

MONDAY SIS 660 Environment and Politics, Fall 2015

(Mondays 8:55-11:25 / Tuesdays 2:35-4:45)

Prof. Judith Shapiro; 308 SIS Building

Office hours: Mondays after class, Tuesdays before class, other times by appointment 202 885-1629 (office) or 202 232-8577 (home, not after 8 PM!). Shapiro@american.edu

This course is the gateway course for the MA in Global Environmental Politics and the dual degree in Natural Resources/Sustainable Development and is open to students from other programs who have a shared interest in finding effective responses to the world's acute environmental challenges. The course introduces you to the sociopolitical dynamics of global environmental affairs. We pay particular attention to the role power plays in both the emergence of environmental problems and in their potential solutions. The course draws on a range of scholarly disciplines, including global environmental politics, international political economy, environmental economics, conservation biology, political ecology, environmental history, and environmental justice. Examination of the very different assumptions, methods, and questions central to such disciplines will allow you more precisely to situate your own interests, values, and professional goals.

It is assumed that upon entering your Masters program you already had a basic grasp of the causes and consequences of such environmental problems as climate change, ozone depletion, biodiversity loss, invasive species, air and water pollution, hazardous waste, deforestation, desertification and so on. We will, however, highlight a few major challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource extraction. This class aims to provide you with familiarity with theories in the field and help you develop skills in research, writing, and public presentation that you will be able to draw upon throughout your Masters career and into the future. By completing this course you should be able to:

- **appreciate the promises and limitations of the architecture of global governance;**
- **analyze the roles of the state system, global political economy, and civil society in exacerbating and/or mitigating environmental problems;**
- **articulate the difference in perspectives of developed and less developed countries and understand tensions between conservation and development;**
- **understand the various interpretations of the causes of environmental degradation and take your own position on these;**
- **locate the information you need, formulate and structure a research project, and present your arguments in a persuasive and supported manner.**

REQUIREMENTS:

In-class participation: Consistent attendance and timely arrival, with useful participation that demonstrates that you have read, digested, and considered the readings of the week. Each week one or two students will make a short presentation (ungraded but must be done) summarizing some of the key points of the week's readings. Class participation: 30% of grade.

Weekly writing assignments (ungraded but must be done): Each week, NO LATER than 24 hours before class (and ideally several days before class), you should post reactions to the week's readings on Blackboard. These can be informal – they are a way of giving you a chance to digest the materials and record your intellectual trajectory. They will also provide us with a basis for the week's discussions. Your post should restate some of the main arguments of the week's readings and present your reactions. YOU ARE ALLOWED TO MISS TWO POSTINGS WITHOUT PENALTY. Comments should be

grammatically correct and without spelling mistakes, so you may want to compose in WORD and then cut and paste it into BB. (Paste rather than attach, as attachments can be slow to open on BB.)

You are also required to send a “Letter to the Editor” to one of the major newspapers. There will be a place for you to post this on BB. **THIS IS DUE BEFORE HALLOWE’EN.** It can be very short, the purpose is to encourage you to monitor the media and participate in public discussion. Please email me your letter before you submit it so I can make suggestions and improve your chances of being published. Prior successes are on CONTENT. Blackboard plus the letter: 30% of grade.

Two formal papers: The first is a proposal for project funding, as for a Boren or Fulbright (prior successes are on CONTENT). The second is a research paper. The second paper will examine key attempts to prevent and/or mitigate an environmental problem, your analysis of the effectiveness of these strategies, and your own recommendations, as well as an assessment of which scholarly disciplines are most useful for understanding the causes and solutions. Topics for both papers will be determined in consultation with the instructor, with several drafts required. The first paper is to be 5-7 pages, the second 10-15 pages. Spacing should be 1.5 and printing double sided if possible. Citations for the research paper can be any style but must be internally consistent. Find an interesting title and use page numbers (paginate). Hard copies of final drafts are required. 15% and 25% , or 40% of grade.

We will read several books, which you should purchase immediately so as to have them available: *Hungry Tide*, *Sand County Almanac*, *China’s Environmental Challenges*, and *the Sixth Extinction*. All other readings are accessible by web link or on BB under the RESERVES tab or in the CONTENT folder.

If you are unable to make a class, it may be possible simply to attend the other section’s session, but please check ahead of time to make sure it’s the same content.

All students are expected to abide by the academic integrity code available on line at <http://www.american.edu/academics/integrity/code.cfm>. Don’t even THINK about plagiarizing, inappropriate collaboration, or other violations of the code. If you have difficulty meeting a deadline or feel under undue pressure or are not sure how to cite, please consult me. If you know you have difficulty with writing, please use the counselors at the Writing Center.

