

Syllabus
INTL 4610 – Summer 2009
Environmental Politics
(revised 15 June 2009)

Instructor:

Jennifer J. White

Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30-4:30PM,
or by appointment

Contact Info:

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Class Time:

Monday-Friday, 1:00-3:15 , 5 June - 2 July

Class Location:

Miller Learning Centre, Room 147

Course Web Site:

<https://webct.uga.edu/public/intl4610jw/>

Course Description:

“Topics include global warming, deforestation, and pollution of air, water, and noise. Regional and global policy responses will be examined.”

PREREQUISITE: INTL 3200 or INTL 3300

Raise d’Être of the Course: This is the first offering of this course in the International Affairs Department at UGA, and the environment has taken on greater political importance since the crafting of the above course description, quoted from the Department’s Web site. With the recent presidential campaign in the United States and the advent of the Obama administration – coupled with the concerns over dependency on oil and the increasingly tangible threat of global issues such as global warming – the study of issues of environmental concern and their impact on the policy-making process has become a very hot topic, and promises to remain so for some time to come as the world continues to globalise. In this course, we shall acquaint ourselves with a range of environmental issues, examine how environmental problems have been translated into the policy-making arena, and consider the effects (intended and otherwise) of the decisions that politicians in the United States and around the world have made and may make concerning the environment.

The topic of environmental policy is extremely broad, owing to the wide range of environmental issues that individuals, states, and interstate organizations have come to comprehend. Our shortened course time dictates that we shall not be able to examine all environmental issues or policies; rather, our goal is to investigate and analyse several such issues and policies with a sufficient amount of depth to give you the tools to pursue other issues that may be of interest or concern to you. Undertaking this process requires disciplined investigation and critical thinking skills, which we shall work to develop throughout the course.

What We’ll Do in This Course: The study of the theme of this course – the environment – is rooted in theoretical approaches of international politics: international relations and comparative politics. We shall not be concerning ourselves solely with the mechanics and the science of environmental problems, although we shall consider these aspects of the issues covered in the course. Our main perspective will be on the policy-making arena (domestic, regional, international, and non-governmental) in which decisions about environmental issues are being made.

Our textbook will frame our discussion, and there will be several supplementary readings that will allow us to probe issues more deeply. In addition, you will be responsible for a number of projects that will allow you to focus on specific environmental issues that (hopefully) interest you, and you will then present this research to the rest of the class.

In our investigation of these issues and political decisions, we shall also compare them to similar concerns here in the United States; this will give us as a basic reference and allow us to illustrate some cases with local or national examples. Such comparisons will allow us to make **critical assessments** of the issues and decisions we investigate, and can be related to concerns that may immediately affect us all.

A Word of Warning: As a short session summer course, this course will be covering a great deal of ground in a very short time. It is **absolutely essential** that you come to class completely prepared: each day's assignments must be completed before class, and each student must be ready to conduct a quality discussion on the day's material. Also, lectures will not be mere repetition of the reading material, and students will be expected to come to class ready to *expand* on the readings and assignments. In effect, we shall be building the lectures together, so each student must be engaged in the discussions.

Ground Rules: The condensed time of this course and the requisite of covering all of the necessary material mean that the following will be necessary:

1. The use of laptops, cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic device is **NOT** permitted during class time. You may use these during the break, of course, but your attention during class must be on the class itself, not elsewhere.
 2. **Attendance is required.** You are expected to participate in each class (in fact, it's part of your grade! See below...), and you cannot do so if you do not attend.
 3. **If you are absent on a day when an assignment is due, you must provide an acceptable excuse per University policy in order to make up the assignment.** If you will be absent, I would appreciate an e-mail notification ahead of time, if possible.
 4. **If you decide to withdraw but are not earning a passing grade at the time you do so, you will earn a "WF."** Please see me if you find yourself considering withdrawing.
 5. **Work submitted for this course must be your own work:** All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. For more information, see: <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>, and **particularly** http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/prohibited_conduct.html.
 6. Our discussions may touch upon ideas or topics on which we may not all agree – in fact, this will probably be the case. Each student is expected to be courteous and respectful of the viewpoints and ideas of all others in the class, although disagreements are certainly acceptable. **In discussions, you should make an effort to provide either a theoretical or empirical basis for your comments – this is a major part of becoming a critical thinker, and it is part of the goal of this course.**
 7. This syllabus is a general plan; it may be necessary for me to amend any part of the syllabus as we proceed through the course. Announcements will generally be made in class and on WebCT, so you should be sure to attend each class, and to **check the course Web site on WebCT often.**
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Texts:

