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Location: Tydings 1108

Spring 2015 GVPT 306: Global Environmental Politics

Course Overview:

Environmentalism is an issue at every political level: from local to national to global. Environmental policies are affected by regimes, by agreements, by institutions, and by international cooperation. We will explore the nature and scope of environmentalism, its relationship with politics, and the resulting consequences in terms of environmental protection, conservation, food production, industry, and conflict around the world. The goal of this course is to help you gain a critical understanding of how environmental policy is made, what its consequences are, how it can be improved, and how it varies across the world.

This course will be divided into three parts. The first will be primarily focused on the institutions that effect environmental policy-making. The second will be how human use of the environment often turns into abuse of the environment, and how this can be rectified. The third will deal with case studies across the globe, highlighting environmental issues that are region-specific, indicating the fluid nature of environmental politics.

Class Structure and Participation:

We will be meeting twice a week in class. You are expected to participate in class discussions, and indicate that you are thinking critically. There will be two written assignments a) a critique of the readings and b) a group paper. There will be both midterm and final exams.

Readings:

All articles will be posted on Blackboard. You will not need to purchase reading materials for this course.

Grade Breakdown:

10%--Class participation

20%--Critique of Readings

20%--Midterm

25%--Group Presentation & Paper

25%--Final Exam

Assignments:

Late Work: For essays I will subtract one letter grade per day (24 hours) that the paper is late.

Format for Critique: All papers must be typed and uploaded on to elms. Papers should be formatted in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one inch margins on all sides. All assignments should have a title page. Your name, the date, and the assignment name should appear on the first page in the top left corner. Subsequent pages should have your last name and page number in the top right corner.

Critique: This assignment is a critique of any two of the week's readings. This should be no more than three pages long, double-spaced. A summary is not enough—I am also looking for an evaluation as to the readings and how you think they could be improved. These will be graded out of 100.

Group presentation & paper: This should be about a contemporary environmental problem in the world today. As a group, you are expected to perform your own research on this topic, and create sustainable solutions to the contemporary problem that you have chosen. The paper should be no more than six pages long, not including the title page and references. At least one reference must be from the course readings. This will also be graded out of 100.

For the purposes of this course, kindly use APA citation format.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense at UMD, and can be ground for dismissal from the university. Plagiarism constitutes knowingly misrepresenting someone else's work as your own. This does not just apply to things like buying a paper off the internet; knowingly appropriating another author's quotes or ideas can also qualify as plagiarism. The University's plagiarism policy can be found on the web site of the Office of Student Conduct at: <http://www.inform.umd.edu/jpo/>.

Week 1

January 27: Introduction to GVPT 306

January 29: Regimes, Interests, and the Environment

- Sprinz, D. and Vaahtoranta, T. (1994). The Interest-Based Explanation of International Environmental Policy. *International Organization*, 48(1):77–105.
- Mitchell, R. (1994). Regime Design Matters: International Oil Pollution and Treaty Compliance. *International Organization*, 48(3): 425-458.

Week 2

February 3: Institutions, the Environment, and Effects

- Ostrom, E. (2008). Institutions and the Environment. *Economic Affairs*, 28(3): 24-31
- Andreson, S. (2007). The effectiveness of UN environmental institutions. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, 7(4): 317-336

February 5: Landmark Agreements

- Montreal Protocol, Articles 1, 2-2I, 9, 10, 10A, 13:
http://ozone.unep.org/new_site/en/Treaties/treaties_decisions-hb.php?sec_id=5
- Kyoto Protocol: Articles 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, (elms)

Week 3

February 10: WTO and the Environment

- DeSombre, E. and Barkin, S. (2002). Turtles and Trade: The WTO's Acceptance of Environmental Trade Restrictions. *Global Environmental Politics*, 2(1): 12–18.
- Tarsofsky, R. and Palmer, A. (2006). The WTO in crisis: lessons learned from the Doha negotiations on the environment. *International Affairs*, 82(5): 899-915

February 12: Environmentalism and Local Government

- Andrews, K. and Edwards, B.. (2005). 'The Organizational Structure of Local Environmentalism. *Mobilization*, 10:213–34.