Emergency Preparedness. In the event of a declared emergency, American University will implement a plan for meeting the needs of all members of the university community. Should the university be required to close for a period of time, we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of our educational programs will be delivered to our students. These may include altering and extending the duration of the traditional term schedule to complete essential instruction. Specific strategies will vary from class to class, depending on the format of the course and the timing of the emergency. Faculty will communicate class-specific information to students, while students must inform their faculty immediately of any absence. Students are responsible for checking regularly and keeping themselves informed of emergencies.

8/31 Introduction -- Course Overview

8/7 NO CLASS—LABOR DAY

9/14 Introduction to Global Environmental Politics

***NOTE: Ken Conca’s book launch Tuesday afternoon in Founders’ Room**

Peter Dauvergne, *Handbook of Global Environmental Politics*, 2nd Ed., Edward Elgar, 2014. Introduction, pp. 3-25. E-reserves.

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Matthew Paterson, *Understanding Global Environmental Politics: Domination, Accumulation, Resistance*. New York: Palgrave, Macmillan, 2001. Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 7. E-reserves. STUDY THE CHART CLOSELY

1968 classic: Garrett Hardin, “Tragedy of the Commons”
<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/162/3859/1243.full>

Xavier Basurto and Elinor Ostrom, “Beyond the Tragedy of the Commons” (2008)
http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/bitstream/handle/10535/4506/W08-25_Basurto_Ostrom_Beyond_the_Tragedy.pdf?sequence=1

www.iisd.org (everyone please subscribe to the Earth Negotiation Bulletin). Also Explore the International Environmental Agreements Database Project and Wikipedia’s list of International Environmental Agreements.

RECOMMENDED: Mathew Paterson, “Theoretical Perspectives on International Environmental Politics” in Betsill, Hochstetler, and Stevis, *Palgrave Advances in International Environmental Politics*, Palgrave 2006, pp. 69-96. IN CONTENT.

9/21 “Introduction to International Environmental Law,” Monday September 21, Founders’ Room. Guest speaker: David Hunter, Washington College of Law

AND:

9/22 IEL review, plus “Project Proposal Workshop,” Tuesday September 16, regular classroom. Guests: Office of Merit Awards

Both classes are required to attend both days unless you have a work/class conflict.

David Hunter, Jim Salzman, and Durwood Zaelke. *International Environmental Law and Policy*, Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7. In CONTENT.

Visit the Washington College of Law’s database on International Environmental law
www.wcl.american.edu/environment/iel/

Also, check out Oregon’s International Environmental Agreements Database.

<http://iea.uoregon.edu/page.php?file=home.htm&query=static>

Please be sure to read some of the major treaties including the Rio Declaration, also available here:
<http://www.unep.org/documents.multilingual/default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FIRST PAPER AVAILABLE ON BB

9/28 Global Political Economy: Globalization, Trade, and Consumption

Peter Dauvergne and Jennifer Clapp, *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment*. Cambridge, MIT Press, 2004, pp. 1-44. E-reserves.

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David Morris, "Free Trade: The Great Destroyer," in Jerry Mander and Edward Goldsmith, eds, *The Case Against the Global Economy and for a Turn to the Local*. San Francisco, Sierra Club Books: 1996, pp. 218-228. E-reserves.

Herman Daly, "Sustainable Growth: An Impossibility Theorem," in Dryzek and Schlosberg, eds, *Debating the Earth*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 285-289. E-reserves.

Thomas Princen, Michael Maniates, and Ken Conca, "Confronting Consumption," in *Confronting Consumption*. Cambridge, MIT Press, 2002, pp. 1-20. E-reserves.

Recommended: Peter Dauvergne, "The Problem of Consumption," *Global Environmental Politics*, May 2010, Vol. 10, No. 2, pp. 1-10. E-reserves.

Recommended: 1966 classic: E.F. Schumacher, "Buddhist Economics" in Herman Daly and Kenneth N. Townsend, eds. *Valuing the Earth: Economics, Ecology, Ethics*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1993, pp. 173-181. E-reserves.

Recommended for NRSD: Richard Tucker, "Environmentally Damaging Consumption: The Impact of American Markets on Tropical Ecosystems in the Twentieth Century," in Princen et al., *Confronting Consumption*, pp. 177-195. E-reserves.

10/5 Focal Issues: Biodiversity and Climate Change

*NOTE: Please go to the Monday PM Climate Change Conference and to the Tuesday PM Al-Moumin lecture, both in the Founders' Room at around 3 PM. More info to come on both events.

