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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


Week 2

February 3: Institutions, the Environment, and Effects


February 5: Landmark Agreements

- Kyoto Protocol: Articles 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, (elms)

Week 3

February 10: WTO and the Environment

February 12: Environmentalism and Local Government


Week 4

February 17: Food Production


February 19: Consumption

- Ecological Footprint: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjyrAHzthTo

Week 5

February 24: Food Waste and its Management

- Global Food waste: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoCVrkcaH6Q

February 26: Business and Environmental Protection

- Amazon Tribes & Deforestation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jvl8gFZmJeo

- Critique Due
Week 6

March 3: The Citizen & Change


March 5: Blood Diamonds and Conflict

- Blood Diamonds in Sierra Leone: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRzb0AxO3CY](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=PLih3Q6yjvOP2BO7NS1mCkiOQpWGlh-2EYz](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PmRl8chrO4&index=10&list=PLih3Q6yjvOP2BO7NS1mCkiOQpWGlh-2EYz)
- 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](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7rYWf9MBFo)

Week 8: Spring Break
**Week 9:**

**March 24: Oil and Democratization**


**March 26: Water and Conflict**


**Week 10:**

**March 31: China, Structure, and the Environment**


**April 2nd: Gender-based Environmentalism**


**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 21st: 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