We shall use one main (required) textbook for the course, indicated in the class schedule below as *IR*:

O'Neill, Kate. *The Environment and International Relations*. (New York: Cambridge University Press) 2009.
ISBN: 9780521842167

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There will also be selected readings from other texts (posted on WebCT). These readings will be drawn mainly from the following:

Aldy, Joseph E. and Robert N. Stavins (ed.). *Architectures for Agreement: Addressing Global Climate Change in the Post-Kyoto World* (New York: Cambridge University Press) 2007.

Armstrong, Susan J. and Richard G. Botzler (ed.). *Environmental Ethics: Divergence and Convergence*. (New York: McGraw-Hill) 2004.

Easton, Thomas A. (ed.). *Sources: Environmental Studies* (New York: McGraw-Hill) 2009.

Easton, Thomas A. (ed.). *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Environmental Issues* (New York: McGraw-Hill) 2009.

Paul, Richard, and Linda Elder. *Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools* (Dillon Beach, CA: The Foundation for Critical Thinking) 2006.

Stavins, Robert N. (ed), *Economics of the Environment* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company) 2005.

Sen, Amartya. *Development as Freedom* (New York: Anchor Books) 1999.

Some recommended readings will also be listed in the syllabus. These readings will help you further investigate the respective topic and may help with your assignments, but are not required reading.

Grading:

Film Essay:	→	10%
Group Presentation:	→	10%
Group Presentation Report:	→	20%
Debate:	→	10%
Data Coding Project:	→	20%
Final Exam:	→	20%
Participation:	→	10%

Total: 100%

Grading will be based on several group and individual projects, a final exam, and on the **quality** of your participation.

Group Projects:

1. Each student will work as part of a group to give one (1) **presentation** on an environmental topic that the group selects.
2. Each presentation group will also be assigned an issue related to its environmental topic on which to construct a **debate**; half of the group will argue for the issue and half will argue against the issue. This debate will follow a few days after the group presentation.
3. Also, students will work in pairs to **code data** from a specific international environmental agreement; this project will be due on the final day of class at the end of the day. **You will have until the end of the day on the day of final exams (11:59 PM, 2 July 2009) to turn in your data coding project. I would like to receive your work in electronic format (via e-mail to me at jenx@uga.edu).**

Details concerning the presentation, debate, and coding project will be discussed in class in advance of the respective assignments. **Additional assignments** may also be given during class, either to be completed in class or turned in during the next class session. These assignments will be announced in class and posted on WebCT.

Individual Projects:

1. Each student will prepare and submit via WebCT one (1) film essay on the second film we view in class.
2. Also, each student will be responsible for writing a report on her/his work on the environmental topic group presentation.

Again, further details on these projects will be given in class well ahead of their due date.

Final:

There will be an in-class final exam for the course on the last day of class (2 July, 2009). This exam will take the form of two or three essay questions that will enable you to reflect on what we have covered in the course and offer possible future considerations for the study of environmental politics. You will have the entire class time for the final (1:00-3:15), but you will probably not need it.

Daily Class Agenda:

For each class, students are expected to have completed the readings listed for that day in the course schedule, **and** to prepare two (2) questions on those readings to turn in **at the beginning of class**. These questions may be used as discussion points during the class, and as such, count towards your participation grade. (There may be exceptions to this requirement; they will be announced a day in advance in class and on WebCT.)

