COURSE OVERVIEW

This is a course on global environmental governance. Environmental regulation has expanded from a domestic phenomenon to one that has both global participants and global impacts. Much effort has been invested in formulating international environmental policies. However, these efforts have been rife with complications and disagreements, as many environmental indicators show worsening ecological conditions at unprecedented levels. The scientific uncertainty that shrouds many environmental questions is compounded by the fact that environmental issues often lie at the conjunction of contentious political concerns such as economic development, international trade, ecological justice, and global influence.

This course provides an overview of the key concepts, actors, concerns, and issues related to global environmental policy and negotiations. The goal is to understand the larger picture of intertwining relationships between natural, political, economic, and social systems that shape environmental policy.

REQUIRED TEXTS


* Additional required and recommended readings will be on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students should come to class prepared and are responsible for taking their own notes. The instructor does not provide PowerPoints in advance of course lectures. The instructor does, however, provide a detailed glossary and “thinking questions” for most of the readings on the course Blackboard page.

**Participation and Attendance (20%)**: Students must complete all readings prior to the class period. Class meetings are designed to be discussion meetings with active participation by all students. Some classes will be primarily lecture-based, but this is the exception, not the rule. Participation grades are updated in Blackboard twice during the semester (around the 6th week and 10th week) and comments are given periodically throughout the semester.

**Participation**: Quality participation involves comments and questions that advance our collective understanding of concepts being discussed. Preparation, effort, professional conduct, and consistent, meaningful (but not necessarily constant) participation in the discussion of the readings will yield a high participation grade. Activities that will yield a very low participation grade include: being late, frequent absences, not being prepared, never participating in discussion, checking or sending a text, having your phone ring or audibly vibrate, web surfing, snoring, emailing, committing arson, or engaging in similar activities during class. Participation also includes in-class small group activities,
the homework assignment over the institutions of the European Union, and the peer evaluations you will complete during group presentations.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken for each class period and counts for roughly half of your participation grade. Please note that if you are absent you cannot earn participation points. Students are allowed 2 absences, no questions asked, without the loss of attendance points (again, you cannot earn participation points unless you are present).

Exceptions to this policy will only be made in the most extraordinary circumstances and when prior arrangements, if at all possible, are made. Exceptions are not guaranteed and will not be granted without written documentation. Please note that neither vacation nor sickness constitutes an extraordinary circumstance. Absences in excess of 2 class periods due to serious illness or contagion require written documentation. The University attendance policy is available online at: [http://www.purdue.edu/odos/services/classabsence.php](http://www.purdue.edu/odos/services/classabsence.php). Bereavement and military obligations will be excused in accordance with the University’s Grief Absence Policy for Students and Military Absence Policy for Students. Students should notify the instructor within the first two weeks of class about conflicts or absences that can be anticipated, such as University sponsored activities and religious observances.

**Reading Quizzes (20%):** Eight to nine short quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Quizzes may or may not be announced in advance and will cover the main points/themes from the readings. Students may drop their lowest quiz score. There are no make-up quizzes.

**Global Environmental Policy Project (30%):** Students will work in small groups on a semester-long global environmental policy project. Each student in the group will be responsible for gathering research and reporting on a particular country. As a group, students will prepare a presentation and paper discussing a particular global environmental issue, the relevant stakeholders, existing policy and policy attempts, as well as the perspectives of each of their countries. Specific instructions for this assignment will be provided later in the semester.

**Consumption Blog (15%):** For 5 weeks, students will keep a video or written blog documenting (1) how they are reducing their carbon footprint or (2) recent developments in a specific global environmental issue area. Additional instructions for this assignment will be provided later in the semester.

**Global Environmental Policy Proposal (15%):** Students will write a 2-3 page policy proposal for Purdue University. The proposal should address a global environmental issue covered in the course and should indicate how acting locally (here at Purdue) could effectuate global change. Specific instructions for this assignment will be provided later in the semester.

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
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<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
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<td>Global Environmental Policy Project</td>
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<td>- Paper (20%)</td>
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<td>- Presentation (10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumption Blog</td>
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<td>Policy Proposal</td>
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**Grading:** Final grades for the course will use the plus/minus grading system. Students should not count on or expect a final curve. In calculating course grades, any missing assignments will be counted as a zero – something that will seriously affect a student’s course grade. Grade discrepancies and/or questions must be addressed within 1 week of receiving the grade for that particular assignment, paper, etc.
COURSE POLICIES

In addition to the specific policy information listed below, it is your responsibility to know and understand all Purdue University policies. See: http://www.purdue.edu/policies/index.html

Classroom Behavior: Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Classroom discussions should be civilized and respectful to everyone and relevant to the topic we are discussing. In sum, all communication, whether it is with other students or with the instructor, should be professional and respectful!

