

Political Studies 140
 Fall 2014
 Mon/Wed 11:00-12:15
 Beckman Hall

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 Office hours by appointment

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS



This course explores the political challenge of motivating over 7 billion people to respond to global environmental problems – and doing so in a world where there is no international government to coordinate diverse and often conflicting social preferences and practices. Drawing on research in political science and related fields, we will analyze international responses to issues such as climate change, ozone depletion, deforestation, species extinction, poverty alleviation, and sustainable urban development. Students will critically engage these topics with concepts and methodologies emerging from the fast-growing literatures on international institutions, transnational activism, multi-level governance, policy theory, and management of local "commons."

All readings are available in the course reader unless otherwise noted. Readings marked as “optional” are available in the resources folder for this course page on Sakai. For any readings with the symbol • see the Reading Guideline document on Sakai. Students must post summary notes of the readings on Sakai drop box every Friday by 5pm. (A sample is available on Sakai.)

Those who wish to keep up-to-date with the latest research and policy developments are invited to join <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SocialRulesProject/>

Course Requirements

Active class participation	10 %
Agents of change project	10 %
Reading notes	15 %
Presentations	20 %
Midterm I	20 %
Midterm II	25 %

Course Schedule

WHAT IS GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS?

Wed Sept 3 Introduction and Course Overview

Michael F. Maniates (2001) Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?, *Global Environmental Politics* 1(3): 31–52.

Mon Sept 8 Planetary Problems: Global Overviews

Student presentations on climate change, freshwater resources, toxics, deforestation, biodiversity, desertification, fisheries, and stratospheric ozone.

Common Readings:

- Peter M. Vitousek, Harold A. Mooney, Jane Lubchenco and Jerry M. Melillo (1997) Human Domination of Earth's Ecosystems, *Science* 277(5325):494–499.

Optional: John Bongaarts and Steven Sinding (2011) Population Policy in Transition in the Developing World, *Science* 333(6042): 574–576.

Additional readings for student teams are on Sakai.

Wed Sept 10 Worldwide Responses

Readings:

Daniel Bodansky, *The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law*, Harvard University Press, 2009. Selections to be announced and posted on Sakai.

Mon Sept 15 The Role of Political Analysis

Readings:

- Paul Wapner, Ecological Thinking, pp. 17–25 (only) in Michael Maniates (eds.), *Encountering Global Environmental Politics*, Roman & Littlefield, 2003.

Come prepared to compare the methods and epistemology of the following two articles:

Scott R. Loss, Tom Will, and Peter P. Marra (2013) The Impact of Free-ranging Domestic Cats on Wildlife of the United States, *Nature Communications* 4:1–7.

Detlef Sprinz and Tapani Vaahtoranta (1994) The Interest-Based Explanation of International Environmental Policy, *International Organization* 48(1):77–105.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Wed Sept 17 Environmental Values

Come prepared to discuss the common readings.

Common Readings:

John Muir, *A Near View of the High Sierra*, 1894.

Peter Singer (1974), All Animals Are Equal, *Philosophical Exchange* 1:103–116.

Mari Skare (1994) Whaling, *Environment* 36(7):12 (15pp.).

Optional: H. Whitt Kilburn (2014) Religion and Foundations of American Public Opinion towards Global Climate Change, *Environmental Politics* 23 (3):473–489.

Student Panel Presents:

- Mark Sagoff (1984) Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce, *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 22: 297–307. Sections I, II, and III only.

William Cronon (1996) The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature, *Environmental History* 1(1):7–28.

- Ramachandra Guha (1989) Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique, *Environmental Ethics* 11:71–83.

Chris Stroud, The Ethics and Politics of Whaling, pp. 55-87, in Mark P. Simmonds and Judith D. Hutchinson (eds.), *The Conservation of Wales and Dolphins: Science and Practice*, John Wiley & Sons, 1996.

Mon Sept 22 Economic Valuation

Come prepared to discuss the Erlich-Simon debate from Tierney article.

Readings:

- David W. Pearce, What Is Economic Valuation?, pp. 13–53 in *Economic Values and the Natural World*, MIT Press, 1993.

J. Tierney, Betting the Planet, *New York Times Magazine*, December 2, 1990.

Optional: Marion Fourcade (2011) Cents and Sensibility: Economic Valuation and the Nature of “Nature,” *American Journal of Sociology* 116(6): 1721-77; Kenneth Arrow *et al.* (1996) Is There a

Role for Benefit-Cost Analysis in Environmental, Health and Safety Regulation? *Science* 272 (5259): 221-222.

Wed Sept 24 Perspectives from Developing Countries

In-class film: "Hear Our Voices - The Poor on Poverty"

Readings:

Paul F. Steinberg, Environmental Privilege Revisited, chapter 2 in *Environmental Leadership in Developing Countries*, MIT Press, 2001.

