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.


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Session Due</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions:</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading In-class Discussion:</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper:</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation:</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


Session 3: International Environmental Politics as Politics of Global Commons


Session 4: Science, Knowledge, and Uncertainty


Session 5: Environment and International Regimes


Session 6: Environment and Intergovernmental Institutions


Session 7: Environment and Nongovernmental Actors


Session 8: Environment and International Political Economy


Session 9: Private Governance

Reaction Papers due


**Session 10: Development and International Environmental Policies**


**Session 11: Exam**

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**SESSION 12: Climate Change**


**SESSION 13: Governance of Oceans**

Research Proposals due


**Session 14: Governance of Forests**


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


**Session 16: Conclusion**

*Research Papers due.*

Concluding Discussion.