Cell phone usage of any kind is not allowed; this means no texting, no Clash of Clans, etc. Cell phones should be silenced and put away during class time. Cell phone usage will result in a zero for participation for that day. Computers and tablets are allowed for note-taking purposes only. Students who are found to be using their computers or tablets for other activities will no longer be allowed to bring their device to class.

Students should be in their seats and ready to begin class on time. Please refrain from packing up your belongings prior to the end of class, as it is disruptive to others around you and the instructor. If you are distracting your classmates or the instructor in any way, you will be asked to leave and will be counted absent for that day.

All Coursework: All coursework, regardless of how it is submitted (physically handed in, emailed, through Blackboard, etc.), must have the student’s first and last name at the top of the first page of the document. I do not grade coursework submitted without a name. Thus, any coursework submitted without a name will receive a zero. With respect to electronic submissions: Including your name in the file path is not sufficient.

Late Assignments: Any assignment turned in late without a valid extension will receive a zero. Extensions must be requested prior to the assignment due date and be based on a valid reason (vacation is not a valid reason). You may request an extension, but that does not automatically mean that you will receive one. An assignment submitted 1 minute late will be treated the same as an assignment submitted 1 day late – both will receive a zero.

Correspondence: All email correspondence should be professional and clear. Be sure to include a clear and concise subject and your first and last name. Do not begin an email with “Hey” or end an email with “Sent from my iPhone” instead of your name. Use standard punctuation, capitalization, spelling and grammar.

Academic Integrity: For all work, the Purdue University Student Code of Conduct is in effect. Every assignment, quiz, paper, etc. must be your own work. Using the Internet for research is encouraged, but plagiarizing resources is not allowed. As a general rule, if you have any doubts, give credit to the source; if you have any questions, talk to the instructor. Any violation of course policies as it relates to academic integrity will result minimally in a failing or zero grade for that particular assignment, and at the instructor’s discretion may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, all violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. All students should familiarize themselves with the University’s policies on academic dishonesty and know the consequences of plagiarism or cheating. If you are not familiar with the Regulations Governing Student Conduct, Disciplinary Proceedings, and Appeals for Purdue University, then you should review these policies at: http://www.purdue.edu/student regulations/student_conduct/regulations.html. Guidelines regarding plagiarism and academic integrity are also available on the Purdue Online Writing Lab’s website.
Disabilities: If you are an individual with a disability and require accommodations for this class, please notify the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester (or within two weeks of a change in status). Please schedule an appointment with the instructor to discuss the necessary accommodations and deliver your Accommodation Letter.

Campus Emergencies: For all hazards sirens, immediately seek shelter (Shelter-In-Place). The nearest Shelter-In-Place locations are room 1284 and the first floor bathrooms. For tornado warnings, move to the basement. In the event of a shooter or other proximate danger, the instructor will lock and/or barricade the room and everyone will gather away from the door. For fire alarms, immediately evacuate the building and move to a safe location—proceed out either the north or south entrance as a class. Please check in with the instructor outside of the building before leaving the area.

Course Caveat: This syllabus is a living, organic creation, and it may change over the course of the semester in response to changing classroom and campus conditions. I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus, schedule, and/or assignments contained therein at any time. In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. All changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

GPB = Green Planet Blues and AVD = The Global Environment (by Axelrod and VanDeveer); Additional readings and videos will be posted on Blackboard

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<th>WEEK 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Jan. 12 – Syllabus Day</td>
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<td><strong>Homework:</strong> Read the Syllabus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Jan. 14 – Introduction to global environmental politics</td>
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<th>WEEK 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Jan. 19 – Introduction to global environmental politics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong> AVD CH 1 Introduction: Governing the Global Environment (Read pages 1-10; skim the rest of the chapter)</td>
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<td>GPB Introduction: From Stockholm to Sustainability?</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Jan. 26 – Environment and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong> GPB CH 2 Environment and Development: The Case of the Developing Countries</td>
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<td>AVD CH 9 The View from the South: Developing Countries in Global Environmental Politics</td>
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<td>Thursday, Jan. 28 – The Tragedy of the Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong> GPB CH 3 The Tragedy of the Commons</td>
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<td><strong>Recommended:</strong> Hardin 1968 The Tragedy of the Commons (original article)</td>
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<th>WEEK 4</th>
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<td>Tuesday, Feb. 2 – The Tragedy of the Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong> GPB CH 5 Beyond the Tragedy of the Commons (read 53-57; skim 57-64)</td>
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<td>Ostrom 1990 Governing the Commons CH 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>• All students read pages 58-61</td>
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<td>• Students with surnames A-D read Switzerland case (61-65)</td>
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<td>• Surnames E-L read Japan cases (65-69)</td>
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WEEK 5

Tuesday, Feb. 9 – Consumption

In Class: Discussion of Consumption Blog Assignment
Due: Part 1 of the Consumption Blog Assignment

Thursday, Feb. 11 – Consumption

Required Readings: Maniates 2001 Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?

