

## **GVPT 306: Global Environmental Politics**

**Instructor:** Caitlin McCulloch

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**Class Schedule:** 1132 Tydings Hall [*TuTh – 2pm-3:15pm*]

**Office/Office Hours:** 5111 Tydings Hall [*Office hours 1pm-2pm Tuesday – must be by appointment.*]

### **Class Description:**

Global environmental problems often require extensive scientific knowledge, complex negotiation, and uncertainty. The existing dynamics of society can lead to avoiding environmental problems or actively pushing away environmental protection. This course will explore environmental problems in three steps – identifying problems, negotiating solutions and implementing agreements. The course focuses on case studies and applicable policy skills and will cover whaling, ozone depletion and climate change.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Students will understand how environmental treaties are made.
- Students will know some major cases of environmental treaties.
- Students will improve policy writing, evaluative essay writing, and presentation skills.

### **Course Texts:**

- Chasek, Pamela, David Downie and Janet Welsh Brown. 2016. *Global Environmental Politics*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Conca, Ken and Geoffrey Dabelko. 2015. *Four Decades of Global Environmental Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Books are available on reserve at the library (beyond the first week of class).

### **Graded:**

This class has 4 graded components.

- **Attendance/Participation: 25%**
- **Policy Memo: 20%**
- **Project Simulation: 25%**
- **Research Paper: 30%**

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend every class, prepared to actively engage in classroom debates and discussion. I will take attendance. If you must be absent, please notify me in advance. It is your responsibility to inform me in advance if you will be absent for religious observances. If you are going to miss a class when there is an in-class assignment due, you must submit the assignment in advance.

**Policy Memo:** A 2-page (single-spaced) policy memo supporting your position on a topic related to environmental policy and treaties. The prompt will be made available **9/24**. The memo will be due **10/1**.

**Project Simulation:** You will be assigned to teams and asked to give both a formal presentation and to write a 3-page (single-spaced) grant proposal concept note, including a budget. The teams will be formed and you will receive the full prompt **10/15**, you will have supervised time to prepare **10/24**, you will be given time to present **10/31 or 11/5**, and you will submit your final 3-page proposal **11/12**.

**Research Paper:** In lieu of a final exam, this class has a final paper. All papers must be typed, should be in 12pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced, stapled, with 1-inch margins. Your name, date, and the assignment name should appear on the first page. Subsequent pages should have your last name and a page number on each page in the header or footer. The paper will be due at our final exam time, when it is announced by the University.

### **Office Hours;**

I will hold office hours 1pm-2pm Tuesday. **You must make an appointment in advance.** I am also happy to schedule other office hours depending on availability, and you should always feel free to email me at [cem72@umd.edu](mailto:cem72@umd.edu) .

### **Course Policies**

Students will adhere to standards set forth in V-1.00(B): The University of Maryland Code of Student Conduct. All suspected cases of student conduct violations will be reported. Students are encouraged to read and become familiar with the Code. It can be found at the following site: <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/2014-V-100b.html> Respect your instructor and your fellow students.

Students are required to adhere to the University's Academic Code of Academic Integrity. All cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Please familiarize yourself with the Code, which can be found here: <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/iii100a.html>

Disability Support Service (DSS) requests must be submitted within the first two weeks of the class to the professor.

Late work will be graded down by a half grade for every day it is late. Extensions are only granted with an excuse submitted in advance and cleared with the instructor.

### **Grade Ranges:**

A+: 97-100

A: 93-96.9

A-: 90-92.9

B+: 87-89.9

B: 83-86.9

B-: 80-82.9

C+: 77-79.9  
C: 73-76.9  
C-: 70-72.9  
D+: 67-69.9  
D: 63-66.9  
D-: 60-62.9  
F: below 60

