

Global Environmental Governance

Public Affairs 866

Spring 2006 Semester
110 Social Work
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Professor: Clark A. Miller

1:20-3:15 p.m. Monday
3 credits seminar
265-6017
205 Observatory Hill Office Building

Course Objectives

The Earth's environment has become a major focal point of international conflict and cooperation. Responding to growing threats of environmental degradation, countries have signed over 700 international treaties designed to protect and manage the environment. Just as importantly, they have developed elaborate tools and systems for observing and modeling the behavior of the global environment and translating this knowledge into global policy advice. This course provides a broad overview of developments and patterns in both the epistemological and political dimensions of global environmental governance as they have emerged over the past three decades.

The course has three overarching objectives:

- *Deepen students' understanding of emerging patterns of global governance* through an in-depth examination of one of the most important and extensive arenas of international policymaking. The course will investigate a variety of important topics, including processes of globalization, geopolitical divisions in international society, the structure and evolution of international institutions and regimes, and the challenges of regulatory harmonization.
- *Develop students' knowledge of the political and policy challenges posed by reimagining the environment as an integrated, global system.* As we reconsider human-nature interactions in planetary terms, how is this changing our notions of citizenship, politics, and regulation? How can we formulate and implement policies capable of coordinating human behavior around the planet?
- *Strengthen students' skills in international policy analysis.* Students will analyze an area of emerging arena of policy conflict in global environmental governance.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, to come to class having mastered the readings, and to participate fully in classroom discussions. The course grade will be determined as follows:

- *Classroom participation and reading* (25%). Each student is expected to come to class prepared to discuss each week's readings and to contribute to classroom discussions on a regular basis.
- *Critical responses to readings* (60%). Each student will prepare **three** 6 page critical responses to readings over the course of the semester. Each response paper will begin with two pages that identify, define, and elaborate an analytic concept or idea shared by two or more readings in a given week. The paper will then offer

a four-page application of the identified concept to an example of the student's choice drawn from an arena of global environmental governance that is not already covered by that week's readings. Students must select one set of readings from each of Sections I, II, and III of the course. The response essays will be **due** on: **Mar. 6, Apr. 3, and May 1.**

- *Discussion leading* (15%). Over the course of the semester, each student will be expected to take the lead in discussing readings. Discussion leaders will work in groups and will meet with me to discuss their plans prior to class. Direction should be taken from the brief paragraphs that introduce each week's materials.

Course materials

Most of the materials for this course are contained in a **required course reader** that can be purchased at Bob's Copy Shop on Randall.

In addition, there is one **required book** for this course at the UW Bookstore.

Sheila Jasanoff and Marybeth Long Martello, eds., *Earthly Politics: Local and Global in Environmental Governance*. MIT Press, 2004.

Course Outline

Please note: Week 1 below corresponds to the second week of classes, or January 23. There will be no class on March 13, due to spring break. I will be out of town on January 30 and April 17, so there will be no class those days. Instead, we will need to reschedule class for those two weeks.

I. Introduction

1. The Challenge of Global Environmental Change: Saving Planet Earth – At the core of global environmental governance is the conviction that the Earth as a whole is at risk of environmental degradation from human activities. Here are a selection of some of the most important articles to have made that case in the past half century.

- a. G. Evelyn Hutchinson, "The Biosphere," Scientific American 223(3):45-53, 1970.
- b. World Commission on Environment and Development, Our Common Future (Oxford: Oxford), 1987, Chapter 1. A Threatened Future.
- c. William C. Clark, "Managing Planet Earth," Scientific American 261(3): 47-54, 1989.

2. Critical Perspectives on 'One World' Discourses – While many see the Earth at risk, others argue that building policies on a "one world" framework carries its own form

of social and political dangers. The result is one of the deepest divides in contemporary geopolitics.