Students are also expected to be familiar with current events related to environmental politics, and we shall begin each class period with a discussion of these events and how they bear on our studies to that point. As this is a course in which you are expected to sharpen your critical thinking skills, you should try to check out at least *two* (2) news sources each day and thoughtfully assess each source's presentation of the information. This may be most easily accomplished on-line, by going to the "world news" section in any of the following sources:

- The New York Times (www.nytimes.com – free registration required)
- The BBC On-Line (news.bbc.co.uk)
- The Guardian On-Line (www.guardian.co.uk)
- Le Monde (www.lemonde.fr – in French)
- Der Spiegel (www.spiegel.de – in German)
- The Christian Science Monitor (<http://www.csmonitor.com>)
- Or, check out **Google News** (<http://news.google.com/nwshp?hl=en&tab=wn>), and choose "World" to see the world's news in the country of your choice – there are many news sources here in English (e.g., Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa) as well as other languages.

You can take a look through various environmental journals on-line through Galileo at <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ejournals/> (password: **seaboard). Here are a few of possible interest and that may help you with your research:**

- *Global Environmental Politics* (use the "Project Muse" link when you try to access the e-journal via Galileo – it has the most recent publications available on-line)
- *Environmental Politics* (again, to see all of the possible on-line issues available – including the most recent – use the "Informaworld Journals" link)
- *International Environmental Agreements* (use the "Springer Standard Collection" link)
- *Journal of Environment and Development* (not available on-line)
- *RECIEL (Review of European Community and International Environmental Law)*: most recent year's issues not available on-line

Class runs from 1:00 until 3:15, and we shall have one 15-20 minute break after about the first hour of class. Classes will consist of lecture, group activities and work sessions, presentations, and film viewings (consult the schedule of assignments and classes below).

Schedule of Assignments and Classes:

Readings marked with an asterisk (*) can be found on WebCT.

Friday, 5 June: Introduction

In Class:

- Introduction to Course

Readings:

- "Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools," Paul & Elder*
- Selection #7, *Sources*: "The Tragedy of the Commons," Harbin*
- Selection #33, *Sources*: "At the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, or Why Political Questions Are not All Economic," Sagoff*

Monday, 8 June: The Environment and International Relations

Readings:

- Chapter 1, *IR*, O'Neill
- Selection #42, *Sources*: from *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, Diamond*
- Selection #21, *Ethics: Nature in Industrial Societies*, Evernden*

Tuesday, 9 June: The Environment and International Relations - Theoretical Approaches

Readings:

- Selection #66, *Ethics*: from *The Politics of the Earth*, Dryzek*

Wednesday, 10 June: International Environmental Problems

Readings:

- Chapter 2, *IR* O'Neill
- Selection #26, *Sources*: "The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change", from *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis**

In Class

- Film #1: "An Inconvenient Truth"

Thursday, 11 June: International Environmental Problems – Global Warming

Readings:

- Chapter 2, *Architectures*, Aldy & Stavins*

In Class

- Film #1: "An Inconvenient Truth"

Friday, 12 July: International Environmental Problems – Global Warming

Readings:

- Issue #8, *Sides*: "Is Global Warming Scepticism Just Smoke and Mirrors?" *

In Class:

- Getting to Know Library Resources

Monday, 15 June: Actors in International Environmental Politics

Readings:

- Chapter 3, *IR*, O'Neill
- Selection #29, *Ethics: The Environmentalism of the Poor*, Guha and Martinez-Alier*

Tuesday, 16 June: Actors in International Environmental Politics (NOTE CHANGES FROM THIS POINT ON)

Readings:

- Selection #27, *Ethics: Voices from White Earth*, LaDuke*
- Pielke Jr., Roger. "When Scientists Politicize Science: Making Sense of Controversy over the Skeptical Environmentalist." *Environmental Science and Policy* no. 7 (2004): 405-417.*
- Pulver, Simone and Stacy D. VanDeveer. "'Thinking about Tomorrows': Scenarios, Global Environmental Politics, and Social Science Scholarship." *Global Environmental Politics* no. 9,2 (2009): 1-13.*

