Eat pie. Regret eating that much pie. Take a nap. Be happy.
December 3	Climate Change and Human Rights Selections from <b>Conca, Ken and Geoffrey Dabelko.</b> <i>Green Planet Blues.</i> (TBA)(13)
December 5	Negotiation Simulation ( <b>Attendance Required</b> )
December 10	Negotiation Simulation ( <b>Attendance Required</b> )
December 12	Negotiation Simulation ( <b>Attendance Required</b> )
December 14	<b>COMMENCEMENT!</b> Congratulations to those of you who are graduating!

### **Full Bibliography for Texts Used in the Course**

*I own most of these books and am happy to lend them to you if you wish to read further.*

1. Archer, David and Stefan Rahmstorf. 2010. *The Climate Crisis: An Introductory Guide to Climate Change.* New York: Cambridge University Press.
2. Axelrod, Regina S., Stacy D. Vandever, and David Downie. 2011. *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law and Policy.* Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.
3. Chasek, Pamela S., David Downie and Janet Welsh Brown. 2011. *Global Environmental Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
4. Connelly, James and Graham Smith. 2006. *Politics and the Environment: from Theory to Practice.* New York: Routledge.
5. Harrison, Kathryn and Lisa McIntosh Sundstrom. 2010. *Global Commons, Domestic Decisions: the Comparative Politics of Climate Change.* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
6. Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
7. O'Neill, Kate. 2009. *The Environment and International Relations.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

8. Payne, Daniel G. and Richard S. Newman. 2005. *The Palgrave Environmental Reader*. New York: Palgrave.
9. Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2011. *Environmental Politics and Policy*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.:CQ Press.
10. Beyerlin, Ulrich and Thilo Marauhn. 2011. *International Environmental Law*. Portland, OR: Hart Publishing.
11. Mitchell, Ronald B. 2010. *International Politics and the Environment*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
12. Roberts, J. Timmons and Bradley C. Parks. 2007. *A Climate of Injustice: Global Inequality, North-South Politics, and Climate Policy*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
13. Conca, Ken and Geoffrey Dabelko. 2010. *Green Planet Blues: Four Decades of Environmental Politics*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.