

International Environmental Relations

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1. Course Description

Environmental issues increasingly become a fundamental element of global political agenda thanks to their relationship with economy, natural resources, and human security. International environmental relations (IER) is a field offering several cases and questions to understand and analyze developments in contemporary global affairs. This course introduces major approaches, topics, and debates in global environmental politics and aims at enabling students to evaluate issues in world politics like international cooperation and economic globalization through developments in IER.

This course begins with a review of theoretical approaches to IER, and then studies the recent phenomena in world politics, such as transnational movements and private governance, through topics in IER. The latter part of the course addresses specific issue-areas like climate change, oceans, and global forest governance. The course will conclude with a discussion of the notion of global environmental governance with its existing practices and future meaning.

2. Required Readings

All required readings for this course are listed under the course outline. There is no required textbook for this course. The two books below are optional for students who would like to resort to reference books on main IER topics and questions.

Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne, *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment* (MIT Press, 2005).

Elizabeth R. DeSombre, *The Global Environment and World Politics* (Continuum, 2007).

3. Course Requirements

Discussion Questions: Students are required to write two discussion questions on readings for assigned sessions. Discussion questions should demonstrate that students engage in critical thinking about what they read. Questions should be typed and submitted at the beginning of the session. The sessions students are expected to turn in question sets are specified at the course outline. Unless the student presents an official excuse, no late submissions will be accepted.

Leading In-class Discussion: Half of each session will be a discussion and 2-3 students will serve as discussion leaders. Discussion leaders' questions and comments should combine the readings, students' own interpretations, and contemporary developments pertaining to that topic. Students are encouraged to meet the instructor before the date they are assigned to lead the discussion.

Reaction Paper: Students are expected to write a reaction paper on a brief documentary that will be shown in class. The content of reaction papers should address issues covered by this course, such as, development, transnational actors, and international political economy. The reaction paper should be 600-900 words (double spaced, 12 pt. font).

Midterm Examination: The purpose of this exam is to assess students' understanding of the concepts and arguments discussed in the class. During the exam, students are expected to answer five or six short essay questions related to materials covered in this course.

Research Proposal and Paper: Each student is expected to write a final research paper that tackles a specific organization/agreement/issue-area/case the student is interested in. The topic of the paper should be reviewed and analyzed with reference to concepts and materials discussed in class. Students should first propose a research design that clarifies (1) what topic they will study, (2) what their particular thesis is and (3) what sources they will use. After receiving approval to their proposals, students are required to write a research paper on the same topic. The research proposal should be around 500 words and the final paper should be 3500-4000 words (double spaced, 12 pt. font).

Attendance and Participation: Participation presumes attendance. All students are expected to actively take part in discussions during the class. Students are required to do readings prior to class meetings and attend the classes regularly in order to succeed in this part of the course.

Evaluation

	Session Due	Grade
Discussion Questions:		22%
Leading In-class Discussion:		8%
Reaction Paper:	9	10%
Midterm Examination:	11	20%
Research Proposal:	13	5%
Research Paper:	16	25%
Attendance and Participation:		10%

Grading Scale: A, 95 – 100; A-, 90 – 94; B+, 87 – 89; B, 83 – 86; B-, 80 – 82; C+, 77 – 79; C, 73 – 76; C-, 70 – 72; D+, 67 – 69; D, 63 – 66; D-, 60 – 62; E, 59 – 0.

4. Class Schedule and Reading Guide

Session 1: Introduction

Introduction of the course and syllabus.
Assignment of in-class discussion topics.

Session 2: Theoretical Approaches to IER

Steven Bernstein. 2000. "Ideas, Social Structure, and the Compromise of Liberal Environmentalism." *European Journal of International Relations* 6: 464-512.

Karen Litfin. 1998. "The Greening of Sovereignty: An Introduction," in *The Greening of Sovereignty in World Politics*, ed. Karen Litfin. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 1-27. (E-book)

Samuel Barkin. 2006. "Discounting the Discount Rate: Ecocentrism and Environmental Economics". *Global Environmental Politics* 6: 56-72.

Karin Backstrand. 2004. "Scientisation vs. Civic Expertise in Environmental Governance: Eco-feminist, Eco-modern and Post-modern Responses." *Environmental Politics* 13: 695-714.

Session 3: International Environmental Politics as Politics of Global Commons

Garrett Hardin. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons". *Science* 162: 1243-1248.