- a. Anil Agrawal, "A Southern Perspective on Curbing Global Climate Change," in S. Schneider, A. Rosencranz, and J. Niles, eds., Climate Change Policy: A Survey (Island Press: Washington, DC, 2002).
 - b. Wolfgang Sachs, Planet Dialectics (New York: Zed Books, 1999), chapters 6 and 7. One World – Many Worlds? and The Blue Planet.
 - c. Sheila Jasanoff, "Heaven and Earth: Images and Models of Environmental Change," in Earthly Politics.
 - d. Arturo Escobar, Encountering Development (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), chapter 5. Power and Visibility. This is a useful albeit long and complex chapter. If you can make it through all of it, great. Otherwise, read the first few pages of introductory material and then skip forward to page 192 where he begins discussing sustainable development.
3. The Governance Dilemma – In grappling with the challenge of constructing global governing institutions, humanity stands at a constitutional moment in which political relationships and institutions are in flux in a way they haven't been since the mid-20th century. Environmental politics, and especially the politics of planet Earth, are an integral part of that transformation.
- a. Sheila Jasanoff, "In a Constitutional Moment: Science and Social Order at the Millennium," forthcoming.
 - b. Robert Keohane, "Governance in a Partially Globalized World," Presidential Address, American Political Science Association, 2000.
 - c. Paul Wapner, "Reorienting State Sovereignty: Rights and Responsibilities in an Environmental Age," in Karen T. Litfin, ed., The Greening of Sovereignty in World Politics (Cambridge, MIT), 1998.
 - d. Marybeth Long Martello and Sheila Jasanoff, "Introduction: Globalization and Environmental Governance," in Earthly Politics.

II. Implementing Global Environmental Governance

4. Technologies of Governance – Building global governance depends on a range of approaches to governance that have been forged at other scales, especially that of the nation state, and are now being deployed globally.
- a. Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities (New York: Verso, 1991), chapter 11. Census, Map, Museum.
 - b. Yaron Ezrahi, "Technology and the Illusion of Politics," in Y. Ezrahi et al. (eds.) Technology, Pessimism, and Postmodernism (Dordrecht: Kluwer), 1994.
 - c. Ian Hacking, Historical Ontology (Cambridge: Harvard, 2002), chapter 6. Making Up People.

- d. James Scott, Seeing Like a State (New Haven: Yale, 1998), chapter 1. Nature and Space
5. Models, Measures, and Maps – Regardless of its subject, policymaking requires detailed knowledge and expertise; global policymaking requires global knowledge. How do scientists produce knowledge about the global environment? What do their constructions look like?
- a. Paul Edwards, “Representing the Global Atmosphere: Computer Models, Data, and Knowledge about Climate Change,” in Clark A. Miller and Paul N. Edwards, eds., Changing the Atmosphere (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001).
 - b. Simon Shackley, “Epistemic Lifestyles in Climate Change Modeling,” in Clark A. Miller and Paul N. Edwards, eds., Changing the Atmosphere (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001).
 - c. Stephen Zehr, “Method, scale, and socio-technical networks: problems of standardization in acid rain, ozone depletion, and global warming research,” Science Studies 7(1), 1994, 47-58.
6. Ordered Environments – How do scientific models, measures, and maps become instruments for ordering environments in policy deliberations?
- a. Stacy VanDeveer, “Ordering Environments: Regions in International European Environmental Cooperation,” in Earthly Politics.
 - b. Clark A. Miller, “Climate Science and the Making of Global Political Order,” in S. Jasanoff, ed. States of Knowledge (London: Routledge, 2004).
 - c. Charis Thompson, “Co-Producing CITES and the African Elephant,” in S. Jasanoff, ed. States of Knowledge (London: Routledge, 2004).
7. Imperial Knowledges – Scientific models and maps are part of a broader category of knowledge making activities that have been described by some as imperial knowledges for their connection to practices of constructing political relationships between global and local scales. These chapters describe this engagement in the context of three global institutions.
- a. Michael Goldman, “Imperial Science, Imperial Nature: Environmental Knowledge for the World (Bank)” in Earthly Politics.
 - b. Clark Miller, “Resisting Empire: Globalism, Relocalization, and the Politics of Knowledge,” in Earthly Politics.
 - c. Cathleen Fogel, “The Local, the Global, and the Kyoto Protocol,” in Earthly Politics.

8. Legible Parklands – The practice of legibility is a central feature of the modern state. Perhaps its most obvious implementation in the case of global environmental governance is the creation of national parks.

