

The College of William & Mary
Spring 2007

GOVT 322/ENST 249: Global Environmental Governance

Morton Hall 40

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 – 10:50 am and 11:00 – 12:20 pm

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Office Hours: Tu 12:30 – 1:30

and by appointment

Course Overview and Objectives

This course will examine the development of international environmental policy and the functioning of global environmental governance using key international relations theories as well as empirical studies across 12 environmental issue areas. The goal of the course is to present a broad overview of key concerns in global environmental governance and enable students to think critically about ways to address global environmental problems. The course will thus link broad theories with empirical work and shed light on the complexities of world politics shaping environmental efforts at the international level. The questions that will guide our work throughout the semester include: Why is global environmental governance necessary? How has it performed and why? What new approaches have emerged? What should the optimal institutional structure for global environmental governance look like?

Students will work in teams to critically examine the international responses to issues such as climate change, biodiversity, desertification, forests, invasive species, and many others using concepts and methodologies from the fast-growing literatures on international institutions, transnational activism, and multi-level governance. The aim is to help you develop your ability to think critically, causally, and constructively about global environmental governance. We will start by defining problems, proceed through causal analyses, and culminate in drafting a blueprint for innovative mechanisms for global environmental governance. The workload will be significant and group work will be required.

Readings

Speth, James Gustave. 2004. *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Speth, James Gustave and Peter Haas. 2006. *Global Environmental Governance*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Chasek, Pamela S., David L. Downie, and Janet Welsh Brown. 2006. *Global Environmental Politics*. Fourth ed: Westview Press.

Esty, Daniel C., and Maria Ivanova, eds. 2002. *Global Environmental Governance: Options and Opportunities*. New Haven, CT: Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. Available at <http://www.gegdialogue.org>.

Additional reading materials are posted on Blackboard under a folder for each class session.

NOTE: The readings not included in the books above will be posted on Blackboard. Due to the dynamic character of the issue, there are currently no readings listed for the last few classes. They will be announced as we come closer to those dates and new materials appear.

Assignments and Grading

The goal of the assignments in this class is to further our collective knowledge about global environmental governance. Twelve environmental issue areas will form the basis for research and group work. For a list of issues see www.gegdialogue.org/database. You will work in a team of 3 or 4 people. Your presentation and mapping project will be evaluated as a team assignment. All other assignments are individual.

Participation (10%)

Attend class and actively participate in discussions. Ask questions, make comments, and challenge the assumptions presented in the readings, by the instructors, and your classmates. Attendance alone does not count as participation; your grade will include an assessment of your in-class participation and participation in an online discussion forum on Blackboard facilitated by the Teaching Fellows.

Issue Paper with Annotated Bibliography (15%)

1-page memo (single spaced, 1" margins, Times New Roman 11 or 12 point font) describing your issue area. The memo should identify the issue and its key characteristics and implications for global environmental governance. An annotated bibliography of key sources should also be attached. It can include primary and secondary literature as well as web resources. A minimum of 6 sources should be covered. For guidance on creating an annotated bibliography, see <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm>.

Presentations (10% total)

You will present formally as a group two times in the semester: 1) a review and analysis of a global environmental issue and 2) your vision for the global environmental governance system.

Midterm Exam (25%)

The exam will consist of essay questions on the theoretical material covered in the class.

Mapping Project (10%)

A group project outlining the institutional landscape of one issue area. This assignment aims to tap into your creativity – you will be free to choose a form of expression that would best relay the key message about your issue. Instructions will be distributed in class.

Final Paper (30%)

An individual memorandum on your issue. Instructions will be distributed in class.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Issue Paper with Annotated Bibliography	February 8 – individual assignment
Presentations	February 15 and May 1 – group assignments
Midterm Exam	March 1 – in-class
Mapping Project	April 12 – group assignment
Final Paper	May 7 – individual assignment

Course Policies

All assignments, whether graded or not, must be completed to pass this course.

Academic Integrity: William & Mary operates on the Honor Code and you are expected to uphold standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty or cheating includes any misrepresentation of another's work as your own, including unacknowledged paraphrasing or quoting, use of another student's material, incomplete acknowledgement of sources including Internet sources, or submission of the same work to complete the requirements of more than one class. Please consult *Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgement* <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/> on the standard processes of documentation.

Attendance: Students are required to attend class regularly. You may miss three classes without penalty. Thereafter, your participation grade will drop 10% for each class you miss. If you miss more than six classes, you will fail the course.