Elinor Ostrom, Joanna Burger, Christopher B Field, Richard B. Norgaard, and David Policansky. 1999. "Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges". *Science* 284: 278-282.

Thomas Dietz, Elinor Ostrom, and Paul C. Stern. 2003. "The Struggle to Govern the Commons". *Science* 302: 1907-1912.

Samuel Barkin and George Shambaugh. 1999. "Hypotheses on the International Politics of Common Pool Resources" and "Conclusions: Common Pool Resources and International Environmental Negotiations", in *Anarchy and the Environment: The International Relations of Common Pool Resources*, eds. Samuel Barkin and George Shambaugh. Albany: SUNY Press, pp. 1-25 and 176-198. (E-book)

Session 4: Science, Knowledge, and Uncertainty

Dale Jamieson. 1996. "Scientific Uncertainty and the Political Process." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 545: 35-43.

Peter M. Haas. 1989. "Do Regimes Matter? Epistemic Communities and Mediterranean Pollution Control". *International Organization* 43: 377-403.

Bjørn Lomborg. 2001. *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-33.

Stephen Schneider, John Holdren, John Bongaarts and Thomas Lovejoy. 2002. "Misleading Math about the Earth". *Scientific American*. 286(1).

Session 5: Environment and International Regimes

Detlef Sprinz and Tapani Vahtoranta. 1994. "The Interest-Based Explanation of International Environmental Policy". *International Organization* 48: 77-105.

Oran R. Young. 2003. "Determining Regime Effectiveness: A Commentary on the Oslo-Potsdam Solution". *Global Environmental Politics* 3: 97-104.

Ronald Mitchell. 1994. "Regime Design Matters: International Oil Pollution and Treaty Compliance". *International Organization* 48: 425-458.

David Victor. 2006. "Toward Effective International Cooperation on Climate Change: Numbers, Interests and Institutions." *Global Environmental Politics* 6: 90-103.

Session 6: Environment and Intergovernmental Institutions

Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. 1972. United Nations Environmental Program. (Available at: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=97&articleid=1503>)

Robert Keohane, Peter Haas, and Marc Levy. 1993. "The Effectiveness of International Environmental Institutions" in *Institutions for the Earth: Sources of Effective International Environmental Protection*, eds. Peter M. Haas, Robert O. Keohane, and Marc Levy. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 3-24.

Daniel Nelson and Michael Tierney. 2003. "Delegation to International Organizations: Agency Theory and World Bank Environmental Reform". *International Organization* 57: 241-276.

K. Holzinger, C. Knill & T. Sommerer. 2008. "Environmental Policy Convergence: The Impact of International Harmonization, Transnational Communication, and Regulatory Competition". *International Organization* 62: 553-587.

Session 7: Environment and Nongovernmental Actors

Frank Biermann. 2008. "Earth System Governance: A Research Agenda" in *Institutions and Environmental Change: Principal Findings, Applications, and Research Frontiers*, eds. Oran R. Young, Leslie A. King, and Heike Schroder. Cambridge: MIT Press, 277-301.

Paul Wapner. 1995. "Politics Beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics". *World Politics* 47: 311-340.

Richard Price. 1998. "Reversing the Gun Sights: Transnational Civil Society Targets Land Mines". *International Organization* 52(3): 613-644.

Virginia Haufler. 2009. "Transnational Actors and Global Environmental Governance" in *Governance for the Environment: New Perspectives*, eds. Magali A. Delmas and Oran R. Young. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.119-143.

Session 8: Environment and International Political Economy

Coase, Ronald. 1960. "The Problem of Social Cost". *Journal of Law and Economics* 3:1-44.

Thomas Princen, Michael Maniates, and Ken Conca. 2002. "Confronting Consumption" in *Confronting Consumption*, eds. Thomas Princen, Michael Maniates and Ken Conca. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 1-20. (E-book)

Kates, Robert W. 2000. "Population and Consumption: What We Know, What We Need to Know". *Environment* 42: 10-19.

Ronie Garcia-Johnson. 2000. *Exporting Environmentalism: U.S. Multinational Chemical Corporations in Brazil and Mexico*. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 1-25 and 187-200. (E-book)

Session 9: Private Governance

Reaction Papers due

David L. Levy and Peter J. Newell. 2005. "Business and International Environmental Governance: Conclusions and Implications". In *The Business of Global Environmental Governance*, eds. David L. Levy and Peter J. Newell. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 329-344.