Elizabeth Kolbert, *Sixth Extinction*. All.

Bill McKibben, "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math," [July 19, 2012] *Rolling Stone* available at www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719

Recommended technical document on Climate Change: IPCC Working Group I, "Summary for Policymakers," (2013) available at <http://www.climatechange2013.org/spm>

The Tuesday 2:30 Al-Moumin award features Liz Alden Wily from the University of Leiden's Van Vollenhoven Institute. She will speak on her work on land tenure and land grabs. Browse this website in preparation, and skim some of her essays:

<http://www.law.leiden.edu/organisation/metajuridica/vvi/staff/liz-al-den-wily.html>

10/12 and 10/13 Global Civil Society FIELD TRIPS! Note times, which allow travel from/to other classes.

We will meet off campus at Greenpeace MONDAY SEPT 29, 702 H St. (Gallery Place Metro, Chinatown Exit) from 9-11 and NRDC on TUESDAY Oct 13 from 3-5, 1152 15th St. (Farragut North Metro). You can go both days, which would be best as they are very different organizations, but you must go to at least one. We will meet at the organizations, both of which are on the Red Line.

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For NRDC, please google and read July 6, 2014 article by Coral Davenport: "Taking Oil Industry Cue, Environmentalists Drew Emissions Blueprint." Also study the NRDC.org website.

For Greenpeace, please follow links for the 2012 campaign against KFC parent company Yum! Brands. In CONTENT.

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists beyond Borders*, "Introduction," pp. 1-38. E-reserves.

Paul Wapner, "Politics beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics," *World Politics* 47(3) April 1995, pp. 311-340. E-reserves.

Judith Shapiro, "Evolving Tactics of China's Green Movement," *Current History*, September 2013. In CONTENT.

Recommended: Global Civil Society Yearbook 2012, in CONTENT.

10/19 Comparative Environmental Politics: CHINA

Judith Shapiro, *China's Environmental Challenges* (Polity, 2016).

Recommended: Judith Shapiro, *Mao's War against Nature*, "Introduction" (Cambridge, 2001). E-reserves.

David Smith, "Chinese appetite for shark fin soup devastating Mozambique coastline," *The Guardian* February 14, 2013. CONTENT.

Group presentations on an additional country

10/26 Conservation and Indigenous Rights/Social Justice

Amitav Ghosh, *Hungry Tide*. All.

Nancy Lee Peluso, "Coercing Conservation: The Politics of State Resource Control," *Global Environmental Change* June 1993, pp. 199-217. E-reserves.

Worldwatch Magazine Nov/Dec 2004 and Jan/Feb 2005, Mac Chapin's "Challenge to Conservationists" critique of the BINGOs: <http://www.worldwatch.org/system/files/EP176A.pdf>

AND responses:

<http://www.worldwatch.org/system/files/EP181C.pdf>

Washington Post critique of TNC:

Four-part series, PDFs posted in CONTENT.

Recommended for NRSD students: Cesar Cuello, Katrina Brandon, and Richard Margolis, "Costa Rica: Corcovado National Park" in Katrina Brandon, Kent H. Redford and Steven E. Sanderson, eds., *Parks in Peril*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1998, pp.143-192. E-reserves.

11/2 Political Ecology (FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE, HARD COPY REQUIRED. INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINAL PAPER POSTED)

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1987 Classic: Piers Blaikie and Harold Brookfield, *Land Degradation and Society*. Oxford: MacMillan, 1987, pp. 1-26 SKIM. E-reserves.

William H. Durham, "Political Ecology and Environmental Destruction in Latin America," in William H. Durham and Michael Painter, eds., *Social Causes of Environmental Destruction in Latin America*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1995, pp. 249-264. E-reserves.

James T. Scott, *Seeing like a State*. Introduction and Chapter on Authoritarian High Modernism. In CONTENT.

Darcy Victor Tetreault, "Mexico: The Political Ecology of Mining," in Henry Veltmeyer and James Petras, *New Extractivism*, London: Zed Books, 2014, pp. 172-191. CONTENT.

RECOMMENDED: Richard Peet and Michael Watts, eds., *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements* (2nd Ed.), Routledge, 2004, pp. 2-47. E-reserves. [Note: this is difficult reading and is a good example of a "literature review"]

11/9 Environmental Sociology/ Environmental Justice/ Climate Justice

REMINDER: LETTER TO EDITOR DUE BEFORE HALLOWE'EN

Guest lecturer: Simon Nicholson (Judy in Costa Rica)

Bunyan Bryant, "History and Issues of the Environmental Justice Movement," in Gerald R. Visgilio and Dianan M. Whitelaw, eds., *Our Backyard: A Quest for Environmental Justice*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003, pp. 3-24. E-reserves. (SKIM).