Assignment submissions: Written assignments should be submitted in **both** electronic and hard copy. Paper copies are due in class on the day noted in the syllabus; electronic submissions should be posted at the latest just before class. Electronic copies should be posted to the Discussion Board on Blackboard and will often serve as basis for in-class discussion. Late papers will be assigned the following penalties: One day late = 20% off; Two days late = 35% off; Three days late = 50% off; Four days late = 100% off. Exceptions will be made for documented medical or personal emergencies only.

Class cancellations: If class must be cancelled, continue reading as scheduled in the syllabus. We will make up the lost time in class.

Changes to Syllabus: Minor changes to the syllabus may be made in the course of the semester. Some readings may be added to Blackboard as new material on contemporary topics we are discussing comes out. Any changes will be announced in class in advance and revisions will be made to the Blackboard version of the syllabus.

Grading scale:

A range: 90-100

B range: 80-89

C range: 70-79

D range: 60-69

F: below 60

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Thursday, January 25

Introduction

- What is global environmental governance?
- What are the goals, objectives, and teaching methods of the class?
- What problem set are we going to tackle and how?

No Readings

Week 2: Tuesday, January 30

The Global Dimension of Environmental Problems

- What makes certain environmental issues *global* problems?
- What are the drivers of environmental deterioration?
- What opportunities and stresses does the new world economy present?

Speth and Haas, Chapters I and II

Chasek, Chapter 1 (till p 16) available on Blackboard

Week 2: Thursday, February 1

Assessing Environmental Deterioration: State of the Debate

- Why is there a disagreement about environmental problems?
- What can science tell us about environmental sustainability?
- What interests emphasize which stories? What place for values?

Lomborg, Bjørn. 2001. *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. - Chapter 1: Things Are Getting Better.

“Misleading Math About the Earth: Science Defends itself Against The Skeptical Environmentalist,” Scientific American.com, January 2, 2002.

Week 3: Tuesday, February 6

Global Public Goods and Collective Action

- What are global public goods?
- What distinguishes the collective action problem at the national level from that at the global level?
- What tools and mechanisms have been devised to facilitate collective action?

International Task Force on Global Public Goods. 2007. Meeting Global Challenges, Chapter 2 “Global Public Goods: What they are and why many are in short supply” available at http://www.gpgtaskforce.org/bazment.aspx?page_id=268#bazAnchor

Hardin, Garrett. “The Tragedy of the Commons” in *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Rio*, ed. Ken Conca, Michael Albery & Geoffrey Dabelko. Boulder: Westview Press.

Buck, Susan J. "No Tragedy of the Commons" in *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Rio*, ed. Ken Conca, Michael Alberty & Geoffrey Dabelko. Boulder: Westview Press.

Week 3: Thursday, February 8 – ISSUE PAPER WITH ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Global Environmental Concerns: Overview and Analysis

Group work in class

Chasek et. al., Chapter 3

Week 4: Tuesday, February 13

Global Environmental Concerns: Overview and Analysis

Student presentations

Speth, *Red Sky*, Part One and Part Two

Week 4: Thursday, February 15

From Stockholm to Johannesburg: Understanding Global Environmental Governance

- How did global environmental governance begin?
- What were the key accomplishments at Stockholm, Rio and Johannesburg?
- What were the failures?

Speth and Haas, Chapter III

Ivanova, "The History of Global Environmental Governance"

Week 5: Tuesday, February 20

The United Nations

- How does the United Nations system operate?
- What obstacles and opportunities does it create?
- What are the core issues in UN Reform?

Speth and Haas, Chapter V

Garies, Sven Bernhard, and Johannes Varwick. 2005. *The United Nations: An Introduction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Focus on pp. 201-212 of Chapter 7 and skim the rest.

Week 5: Thursday, February 22

International environmental regimes, institutions, and organizations

- How do environmental regimes, institutions, and organizations differ?
- Why are they so numerous?

Speth and Haas, Chapter IV

Chasek et. al., Chapter 1, pp. 16-40, Chapter 2, pp. 41-73

Ivanova and Roy, "The Architecture of Global Environmental Governance: Pros and Cons of Multiplicity"

Week 6: Tuesday, February 27

Environmental Ethics

- Why do we need an environmental ethic?
- Are there universal values? Should there be?