Christoph Knill and Dirk Lehmkuhl. 2002. "Private Actors and the State: Internationalization and Changing Patterns of Governance," *Governance* 5: 41-64.

Robert Falkner. 2003. "Private Environmental Governance and International Relations: Exploring the Links." *Global Environmental Politics* 3: 72-87.

Jennifer Clapp. 1998. "The Privatization of Global Governance: ISO 14000 and the Developing World". *Global Governance* 4: 296-316.

Session 10: Development and International Environmental Policies

Gro Harlem Brundtland. 1987. *Presentation of the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*. United Nations Environmental Program, June 1987, Nairobi, Kenya.

Richard H. Steinberg. 1997. "Trade-Environment Negotiations in the EU, NAFTA, and WTO: Regional Trajectories of Rule Development". *The American Journal of International Law* ,91(2): 231-267.

Adil Najam and Nick Robbins. 2002. "Seizing the Future: The South, Sustainable Development and International Trade". In *The Earthscan Reader on International Trade and Sustainable Development*, eds. Kevin P Gallagher and Jacob Werksman. London: Earthscan Publications, pp. 166-185.

Candice Stevens. 2010. "Are Women Key to Sustainable Development?". *Sustainable Development Insights* (Issue 003). UN & Boston University Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future.

Session 11: Exam

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

SESSION 12: Climate Change

Robert O. Keohane and David G. Victor. 2010. "The Regime Complex for Climate Change". *The Harvard Project on International Climate Agreements*. Discussion Paper No: 10-33.

Liliana Andonova, Michele Betsill, and Harriet. 2009. "Transnational Climate Governance". *Global Environmental Politics* 9: 52-73.

Thomas C. Schelling. 2002. "What Makes Greenhouse Sense?". *Foreign Affairs* 81:3.
Martin Freedman and Bikki Jaggi. 2011. "Global Warming Disclosures: Impact of Kyoto Protocol Across Countries". *Journal of International Financial Management & Accounting* 22: 46-90.

SESSION 13: Governance of Oceans

Research Proposals due

Elizabeth R. DeSombre. 2005. "Fishing under Flags of Convenience: Using Market Power to Increase Participation in International Regulation". *Global Environmental Politics* 5: 73-94.

Marion Markowski. 2009. "The International Legal Standard for Sustainable EEZ Fisheries Management". In *Towards Sustainable Fisheries Law: A Comparative Analysis*, ed. Gerd Winter. Gland: IUCN, pp. 1-27.

Magda Shahin. 1999. "Trade and Environment". *Journal of Economic Cooperation* 20(3): 1-19.

Lars H. Guldbrandsen. 2009. "The Emergence and Effectiveness of the Marine Stewardship Council." *Marine Policy* 33: 654-660.

Session 14: Governance of Forests

Michael Ross. 1996. "Conditionality and Logging Reform in the Tropics". in *Institutions for Environmental Aid*, eds. Robert O. Keohane and Marc A. Levy. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 167- 197.

Ronnie D Lipschutz. 2001. Why Is There No International Forestry Law?: An Examination of International Forestry Regulation, both Public and Private." *UCLA Journal of Environmental Law & Policy* 19: 153-179.

Lars H. Guldbrandsen. 2004. "Overlapping Public and Private Governance: Can Forest Certification Fill the Gaps in the Global Forest Regime?". *Global Environmental Politics* 4: 75- 99.

Kathryn Harrison. 1999. "Racing to the top or the bottom? Industry Resistance to Eco-labelling of Paper Products in Three Jurisdictions". *Environmental Politics* 8: 110-136.

Session 15: Global Environmental Governance: How Does it Occur?

Jon Birger Skjærseth, Olav Schram Stokke and Jørgen Wettestad. 2006. "Soft Law, Hard Law, and Effective Implementation of International Environmental Norms". *Global Environmental Politics* 6: 104-120.

Fikret Berkes. 2007. "Going Beyond Panaceas Special Feature: Community-based Conservation in a Globalized World." *PNAS* 104: 15188-15193.

Frank Bierman. 2000. "The Case for a World Environmental Organization." *Environment* 42: 22-31.

Najam, Adil. 2003. "The Case Against a New International Environmental Organization." *Global Governance* 9: 367-384.

Session 16: Conclusion

Research Papers due.

Concluding Discussion.