- a. R. Mittermeier, et al., “Hotspots and Global Biodiversity Conservation,” in R. Mittermeier, et al. (eds.), Hotspots (Mexico City: CEMEX, Conservation International), 1999.
- b. Guha, Ramachandra. “The Authoritarian Biologist and the Arrogance of Anti-Humanism: Wildlife Conservation in the Third World,” The Ecologist 27, 1997, 14-20.
- c. Clark Miller, “Knowledge and Accountability in Global Governance: Justice on the Biofrontier,” in M. Tetreault and R. Teske, eds., Partial Truths (Richmond: University of South Carolina Press), 2003.

III. Encounters Between Local and Global

9. Risk Cultures – a major challenge in global environmental governance is that communities often conceptualize and analyze risk differently from one another: how can we, as analysts of global environmental policymaking, understand those differences?

- a. Sheila Jasanoff, “Technological Risk and Cultures of Rationality,” forthcoming.
- b. Michael Thompson and Steve Rayner, “Cultural Discourses,” in S. Rayner and E. Malone, eds., Human Choice and Climate Change (Columbus: Battelle), 1998. pp. 279-306.
- c. Clark A. Miller, “The Dynamics of Framing Environmental Values,” Environmental Values 9: 211-233, 2000.

10. National Perspectives on Climate Change – To give an example of risk cultures and global environmental governance, these articles discuss the politics of climate change in Germany, Brazil, and India.

- a. Peter Weingart, Anita Engels, and Petra Pansegrau, “Risks of Communication: Discourses on Climate Change in Science, Politics, and the Media,” Public Understanding of Science 9:261-283, 2000.
- b. Myanna Lahsen, “Transnational Locals: Brazilian Experiences of the Climate Regime,” in Earthly Politics.
- c. Silke Beck, “Localizing Global Change in Germany,” in Earthly Politics.
- d. Milind Kandlikar and Ambuj Sagar, “Climate Research and Policy: A View of the South, A View from the South,” manuscript.

11. Implementing Global Standards in a Plural World – how can global environmental institutions address the challenges posed by competing cultural conceptions of risk?

- a. Sheila Jasanoff, “Harmonization: The Politics of Reasoning Together,” in R. Bal and W. Halffman, eds., *The Politics of Chemical Risk* (Dordrecht, Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1998).
- b. Clark Miller, “The Design and Management of International Scientific Assessments: Lessons from the Climate Regime,” in A. Farrell and J. Jager, eds. Assessments of Regional and Global Environmental Risks: Designing Processes for the Effective Use of Science in Decisionmaking (Resources for the Future: Washington, 2005).
- c. Abram Chayes and Antonia Handler Chayes, The New Sovereignty: Compliance with International Regulatory Agreements (Harvard University Press: Cambridge, 1995), Chapter 1. A Theory of Compliance.
- d. Aarti Gupta, “When Global is Local: Negotiating Safe Use of Biotechnology,” in Earthly Politics.

12 Reproducing the Global in Local Contexts – Biodiversity – Here’s another perspective on the politics of biodiversity conservation which emphasizes not so much the creation of parks as legible spaces as their centrality to networks of power, finance, and knowledge that extend across the globe.

- a. David Takacs, The Idea of Biodiversity (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins), 1996, Chapter 6. Costa Rica’s National Institute of Biodiversity (INBio): *Biodiversidad Central*
- b. Jens Lachmund, “Knowing the Urban Wasteland: Ecological Expertise as Local Process,” in Earthly Politics.
- c. Astrid Scholz, “Merchants of Diversity: Scientists as Traffickers of Plants and Institutions,” in Earthly Politics.

13. Negotiating Citizenship – The final session explores the question of how the emergence of a constitutional foundation for global environmental governance also entails rethinking the concepts of citizenship and democracy.

- a. Marybeth Long Martello, “Negotiating Global Nature and Local Culture: The Case of Makah Whaling,” in Earthly Politics.
- b. Alastair Iles, “Patching Local and Global Knowledge Together: Citizens Inside the US Chemical Industry,” in Earthly Politics.
- c. Tim Forsyth, “Social Movements and Environmental Democratization in Thailand,” in Earthly Politics.