Week 4

February 17: Food Production

- Lambin, E. and Meyfroidt, P. (2011). Global land use change, economic globalization, and the looming land scarcity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 108(9): pp. 3465-3472
- Godfray, H. et. al. (2010). Food Security: The Challenge of Feeding 9 Billion People. *Science*, 327, p.812-818

February 19: Consumption

- Ecological Footprint: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjyrAHzthTo>
- Jorgenson, A. (2003). Consumption and Environmental Degradation: A Cross-National Analysis of the Ecological Footprint. *Social Problems*, 50(3): 374–394

Week 5

February 24: Food Waste and its Management

- Global Food waste: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loCvrkcaH6Q>
- Levis, J.W., et al. (2010). Assessment of the state of food waste treatment in the United States and Canada. *Waste Management*, p.1-9

February 26: Business and Environmental Protection

- Gunningham, N. Kagan, Thornton, D. (2004). Social License and Environmental Protection: Why Businesses Go beyond Compliance, *Law & Soc. Inquiry*, 29: 307-341
- Amazon Tribes & Deforestation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jvl8gFZmJeo>
- **Critique Due**

Week 6

March 3: The Citizen & Change

- Spaargaren, G. and Oosterveer, P. (2010). Citizen-Consumers as Agents of Change in Globalizing Modernity: The Case of Sustainable Consumption. *Sustainability*, 2: 1887-1908

March 5: Blood Diamonds and Conflict

- Orugun, P. (2004). "Blood Diamonds" and Armed Conflicts in the Post-Cold War Era Africa. *World Affairs*, Vol. 166, No. 3, pp.151-161.
- Murphy, Shannon. (2011). Clouded Diamonds: Without Binding Arbitration and More Sophisticated Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, the Kimberley Process Will Ultimately Fail in Ending Conflicts Fueled by Blood Diamonds. *Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law Journal*. Vol. 11: 207
- Blood Diamonds in Sierra Leone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRzb0AxO3CY>

Week 7

March 10: Midterm

March 12: Sudan, Oil and Conflict

- War Between North and South Sudan:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PmRl8chrO4&index=10&list=PLih3Q6yivOP2BO7NS1mCkjOQpWGh-2EYZ>
- Patey, L. (2007). State Rules: Oil Companies and Armed Conflict in Sudan. *Third World Quarterly*, Volume 28 Issue 5.
- Switzer, J.(2002). Oil and Violence in Sudan. *Presented at International Institute for Sustainable Development & IUCN-World Conservation Union Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy*
- China and it's role: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7rYWf9MBFo>

Week 8: Spring Break

Week 9:

March 24: Oil and Democratization

Ross, Michael. 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53 (3): 325–61.

Tsui, Kevin. 2009. More Oil, Less Democracy: Evidence from Worldwide Crude Oil Discoveries. *The Economic Journal*, 121, pp. 89-115

March 26: Water and Conflict

- Wolf, Aaron et al. (2005). *Managing Water Conflict and Cooperation*. The Worldwatch Institute.
- Giordano, Meredith et al. (2002). The Geography of Water Conflict and Cooperation: Internal Pressures and International Manifestations. *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 168, No. 4, pp. 293-312.

Week 10:

March 31: China, Structure, and the Environment

- Stavins, R. (Sept. 20, 2014). Climate Realities.
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/21/opinion/sunday/climate-realities.html?_r=0
- Lieberthal, K. (1997). China's Governing System and Its Impact on Environmental Policy Implementation. *China Environmental Series*, p. 1-32

April 2nd: Gender-based Environmentalism

- Zelezny, L. et. al. (2000). Elaborating on Gender Differences in Environmentalism *Journal of Social Issues*, 56(3): pp. 443–457

Week 11:

April 7th: In-class group work

April 9th: In-class group work

Week 12:

April 14th: In-class group work

April 16th: In-class group work

Week 13

April 21th: Presentations

April 23rd: Presentations

Week 14

April 28th: Presentations

April 30th: Presentations

Week 15

May 5: Presentations

May 7: Presentations

May 12th: Review for Final Exam & Final Group Paper Due

Final Exam: TBA