**Summarized Calendar:**

**27 August** – Syllabus

**29 August** – Introduction to Global Environmental Problems

**3 Sept** – Identifying and Classifying Environmental Problems / Case: Black Carbon

**5 Sept** – International Anarchy and Regimes

**10 Sept** – State Sovereignty and Environmental Protection

**12 Sept** [NO CLASS]

**17 Sept** – States and Bargaining

**19 Sept** – International Environmental Institutions

**24 Sept** – Global Commons Problems (and Solutions)

**26 Sept** [NO CLASS – WORK ON MEMO]

**1 Oct** – Policy Roundtable: How to Reduce Black Carbon [Memo Due]

**3 Oct** – The Problem of Climate Change

**8 Oct** – Negotiations; Rio to Kyoto

**10 Oct** – Negotiations; Kyoto to Copenhagen

**15 Oct** – Negotiations; Copenhagen to Paris

**17 Oct** – Negotiations; Paris

**22 Oct** – [Presentation Prep]

**24 Oct** – Negotiations; Paris and Afterwards

**29 Oct** – Climate Adaptation and Geo-Engineering

**31 Oct** – [Presentations]

**5 Nov** – [Presentations]

**7 Nov** – Cases of Environmental Policy: Ozone Protection

**12 Nov** – Comparing Environmental Regimes [Presentation Final Proposal Due]

**14 Nov** – [Film]

**19 Nov** – Cases of Environmental Policy: Whaling

**21 Nov** – Cases of Environmental Policy: Whaling

**26 Nov / 28 Nov** [DAY OFF – Thanksgiving]

**3 Dec** [Paper Workshop]

**5 Dec** – Course Summary

**Dec 11-17** (Exact Date TBA When Finals Announced) [Paper Due]

## **Readings and Assignments:**

*All readings should be on ELMS, via the link here, in Green Planet Blues (GPB) or Global Environmental Politics (CDB).*

### **Week 1**

**27 August – Syllabus**

*Assignments:*

- Read syllabus, access course website.

**29 August – Introduction to Global Environmental Problems**

*Reading:*

- Lomborg (2001) “Things are Getting Better”
- Schneider (2002) “Misleading Math about the Earth: Science Defends Itself Against the Skeptical Environmentalist”

*Discussion:*

- The Economist (2011) “Welcome to the Anthropocene”

*Optional Reading:*

- Meadows et al. (2015) “The Limits to Growth” (GPB)
- Castro (2015) “Environment and Development: The Case of the Developing Countries” (GPB)

### **Week 2**

**3 Sept –**

**Identifying and Classifying Environmental Problems / Case: Black Carbon**

*Readings:*

- Young (1994) “International Environmental Governance”
- US EPA. “Executive Summary: Report to Congress on Black Carbon.”

*Skim:*

- **Skim** the UN Environment Programme’s Global Environmental Outlook website, especially the press release and summary section <https://www.unenvironment.org/global-environment-outlook> / The Climate and Clean Air Coalition website, including the page on black carbon and reading each of the initiative pages. <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en>

*Discussion:* The Economist (2012) “Atmospheric Governance”

*Optional Reading:*

- Mitchell (2010) “The International Emergence of Environmental Problems”

## **5 Sept – International Anarchy and Regimes**

*Readings:*

- CDB, p. 20-30.
- Patterson (2005) “Theoretical Perspectives on International Environmental Politics” in Betsill, Hochstetier and Stevis, *Palgrave Advances in International Environmental Politics*, **ONLY p.82-112.**

*Discussion:*

- “The Realist Case for Climate Change Cooperation”  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/news/2015/11/30/126356/the-realist-case-for-climate-change-cooperation/>

## **Week 3**

**10 Sept – State Sovereignty and Environmental Protection**

*Readings:*

- Conca (2010) “Rethinking the Ecology-Sovereignty Debate” (GPB)

*Discussion:*

- Peluso (2010) “Coercing Conservation” (GPB)

**12 Sept [NO CLASS]**

## **Week 4**

**17 Sept – States and Bargaining**

*Readings:*

- CDB, p. 51-61.
- Sprinz and Vaahoranta (1994) “The Interest-Based Explanation of International Environmental Policy” **ONLY p.77-95.**

*Discussion:*

- Chasek (2007) “US Policy in the UN Environmental Arena: Powerful Laggard or Constructive Leader?”

## **19 Sept – International Environmental Institutions**

### ***Readings:***

- CDB, p. 61-89.
- Kanie (2010) “Governance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements: A Healthy or Ill-Equipped Fragmentation” (GPB)

### ***Discussion:***

- Huffington Post (2012) “Why We Need a Global Environmental Organization”

## **Week 5**

### **24 Sept – Global Commons Problems (and Solutions)**

### ***Readings:***

- Hardin (2010) “The Tragedy of the Commons” (GPB)
- Basturo and Ostrom (2010) “Beyond the Tragedy of the Commons” (GPB)
- Economist (2012) “How to Stop Fishermen Fishing”

### ***Discussion:***

- Huffington Post (2016) “Paris and the Tragedy of the Commons”

### **26 Sept [NO CLASS – WORK ON MEMO]**

***No readings, prepare memo.***

## **Week 6**

### **1 Oct – Policy Roundtable: How to Reduce Black Carbon [Memo Due]**

***No readings, prepare for roundtable.***

### **3 Oct – The Problem of Climate Change**

### ***Readings:***

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change “5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report, Summary for Policy-Makers”

### ***Watch:***

- Roberts (2012) “Climate Change is Simple”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7ktYbVwr90>

## **Week 7**

**8 Oct** – Negotiations; Rio to Kyoto

### ***Readings:***

- CDB, p162-171.
- The Kyoto Protocol.