In Class: The Lorax (watch in class)

*** Friday, Feb. 12 – Blog Post 1 Due

WEEK 6

Tuesday, Feb. 16 – Catch up day / Group project discussion

Actors and Institutions

Thursday, Feb. 18 – Actors: IGOs, NGOs, and the UN

Required Readings: Mingst & Karns 2012 CH 2 The Evolution of the UN System
AVD CH 2 Architects, Agitators, and Entrepreneurs: International and Non-Governmental Actors in Global Environmental Politics

Review: Take some time to examine the structure of the UN (See link below and diagram on BB)

In Class: Quiz – Principle Organs of the United Nations

*** Friday, Feb. 19 – Blog Post 2 Due

WEEK 7

Tuesday, Feb. 23 – Actors: The European Union

Required Readings: AVD CH 7 Environmental Policy Making and Global Leadership in the European Union (pages 157-167)

Review: Take some time to examine the structure of the EU
http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

In Class: Quiz – Institutions of the European Union
Homework: Read the rest of AVD CH 7 (167-181) and research one of the policy areas from the chapter. Create an [updated] list of regulations, directives, and action plans. See Blackboard for additional instructions.

Thursday, Feb. 25 – European Union: Legislative Action

Required Readings: AVD CH 7 Environmental Policy Making and Global Leadership in the European Union (pages 167-181)

Due: Update of European Union legislative action. (Counts towards participation points.)

*** Friday, Feb. 26 – Blog Post 3 Due

WEEK 8

Tuesday, Mar. 1 – International Environmental Law & Treaty Making

Required Readings: GPB Introduction to Part 3: Institutions of Global Environmental Governance
GPB CH 13 Governance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements: A Healthy or Ill-Equipped Fragmentation?
GPB CH 14 A Participatory Approach to Strategic Planning
Skim: AVD CH 3 International Law and the Protection of the Global Environment (Note: You will need to read this chapter for your group projects so if you have the time I highly recommend reading it now.)

Thursday, Mar. 3 – Rio to Rio
**Required Readings:** GPB CH 6 The 1992 Earth Summit: Reflections on an Ambiguous Event
GPB CH 15 Life after Rio
GPB CH 16 The Rio+20 Summit and its Follow Up

***Friday, March 4 – Blog Post 4 Due***

WEEK 9
Tuesday, Mar. 8 – International Environmental Regimes
**Required Readings:** AVD CH 4 International Environmental Regimes and the Success of Global Ozone Policy
**Watch:** The Antarctic Ozone Hole - From Discovery to Recovery, a Scientific Journey (link on Blackboard)

**Cases, Controversies, and Challenges**

Thursday, Mar. 10 – Climate Change and Multilevel Governance
**Required Readings:** AVD CH 10 International Climate Change Policy: Complex Multilevel Governance
**Watch:** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver: Climate Change Debate (link on Blackboard)

***Friday, March 11 – Blog Post 5 Due***

WEEK 10
Tuesday, Mar. 15 – Spring Break - No Class
Thursday, Mar. 17 – Spring Break - No Class

WEEK 11
Tuesday, Mar. 22 – Framing the Climate Change Debate
**Required Readings:** GPB CH 27 Climate Change at the UN Security Council: Conceptual and Procedural Controversies
GPB CH 12: A New Social Movement for Atmospheric Rights
GPB CH 28 The Relationship between Climate Change and Human Rights

Thursday, Mar. 24 – Marine Pollution
**Required Readings:** TBA

WEEK 12
Tuesday, Mar. 29 – Marine Pollution
**Required Readings:** TBA
Thursday, Mar. 31 – [Consumption and] Commodity Chains
**Required Readings:** AVD CH 15 Consumption, Commodity Chains, and Global and Local Environments
**Watch:** The Story of Stuff (link on Blackboard)

WEEK 13
Tuesday, Apr. 5 – Ecological Justice
**Required Readings:** GPB CH 26 The Violence of Development
GPB CH 30 Coercing Conservation
Thursday, Apr. 7 – Ecological Justice
**Required Readings:** GPB Introduction to Part 6: Ecological Justice
GPB CH 31 The Real Price of Europe Going Green
GPB CH 7 Fight for the Forest
GPB CH 33 Inequality and Environmental Policy

***Friday, April 8 – Group Papers Due***

WEEK 14
Tuesday, Apr. 12 – Course wrap up / Policy proposal instructions
Thursday, Apr. 14 – Group Presentations

WEEK 15
Tuesday, Apr. 19 – Group Presentations
Thursday, Apr. 21 – Group Presentations
WEEK 16

Tuesday, Apr. 26 – Group Presentations
Thursday, Apr. 28 – Peer Review Policy Proposals

Due: Rough draft of your Policy Proposal (you need to bring 3 copies of your policy proposal to class)

Finals Week Monday, May 2 - Saturday, May 7

*** Policy Proposals due Monday, May 2nd by 11:59pm ***