

PS 5120 International Environmental Policy

First Summer Session: June 6 – July 1, 2011

Dr. Tatyana B. Ruseva

Class time: M, T, R, 10:00 am - 1:10 pm

Classroom: Belk Hall 1125

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Secretary: Mrs. KayRon Lantz

Prospectus:

In December 2010, state delegates assembled in Cancun, Mexico for the regular Conferences of Parties meeting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Since 1992, world leaders have channeled resources in efforts to collectively and comprehensively address the long-term challenge of climate change. While virtually all delegates agree that stepped-up efforts are necessary to speed up the global response and repair the planet's health, not all have been eager to take concrete actions. Among the key elements of the Cancun Agreements on climate change were:

- Goal to limit global warming to below 2 degrees and possibly 1.5 degrees
- Establish a Green Climate Fund (with the World Bank at the helm for 3 years)
- Fast-start finance of \$30 billion for 2010-12 and long-term funding of \$100 billion/year by 2020
- Carbon-capture-and-storage as a policy option and REDD+ scheme (forest-related)

While the agreements fell short of delivering the legally-binding commitments demanded at Copenhagen, a year before that, the Cancun meeting was consensually judged as a mild success.

Environmental diplomats' hand-wringing over the declining health of the earth began long before either the Cancun meeting or the 1992 summit in Rio. In 1972, in Stockholm, countries large and small, rich and poor promised to do more to fight regional and global environmental ills. Particularly at the global level, the record of accomplishments is, at best, a short list of partial successes. *Why is this the case?* In his book, "Earth in Balance", Nobel-prize winner Al Gore contends that "we can and we must" change our current behavior patterns to save the planet, and thereby save ourselves. *How, in practice, do we satisfy this tall order?*

We explore these questions and others in International Environmental Policy. Our inquiry will be guided by four, interrelated course units: 1) International Environmental Law; 2) International Political Order; 3) The Environment and Global Markets; and 4) Sustainable Development and the Policy Sciences.

By the end of the course students should be competent to discuss, analyze, and offer explanations on a range of issues of international environmental affairs.

Course Requirements:

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| • First Assignment (Covers week 1) | 20% of grade |
| • Second Assignment (Covers weeks 2 and 3) | 25% of grade |
| • Third Assignment (Covers weeks 1, 2, 3 and 4) | 25% of grade |
| • Article presentation | 20% of grade |
| • Attendance and participation | 10% of grade |

Assignments

The first assignment includes (i) a 2-3 page paper applying concepts from readings to a problem in international environmental affairs, and (ii) one or two essay questions (20% of final grade). The second and third assignment will include 2-3 essay questions. The written, take-home assignments will draw heavily on readings and discussions, and will contain one or more essay questions. Application of core concepts from the readings will be tested. Written assignments are due at the due date, specified in the syllabus. If you anticipate a major conflict that prevents you from completing an assignment on time, please come and talk to me, or contact me by email (rusevatb@appstate.edu).

Presentation of Research Articles

Students will be responsible for introducing four readings for the duration of this course (i.e. one article per week). This assignment asks that you become familiar with the text (its key arguments and relevance to the rest of the course material), and present a short 10-minute overview of the authors' main points. Articles denoted by a * in the list of assigned readings will be presented by students. Additional guidelines about the presentation of your selected article will be provided in class or on the AsULearn course webpage.

Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance is expected. Active participation in class discussions is integral to course quality, and comprises 10 percent of your grade.

Policy on Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

If you have any questions about whether a particular practice constitutes academic dishonesty, please ask the instructor or contact the Dean of Students. Other items such as your rights in grievance procedures related to academic integrity can be found under the Office of Student Conduct at <http://studentconduct.appstate.edu>. *Plagiarism* and other forms of academic misconduct will be dealt with under the strictest terms provided for under ASU policy. In most cases, plagiarism will result in a failing grade and a formal report to the Dean of Students office. *Plagiarism* is using another person's words, ideas, artistic creations, or other intellectual property without giving proper credit. A student must give credit to the work of another person when he/she does any of the following:

- a. Quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written;
- b. Paraphrases another person's words, either oral or written;
- c. Uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or
- d. Borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.

Readings

A list of the assigned readings for this class is attached to this Syllabus. All reading materials are posted on AsULearn under PS5120: International Environmental Policy. *I reserve the right to assign additional readings throughout this course. Additional readings will be sent by email or posted on AsULearn.* Naturally, the readings are integral to the course – they will serve as the basis of lectures and discussions.

Class Format

International Environmental Policy is a seminar, albeit a fairly large one! There are simply too many unsolved riddles and enduring problems in international environmental affairs to allow one person (me) to do all the talking. Hence, for each class I (or your peers) will present some key themes from the readings and set up a framework for discussion.

Here is the menu for the course:

Course Content

* Indicates a reading introduced by students. Please, consult *AsULearn* for details.