### ***Discussion:***

- Prins and Rayner (2007) “Time to Ditch Kyoto”

**10 Oct** – Negotiations; Kyoto to Copenhagen

### ***Readings:***

- CDB, p171-177
- The Copenhagen Accord.

### ***Discussion:***

- GRIST (2009) “Copenhagen: A Look Back at the Most Striking Narratives”

## **Week 8**

**15 Oct** – Negotiations; Copenhagen to Paris

*Readings from October 10<sup>th</sup> will be discussed in this class as well.*

**17 Oct** – Negotiations; Paris

### ***Readings:***

- CDB, p177-184.
- The Paris Agreement.

### ***Skim:***

- Climate Watch Data Visualizations - <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/> , especially the US INDC.

### ***Discussion:***

- Washington Post (2018) “Countries Made Only Modest Progress in Paris. They’re Falling Short Anyways”



## **Week 9**

**22 Oct** – Presentation Prep

*Meet with your group to discuss your proposals.*

**24 Oct** – Negotiations; Paris and Afterwards

**Readings:**

- Duck of Minerva (2017) “Academic Forum on the Paris Agreement”
- Tabuchi and Fountain (2017) “Bucking Trump, These Cities, States and Companies Commit to the Paris Accord”

**Discussion:**

- President Trump (2017) “Statement by the President on the Paris Climate Accord”

## **Week 10**

**29 Oct** – Climate Adaptation and Geo-Engineering

**Readings:**

- Victor et al (2009) “Geoengineering: A Last Resort Against Global Warming?”
- The Guardian (2017) “Seven Megatrends That Could Beat Global Warming”

**Skim:**

- US EPA Strategies for Climate Change Adaptation <https://www.epa.gov/arc-x/strategies-climate-change-adaptation>

**31 Oct [Presentations]**

*No readings, prepare for presentations.*

## **Week 11**

**5 Nov [Presentations]**

*No readings, prepare for presentations.*

**7 Nov** – Cases of Environmental Policy: Ozone Protection

**Readings:**

- CDB, p110-126.

- Scott (2007) “How to Not Repeat the Mistakes of the Kyoto Protocol”
- Biniiaz (2017) “I Beg to Differ: Taking Account of National Circumstances” **Only Intro, p9-12, Conclusion.**
- Ovodenko (2016) “140 Countries Will Phase out HFCS”

*Discussion:*

- Pilke (2012) “Technology was the Key Factor in Saving the Ozone Layer”
- Axios (2018) “Industry Executives Urge Trump to Back Obama-Era Climate Policy”

## **Week 12**

**12 Nov** – Comparing Environmental Regimes [**Presentation Proposal Due**]

*Readings:*

- CDB, p257-307.

**14 Nov** – [Film]

## **Week 13**

**19 Nov** – Cases of Environmental Policy: Whaling

*Readings:*

- CDB, p243-252
- NYT (2010) “Under Pressure, Commission Discusses Lifting Whaling Ban”
- ICJ (2014) “Summary of Whaling in the Antarctic”

*Discussion:*

- The Conversation (2017) “Murky Waters: Why is Japan Still Whaling in the Southern Ocean”

**21 Nov** – Cases of Environmental Policy: Whaling

*Readings:*

- Vaughan (2016) “Whaling Nations Block South Atlantic Sanctuary Plans”

*Discussion:*

- Eilperin (2012) “Researchers Propose Putting a Price on Whales”
- Scientific American (2017) “The True Cost of a Dead Elephant”

## **Week 14**

26 Nov [DAY OFF – Thanksgiving]

28 Nov [DAY OFF – Thanksgiving]

## **Week 15**

3 Dec [Paper Workshop]

*Individual reading based on cases.*

5 Dec – Course Summary

### *Readings:*

- CDB, p353-375.

### *Discussion:*

- Institute of Physics (2017) “The Most Effective Individual Steps to Tackle Climate Change Aren’t Being Discussed”
- Aronoff (2017) “Your Personal Consumption Choices Can’t Save the Planet”

*December: Final paper due, noon via Canvas.*