Dieter T. Hessel, "The Church's Eco-justice Journey" & "The Earth Charter," in William E. Gibson, ed., *Eco-Justice—The Unfinished Journey*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2004, pp.257-284. E-reserves.

Geoforum Editorial to a special issue. "Geographies of environmental justice." *Geoforum*, 2006: 655-659. CONTENT.

Enrique Cifuentes and Howard Frumkin, "Environmental injustice: case studies from the South," *Environmental Research Letters* Vol. 2 (2007): 1-9. CONTENT

Recommended: Environmental Justice at the US-EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/>

Recommended: Climate change and Human Rights: Report of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights (2008)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/Study.aspx>

11/16 Environmental Security/ War and the Environment/ Environmental Peacemaking

INITIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OUTLINE FOR FINAL PAPER DUE (electronically)

Jessica Tuchman Mathews, "Redefining Security," *Foreign Affairs*, Spring 1989, pp. 162-177 (e-reserves).

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Robert Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy" http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1994/02/the-coming-anarchy/304670/?single_page=true (1994). Also on e-reserves.

Marc Levy, "Is the Environment a National Security Issue?" *International Security*, Fall 1995 (e-reserves).

Daniel Deudney, "The Case against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security," *Millennium* 1990. CONTENT.

Adil Najam, "The Human Dimensions of Environmental Insecurity: Some Insights from South Asia" (ECSP 9, 2003). Available on line at: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/najam.pdf>

Joe Thwaites, "Environmental Security since 911." CONTENT.

Phillippe Lebillon, "The Political Ecology of War: Natural Resources and Armed Conflicts," *Political Geography* 20 (2001), pp. 561–584, <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~lebillon/documents/ecowar.pdf> STUDY THE CHART

Ken Conca, "The Case for Environmental Peacemaking" AND * Ken Conca and Geoffrey D. Dalbelko, "The Problems and Possibilities of Environmental Peacemaking." Both in Ken Conca and Geoffrey Dabelko, eds, *Environmental Peacemaking*, Washington, DC, Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2002, pp.1-22 and 220-232 (e-reserves)

DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE (electronically)

11/23 Environmental History

Sand County Almanac (any edition but not the coffee table book), plus:
Alfred Crosby, "The Past and Present of Environmental History." Available at:
http://geography.fullerton.edu/taylor/ENST595T/Crosby_AHR.pdf

11/30 Culture, Religion and Ecology & REPORTS PART ONE

Ole Bruun and Arne Kalland (eds), *Asian Perceptions of Nature: A Critical Approach*, Richmond, Surrey: Curzon, 1995, pp. 1-24. E-reserves.

1967 classic: Lynn White, Jr., "The Historic Roots of our Ecologic Crisis," (*Science*, Vol. 155, No. 3767, Mar 10, 1967, pp. 1203-1207). E-reserves.

Introduction to environmental ethics: www.cep.unt.edu/novice.html

Arne Naess: <http://www.nancho.net/advisors/anaes.html> Interview, and deep ecology platform.

SKIM: Pope Francis' climate change encyclical:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf

And commentary from Bill McKibben "The Pope and the Planet," *New York Review of Books* (in CONTENT)

Recommended: Yale project on religion and the environment
<http://fore.research.yale.edu/religion/>

Recommended: Eduardo Gudynas, "Buen Vivir: Today's Tomorrow," *Development* (2011) 54(4), 441–447. <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/journal/v54/n4/full/dev201186a.html>.

FINAL EXAM SLOT DEC 7: Reports, Part Two and Course Conclusion.

FINAL PAPER DUE Hard copy required

Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	August 31 Intro	September 1 Intro
	NO CLASS	September 8 EH
	September 14 GEP	September 15 GEP
	September 21 IEL	September 22 IEL
	September 28 GPE	September 29 GPE
	October 5 CC and Biodiversity	October 6 CC and Biodiversity
	October 12 Greenpeace	October 13 NRDC
	October 19 China	October 20 China
	October 26 HT	October 27 HT
	November 2 Political Ecology	November 3 Political Ecology
	November 9 EJ -- guest	November 10 EJ --guest
	November 16 ES	November 17 ES
	November 23 EH	NO CLASS
	November 30 Culture and Reports	December 1 Culture & Reports
Exams	December 7 Reports	December 8 Reports