Week 1: International Environmental Law

6/6 Sources of International Environmental Legal Order

Readings: Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment;
Clapp & Dauvergne “The Globalization of Environmentalism”

6/7 Theories of State Environmental Rights; General Principles of International Environmental Law

Readings: *Perrez*; *Handout*: “Some International Legal Vocabulary”; *Soto*, “General Principles of International Environmental Law”

6/9 Enforcing International Environmental Law

Readings: *O’Connell*, “Enforcement and the Success of International Environmental Law”;
Sand, “International Cooperation: The Environmental Experience”;
Shenon, “U.S. Doubles Offshore Zone Under Its Law”

Assignment 1 Distributed

Assignment Due: June 14 by 10 AM – Post your work on AsULearn

Week 2: International Environmental Politics

6/13 Securing the Commons through Regimes

Readings: *Mitchell*, Chapters 2 and 3; *Dimitrov*, “Inside UN Climate Change Negotiations”

6/14 Evaluating the Effectiveness of International Environmental Regimes Regimes as Complex and Dynamic Systems

Readings: *Mitchell*, Chapter 5 and 6; *Young*, Chapter 1

6/16 Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict

Readings: *Mitchell*, Chapter 7; *Homer-Dixon*; *Percival and Homer-Dixon*;

Week 3: The Environment and Global Markets

6/20 Trade and Environmental Bads

Readings: *Clapp & Dauvergne* “Global Trade & the Environment”; *Baghati; Daly*; “Trade Fight Spills Over into Handbags, Coffee Markets”

6/21 Trade of Endangered Wildlife; Trade and Agriculture

Readings: *Mathur* “CITES and Livelihoods”; *Wolf; Adetunji; Weisman & Barrionuevo; Castle & Bradsher*.

Assignment 2 Distributed

Assignment Due: June 27 by 10 am

6/23 Green Indicators of Business Performance

Readings: *Clapp & Dauvergne* “Global Investment and the Environment”; *McDonough and Braungart*

Week 4: Sustainable Development and the Policy Sciences

6/27 Human Values and Sustainable Development; The Triple Appeal Principle

Readings: Policy Sciences Frameworks; *Lasswell; Nagpal*

6/28 Mass Poisoning in Bangladesh: Analysis Using Policy Sciences Frameworks

Readings: Policy Sciences Frameworks; “Decision Process and the Premises of Power”; *Bearak*.

6/30 Sustainable Development: The Curse of Natural Resources; Equatorial Guinea Case

Readings: *Sachs & Warner; Auer; UNDP*

Assignment 3 Distributed

Assignment Due: July 1, Friday by 6 pm

PS 5120 E-READING PACKET

* Indicates a reading introduced by students. All readings are available on AsULearn.

1. Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 1972.
2. Perrez, Franz Xaver, "The Relationship between 'Permanent Sovereignty' and the Obligation not to Cause Transboundary Environmental Damage," *Environmental Law*, Vol. 26: 1187-1204. 1996.
3. Handout: "Some International Legal Vocabulary"
4. *Soto, V., "General Principles of International Environmental Law", *ILSA Journal of International & Comparative Law*, Fall 1996.
5. *O'Connell, M. E., "Enforcement and the Success of International Environmental Law", *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, Fall 1995.
6. *Sand, P., "International Cooperation: the Environmental Experience", in Mathews, *Preserving the Global Environment: the Challenge of Shared Leadership*, 1991.
7. Shenon, P. "U.S. Doubles Offshore Zone under Its Law", *The New York Times*, Sept.3, 1999.
8. *Mitchell, R. "International Politics and the Environment", Chapter 2, Sage, 2009. pp: 20-47.
9. *Mitchell, R. "International Politics and the Environment", Chapter 3, Sage, 2009. pp: 48-79.
10. *Dimitrov, R. "Copenhagen Conference", 2011
11. *Mitchell, R. "International Politics and the Environment", Chapter 5, Sage, 2009. pp: 112-145.
12. *Mitchell, R. "International Politics and the Environment", Chapter 6, Sage, 2009. pp: 146-180.
13. *Young, O. "Institutional Change", Chapter 1.
14. *Mitchell, R. "International Politics and the Environment", Chapter 7, Sage, 2009. pp: 181-206.
15. *Homer-Dixon, T., "Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases", *International Security*, Vol 19, No.1 (1994): 5-40.
16. UNEP Information Note 99-16, June 1999 (excerpt), pages 3.
17. *Percival, V., and T. Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Scarcity and Violent Conflict: The case of Rwanda", *Journal of Environment and Development*, Vol.5, No.3, Sept. 1996:270-291.
18. Wolf, M. "The Price of Elephants" *The Financial Times*, June 24, 1997.
19. Adetunji, J. "China given green light to buy African ivory stockpile", *The Guardian*, July 15, 2008.
20. *Bhagwati, J., *The Case for Free Trade*. Scientific American, Nov. 1993:42-49.
21. *Daly, H., *The Perils of Free Trade*. Scientific American, Nov. 1993:50-57.
22. "Trade Fight Spills over into Handbags, Coffee Makers", *CNN Interactive*, March 3, 1999.
23. *Weismann, S. and A. Barrionuevo, "Failure of Global Trade Talks is Traced to the Power of Farmers", *The New York Times*, July 27, 2006: C1.
24. *Castle, S. and K. Bradsher. "China's Shift on Food Was Key to Trade Impasse", *The New York Times*, July 31, 2008
25. McDonough, W. and M. Braungart, "The Next Industrial Revolution", *Atlantic Monthly*, Oct. 1998: 82-86; 88-90; 92.
26. "Policy Sciences Frameworks"
27. *Lasswell, H.D. "The Triple Appeal Principle", from Duane Marvick, ed., *Harold Lasswell on Political Sociology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977).
28. Buckley, C. "Why Our Hero Leapt onto the Tracks and We Might Not", *The New York Times*, 1/17/2007:A3.
29. "Decision Process and the Premises of Power"
30. Bearak B. "Bangladeshis Sipping Arsenic as Plan for Safe Water Stalls", *The New York Times*, July 14, 2002:A1.
31. *Sachs, J and A.M. Warner. "The Curse of Natural Resources", *European Economic Review*, Vol. 45 (2001): 827-838.
32. *Auer, M. "More Aid, Better Institutions, or Both?" *Sustainability Sciences*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (2007): 179-187.