In Class

- Film #2: "Green Green Water"

Wednesday, 17 June: Domestic Environmental Governance and International Co-operation

Readings:

- Chapter 4, *IR*, O'Neill
- Dai, Xinyaun, "Why Comply? The Domestic Constituency Mechanism," *International Organisation*, no. 59, Spring 2005: 363-398.* (**Read ONLY pages 363-366 and 374-389; skip the formal modeling stuff [unless you're a glutton for mathematical punishment].**) *

In Class

- Film #2: "Green Green Water"

Thursday, 18 June: Impacts and Effectiveness of Environmental Treaty Regimes

Readings:

- Chapter 5, *IR*, O'Neill
- Mitchell, Ronald B., "Regime Design Matters: International Oil Pollution and Treaty Compliance," *International Organisation*, Vol. 48, No. 3, Summer (1994): 425-458.*
- *Recommended*: Selection #39, *Sources*: "World Commission on Environment and Development," from *Our Common Future**

In Class

- Discuss Coding Project

Friday, 19 June: Economics and the Environment

Readings:

- Chapter 6, *IR*, O'Neill
- Chapter 18, *Economics*, "It's Immoral to Buy the Right to Pollute (with replies)," Sandel*
- Issue #6, *Sides*: "Can Pollution Rights Trading Effectively Control Environmental Problems?"*

In Class:

- Environmental Topic Group Work

Monday, 22 June: Economics and the Environment

Due:

- Film Essay on "Green Green Water"

Readings:

- Selection #35, *Sources*: "Putting a Value on Nature's 'Free' Services," Abramowitz, *World Watch**
- Issue #3, *Sides*: "Should a Price Be Put on Goods and Services Provided by the World's Ecosystems?"*
- *Recommended*: Sen, Amartya. *Development as Freedom* (New York: Anchor Books) 1999.

Tuesday, 23 June: Conflict, Security, and Environmental Resources

Readings:

- Homer-Dixon, Thomas F., "Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Summer 1994: 5-40.*
- Khagram, Sanjeev and Saleem Ali. "Environment and Security." *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* no. 31 (2006): 395-411.*
- Issue #11, *Sides*: "Do Biofuels Enhance Energy Security?"*
- *Recommended*: Stinnett, Douglas M. and Jaroslav Tir. 2009. "The Institutionalization of River Treaties." *International Negotiation* 14(2). (Available in print version at Library.)

In Class:

- Environmental Topic Group Work

Wednesday, 24 June: Non-State Global Environmental Governance

Readings:

- Chapter 7, *IR*, O'Neill
- Yamin, Farhana. "NGOs and International Environmental Law: A Critical Evaluation of Their Roles and Responsibilities," *RECIEL* 10.2 (2001): 149-162.

In Class:

- Guest Speaker: Jill Johnson, Programme Director, Georgia Conservation Voters (www.gavoters.com/index.html)

Thursday, 25 June:

Due:

- Environmental Topic Reports – First 3 Groups

Presentations:

- Environmental Topic Presentation – First 3 Groups

Friday, 26 June:

Due:

- Environmental Topic Reports – Next 2 Groups

Presentations:

- Environmental Topic Reports – Next 2 Groups

In Class:

- Environmental Topic Debate Group Work

Monday, 29 June:

Debates:

- First 3 Groups

Tuesday, 30 June:

Debates:

- Next 2 Groups

Wednesday, 1 July: The Environment and IR – Future Considerations

Readings:

- Chapter 8, *IR*, O'Neill
- Clapp, Jennifer and Linda Swanston, "Doing away with Plastic Shopping Bags: International Patterns of Norm Emergence and Policy Implementation," *Environmental Politics*, Vol. 18, No. 3, May 2009: 315-332.*

In Class:

- Wrap-Up
- Evaluations
- Surprise

Thursday, 2 July: Finals Day

****FINAL EXAM****

****DATA CODING PROJECT DUE****