The World Commission on Environment and Development ("The Brundtland Commission"), *Our Common Future*, Oxford University Press, 1987, pp. 43–60.

Vandana Shiva (2000) North-South Conflicts in Intellectual Property Rights, *Peace Review* 12(4):501-508.

Optional: Michael Specter, Seeds of Doubt: An Activist's Controversial Crusade Against Genetically Modified Crops, *The New Yorker*, August 25, 2014.

HOW CAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BE ACHIEVED IN AN ANARCHIC WORLD SYSTEM?

Mon Sept 29 Institutions

Paul F. Steinberg, Strings Attached (chapter 2) and Keep the Change (chapter 9) from *Who Rules the Earth? How Social Rules Shape Our Planet and Our Lives*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2015.

Browse the "institutional landscapes" created by past students in the See Your World link at rulechangers.org

Wed Oct 1 Multi-Level Governance

Readings:

- Robert D. Putnam (1988) Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games, *International Organization* 42(3):427–460.

Barry Rabe (2011) Contested Federalism and American Climate Policy, *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 41(3): 494-521.

Optional: Áslaug Ásgeirsdóttir (2007) Oceans of Trouble: Domestic Influence on International Fisheries Cooperation in the North Atlantic and the Barents Sea, *Global Environmental Politics* 7(1):120-144.

Mon Oct 6 International Environmental Regimes

Readings:

Robert Falkner, Hannes Stephan, and John Vogler (2010) International Climate Policy after Copenhagen: Towards a ‘Building Blocks’ Approach, *Global Policy* 1(3): 252–62.

Wed Oct 8 Negotiating Environmental Treaties

International negotiation simulation in class: “Dante’s Island.”

No assigned readings.

Mon Oct 13 The Impact of Environmental Regimes

Readings:

Daniel Bodansky, *The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law*, Harvard University Press, 2009. Selections to be announced and posted on Sakai.

Wed Oct 15 No class. Take home Midterm I due by 10 pm.

Mon Oct 20 No class – Fall break

Wed Oct 22 Transnational Environmental Actors

Readings:

• Paul Wapner (1995) Politics Beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics, *World Politics* 47(3):311–340.

NATIONAL RESPONSES

Mon Oct 27 Environmental Politics in Industrialized Democracies

Come prepared to discuss one article of your choice regarding any industrialized democracy (see instructions below) in addition to reading the following items.

Readings:

R. Daniel Kelemen and David Vogel (2010) Trading Places: The Role of the United States and the European Union in International Environmental Politics. *Comparative Political Studies* 43 (4): 427–456.

William Cronon, When the G.O.P. Was Green, *New York Times*, January 8, 2001.

- Choose one article by searching Google Scholar using the strategy described under the National Responses heading within the Reading Guidelines document on Sakai.

Wed Oct 29 Policy Change in Developing Countries

Readings:

Paul F. Steinberg, *Environmental Leadership in Developing Countries*, MIT Press, 2001, Chapter 3.

Paul F. Steinberg (2003) Understanding Policy Change in Developing Countries: The Spheres of Influence Framework, *Global Environmental Politics* 3 (1):11–32.

Mon Nov 3 Special Topics: The Politics of Climate Denial

Common readings:

Naomi Oreskes (2004) The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change, *Science* 306: 1686.

William R. L. Anderegg, James W. Prall, Jacob Harold, and Stephen H. Schneider (2010) Expert Credibility in Climate change. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 107 (27):12107–12109.

Student Panel Presents:

Aaron M. McCright and Riley E. Dunlap (2011) The Politicization of Climate Change and Polarization in the American Public's View of Global Warming, 2001-2010, *Sociological Quarterly* 52 (2):155–194.

Optional: Graeme Lang and Ying Xu (2013) Anti-incinerator Campaigns and the Evolution of Protest Politics in China, *Environmental Politics* 22(5):832–848.

Wed Nov 19 The Politics of Urban Reform

Readings:

Paul F. Steinberg, Scaling Down, Chapter 8 in *Who Rules the Earth?*

Mon Nov 24 Urban Sustainability in Practice

Student panel presents case studies in urban innovation

Wed Nov 26 Managing the Commons

In-class film “Crafting Institutions,” featuring Elinor Ostrom

Readings:

Play the videogame *Law of the Jungle* at rulechangers.org

TRANSFORMATIONS

Mon Dec 1 Agents of Change project results

Wed Dec 3 Agents of Change project results

Mon Dec 8 No class – Midterm II due by 5 pm

Wed Dec 10 Wrap-up and Future Trends

No readings.

Last revised 9/1/14