**TUESDAY SIS 660 Environment and Politics, Fall 2016 in SIS 113**

**Prof. Judith Shapiro. Office 308 SIS. Office hours: Mondays midday, Tuesdays before class, other times by appointment 202 885-1629 (office)** [**Shapiro@american.edu**](mailto:Shapiro@american.edu)**. Email and phone encouraged!**

**This course is the gateway course for the MA in Global Environmental Politics and the dual degree in Natural Resources/Sustainable Development. It is open to other students 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 that 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, anthropology, 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 you already have 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 major challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation stemming from 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 summarizing some of the key points of the week’s readings or leading a short in-class activity that highlights the themes. Class participation: 30% of grade.**

**Weekly writing assignments: 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, like a journal in the cloud. 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. Some 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 (some prior successes are on CONTENT). The second is a literature review for a research paper. The second paper will present scholarly material from at least three disciplines and 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% 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 (SECOND EDITION!), and the Sixth Extinction*.  All other readings are accessible by web link or on BB under the RESERVES tab or in the CONTENT folder.**

**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.**

**WEEK ONE August 30: Introduction -- Course Overview**

**WEEK TWO September 6: “Introduction to International Environmental Law,”  PLEASE NOTE WE MEET IN THE BUTLER CONFERENCE ROOM! Guest speaker: David Hunter, Washington College of Law**

**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/**](http://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**

**WEEK THREE September 13: Introduction to Global Environmental Politics**

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

**Matthew Paterson, *Understanding Global Environmental Politics: Domination, Accumulation, Resistance*. New York: Palgrave, Macmillan, 200l.  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**](http://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.**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FIRST PAPER AVAILABLE ON BB**

**WEEK FOUR September 20: Global Political Economy: Globalization, Trade, and Consumption**

**PLUS Proposal Writing Bootcamp with Chris Swanson, Office of Merit Awards (4-5 PM)**

**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.**

**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.**

**WEEK FIVE September 27: Focal Issues: Biodiversity and Climate Change**

**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**](http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719)

**WEEK SIX October 4: Book talks by Simon Nicholson and Paul Wapner, Founders’ Room.**

**Four E-READINGS in CONTENT**

**FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE, HARD COPY REQUIRED**

**WEEK SEVEN October 11: Global Civil Society GREENPEACE FIELD TRIP !!! 3-5**

**Gallery Place Metro (Chinatown Exit). Contact: Bill Richardson 702 H Street NW Third Floor**

**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.**

**WEEK EIGHT October 18: Comparative Environmental Politics: CHINA**

**Judith Shapiro, *China’s Environmental Challenge, SECOND EDITION*  (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**

**WEEK NINE October 25: Conservation and Indigenous Rights/Social Justice (INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINAL PAPER POSTED)**

**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**](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.**

**REMINDER: LETTER TO EDITOR DUE BEFORE HALLOWE’EN**

**WEEK TEN November 1: Political Ecology**

**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.**

**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”]**

**WEEK ELEVEN: November 8: Environmental Sociology/ Environmental Justice/ Climate Justice**

**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: 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**](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/Study.aspx)

**INITIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OUTLINE FOR FINAL PAPER DUE (electronically)**

**WEEK TWELVE November 15: Environmental Security/ War and the Environment/ Environmental Peacemaking**

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

**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)**

**NO CLASS NOVEMBER 22 (Thanksgiving week; Friday classes meet Tuesday)**

**WEEK THIRTEEN 29: 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**](http://www.cep.unt.edu/novice.html)

**Arne Naess:**[**http://www.nancho.net/advisors/anaes.html**](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**](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**](http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/journal/v54/n4/full/dev201186a.html)**.**

**WEEK FOURTEEN December 6: 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**](http://geography.fullerton.edu/taylor/ENST595T/Crosby_AHR.pdf)

**Reports Part II and Course Conclusion.**

**FINAL PAPER DUE Hard copy required**