Leopold, Aldo. 1948. "The Land Ethic." From *A Sand Country Almanac*. Available at <http://www.tipiglen.dircon.co.uk/landethic.html>

Wilson, E. O. 2002. *The Future of Life*. Chapters 5 and 7.

Week 6: Thursday, March 1

MIDTERM EXAM – IN CLASS

Week 7: Tuesday, March 6

The Political Economy of Global Environmental Change

- What is necessary for the solution of environmental problems: personal responsibility or policy change?
- What are the key obstacles to international cooperation?

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

Martin, Lisa. 1999. The Political Economy of International Cooperation. In *Global Public Goods: International Cooperation in the 21st Century*, edited by I. Kaul, I. Grunberg and M. A. Stern. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 7: Thursday, March 8

International Relations Theories as Explanatory Tools I

Neorealism and Neoliberalism: Cooperation, Conflict, and Regimes

- Are power and interest good explanatory tools for the results of global environmental governance efforts?
- Why?

Karns, Margaret P., and Karen A. Mingst. 2004. *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*. Boulder, London: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Chapter 2. (pp. 35-50)

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS MARCH 13 AND 15

Week 8: Tuesday, March 20

International Relations Theories as Explanatory Tools II
Constructivism and Critical Theory Approaches: Knowledge and Ideas

- Are knowledge and ideas good explanatory tools for the results of global environmental governance efforts? Why?
- What obstacles are there to better knowledge and ideas exchange?

Karns, Margaret P., and Karen A. Mingst. 2004. *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*. Boulder, London: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Chapter 2. (pp. 50-60)

Week 8: Thursday, March 22

Effectiveness: Environment, Institutions, and Individuals

- Does IR theory explain effectiveness? Are there any missing factors?
- Is the effectiveness debate in the literature directly relevant to policy? Why and how?

Chasek et. al., Chapter 4

Week 9: Tuesday, March 27

UNEP as an Anchor Institution for the Global Environment

- How has UNEP performed and why?

Ivanova, "Understanding UNEP" in Biermann *International Organizations*

Week 9: Thursday, March 29 – CLASS SESSION AT 7PM IN ANDREWS 101, NO MEETING DURING NORMAL CLASS HOURS

Lecture by Andrew Winston

New Actors and Approaches in Global Environmental Governance: Global Business

- Do economic and development concerns always trump environmental issues? Why or why not?
- What is the role of business in global environmental governance?
- Are new approaches such as the UN Global Compact viable mechanisms for environmental governance?

Esty, Daniel and Andrew Winston, *From Green to Gold* (excerpts to be posted online)

Week 10: Tuesday, April 3

New Actors and Approaches in Global Environmental Governance: Global Civil Society

- What innovative approaches to governance has civil society ushered in?
- What will it gain and lose from strengthened global environmental governance?

Chasek et. al., Chapter 2, pp. 73-95

Esty and Ivanova, pp. 77-96 (Gemmill and Bamidele-Izu, "The Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Global Environmental Governance")

Week 10: Thursday, April 5

Globalization and the Environment: North-South Dimensions

- How has the trade and environment debate developed? What are the key issues today in the context of a second wave of globalization?
- How does globalization affect the environment? What are the root causes of these effects?
- Does globalization lead to "upward" or "downward" pressures on environmental standards?

Speth, *Red Sky*, Part Three

Chasek, Chapter 5

Week 11: Tuesday, April 10

Group work on mapping project

Week 11: Thursday, April 12 – MAPPING PROJECT DUE

Global Environmental Concerns: class debate

Week 12: Tuesday, April 17

New Forms of Governance: Networks, Partnerships, and Codes

- What new governance approaches have emerged?
- Are they effective, efficient, and equitable?

Week 12: Thursday, April 19

Designing Better Governance: the Debates

- What are the arguments for a World Environmental Organization?
- Do you agree or disagree with them? Why?

Week 13: Tuesday, April 24

Designing Better Governance: the Debates

- What are the arguments against a World Environmental Organization?
- Do you agree or disagree with them? Why?

Week 13: Thursday, April 26

Designing Better Governance: a Practical Approach

Group work

Week 14: Tuesday, May 1

Designing Better Governance: a Practical Approach

Presentations

Week 14: Tuesday, May 3

Toward a Global Theory of Mind: The Future of Global Environmental Governance

- What has the academic world of theory told us?
- What does the practical evidence show?
- Where do we go from here?

Readings:

Speth, *Red Sky*, Part Four