

PS 5530 Comparative Environmental Politics

Dr. Tatyana Ruseva - Fall 2012

Class time: Tuesday 3:25-5:55 pm
Classroom: Belk Hall 1125
Instructor: Tatyana B. Ruseva
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Class Number: 15523
Office: Belk Hall 1132
Office hours: Tues. 2-3 pm
Office: Ann Belk Hall 2051

Prospectus

This seminar explores questions at the intersection of two fields: Comparative Politics and Environmental Politics. As an emerging subfield, Comparative Environmental Politics seeks to offer theoretically-grounded empirical research on environmental problems spanning different political and institutional contexts. For instance: Why are some social movements more successful in some countries than in others? Why do some countries have massive deforestation while others are reforesting? Which type of policies or programs produce better social and environmental outcomes? We survey these and other questions in Comparative Environmental Politics. Our inquiry of different geographic and topical interests is organized in three, interrelated units: 1) Analytical Approaches in Comparative Environmental Politics (CEP); 2) Actors and Institutions in CEP; and 3) Issues and Problems in CEP. By the end of the course students should be competent to discuss, analyze, and offer explanations on a range of issues pertaining to comparative politics and the environment.

Class Format

Comparative Environmental Politics is a seminar, albeit a fairly large one! There are simply too many unsolved riddles and enduring problems in environmental affairs and in politics 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. Your participation is essential.

Required Texts and Readings

Steinberg, P.F. and VanDeveer, S. 2012. Comparative Environmental Politics: Theory, Practice, and Prospects. The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

Lim, T. 2010. Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues, 2nd ed. Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, CO.

All other reading materials will be posted on AsULearn. *I reserve the right to assign additional readings throughout this course.* Naturally, completing the readings is integral to your success in this course.

Course Requirements

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| • First Exam (Covers Part I) | 20% of grade |
| • Second Exam (Covers Parts II and III) | 25% of grade |
| • Third Exam (Covers Parts I, II and III) | 25% of grade |
| • Reflection Papers | 20% of grade |
| • Attendance and participation | 10% of grade |

Exams/Assignments

The first assignment includes (i) a 4-5 page paper applying concepts from readings to cases presented in the literature on comparative environmental affairs (20% of course grade). The second and third exams (each 25%) will include 3 essay questions. These are written, take-home assignments that will draw heavily on readings and class discussions. Application of core concepts from the readings will be tested. 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).

Reflection Papers

Students will be responsible for writing 7 reflection papers during the semester. Occasionally, I will ask that you share ideas from your reflection papers with the rest of the class. Reflection papers ask that you to think critically about the author's main point(s): what is s/he trying to convey; what is the impetus for their work; and, how do the theory and methods presented fit within the subfield of comparative environmental politics. Reflection papers are not summaries of the readings. As the name suggests, they ask that you apply a critical eye to the texts and extract the most valuable ideas/contributions. Papers are due at the beginning of class, i.e. before our class session. You have the freedom to select the seven topics you will be writing on.

Class Participation

Active participation in class discussions is integral to course quality, and comprises 10 percent of your grade. This is a seminar course. There are simply too many unsolved riddles and enduring problems in 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.

Policy on Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

If you have any questions about whether a particular practice constitutes academic dishonesty, please ask me 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.

Here is the menu for the course:

Course Content

| Week | Topic | Readings & Assignments |
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| Week 1 Aug 21 | Introduction to the course What is CEP? | <i>Syllabus</i> Steinberg & VanDeveer (SV): Chapter 1 Lichbach & Zuckerman (excerpt) |
| <i>Part I: Analytical Approaches in Comparative Environmental Politics (CEP)</i> | | |
| Week 2 Aug 28 | Connecting Comparative Politics & Environmental Politics | SV: Chapter 2 Lim: Chapter 1 Lundqvist, L.J. (1978) |
| Week 3 Sept 4 | A Primer on Comparative Methods | Lim: Chapter 2 KKV "The <i>Science</i> in Social Science" Kamieniecki and Sanasarian (1990) |
| Week 4 Sept 11 | Theory in Comparative Politics | Lim: Chapter 3 SV: Chapter 10 Niles and Lubell (2012) |
| Week 5 Sept 18 | Environmental Concern across Countries | SV: Chapter 4 Lim: Chapter 4 Inglehart (1995) Pierce (1987) |
| Week 6 Sept 25 | NO CLASS | <i>Exam 1 due</i> |
| <i>Part II: Actors and Institutions in CEP</i> | | |
| Week 7 Oct. 2 | The Evolving Role of The State in Environmental Politics | SV: Chapters 3 and 6 Weber "Politics as a Vocation" Krasner "Sovereignty" |
| Week 8 Oct. 9 | Environmental Movements and Groups | SV: Chapter 5 Lim: Chapter 8 Dalton, Reccia, and Rohrschneider (2003) Bodin et. al (2011) |
| Week 9 Oct. 16 | Democracy and the Environment | SV: Chapters 8 and 9 Lim: Chapter 6 Li and Reuveny (2006) Lim and Tang (2002) Dulal, Foa, and Knowles (2011) |
| Week 10 Oct. 23 | Institutions, Property Rights, and Collective Action | SV: Chapter 9 North "Institutions" Poteete (2010); Ostrom (1990) Ernstson (2011) Coleman (2011) |

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| Week 11 Oct. 30 | Comparative & Multilevel Governance | SV: Chpater 11; Lim Chapter 9 Ostrom (2009) Hicks "Going beyond the state" |
| <hr/> <i>Part III: Issues and Problems in CEP</i> <hr/> | | |
| Week 12 Nov. 6 | The Governance of Forest Commons | <i>Exam 2 due</i> SV: Chapter 12 Rudel et al. (2005) Farinaci et al. (2012) Van Laerhoven (2010) |
| Week 13 Nov. 13 | Voluntary Environmental Programs: A Comparative Perspective | Prakash and Potoski (2012) Darnall & Kim (2012) |
| Week 14 | THANKSGIVING BREAK | |
| Week 15 Nov. 28 | The Comparative Politics of Climate Change | SV Chapter 13 Harrison & Sundstrom 2010 - Chapter 1 Global Environmental Change (2011)- Special issue on the Politics and Policy of Carbon Capture (Vol. 21(2)) |
| Week 16 Dec. 3 | Conservation & Sustainable Resource Management | SV: Chapter 14 Basurto et al. (2012) Cinner et al. (2012) |
| Week 17 Dec. 10 | Assignment 3 due by 8:30 pm | <i>Exam 3 due</i> |