

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

INTA4040 /INTA8803BL2

Fall 2011

Instructor: Barbara Lynch

T,Th. 12:05-1:25 pm

OVERVIEW

International environmental policymaking is hard. It requires complex, trans-scalar interactions among different institutional actors: state and non-state, formal or informal, international and local. These actors bring to debates widely divergent values and perspectives. Environmental activists and policy makers in the north may emphasize climate change; activists in the global south care about access to water, natural disasters and exposure to risks associated with mining, industrial and real estate development, air pollution, and the environmental impacts of war. As they haggle in international arenas, activists, scientists, government officials and diplomats define problems, decide what constitutes risk, assign blame, and negotiate remediation strategies. In the process, landscapes are transformed—not always in foreseeable ways. In this seminar course, we read and critique literature from the fields of geography, anthropology, political science, development sociology, and planning to learn

- ☞ How environmental issues are perceived, framed, contested and/or reshaped in international arenas;
- ☞ How international and national agencies, scientific communities, NGOs, and social movement organizations use alternative frames to construct agendas for environmental action;
- ☞ How institutional agendas are translated into environmental programs and policies in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Asia.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course, for undergraduates and graduate students in policy related fields, seeks to acquaint students with key international environmental policy debates, to develop their capacity to analyze social settings, and to write cogently, succinctly, and convincingly about complex issues. The reading load is substantial, and some knowledge of current environmental debates is assumed. Class meetings will be largely devoted to open discussion of the topics listed in the syllabus. Students are expected to show evidence of thoughtful and critical reading of assigned texts; they are also encouraged to bring their own experiences, their knowledge of current events, and relevant information from other course work to bear on our discussions. Grades will be based (1) attendance and the quality participation in class discussions, (2) performance on quizzes and midterm exam, (2) written assignments, and (4) oral presentations. Full conformity with academic integrity standards is expected. Plagiarism in any form will result in a failing grade in the course.

Assigned Readings

The texts listed below are required and should be purchased.

Richard Peet et al., *Global Political Ecology*

Mark Dowie. *Conservation Refugees: The Hundred-Year Conflict between Global Conservation and Native Peoples*

Giddens, Anthony. *The Politics of Climate Change*

McCully, Patrick. *Silenced Rivers*

Other required readings can be downloaded from the T-Square website for this course or accessed directly from the web or the library catalog.

Class participation (40 percent of grade)

Regular attendance is required, as is informed discussion of the issues raised in readings. You are also expected to track and discuss current environmental debates and problems. From time to time, class may begin with a quiz or written assignment. The purpose of these short in-class exercises is twofold: to learn how well you have grasped the main points of assigned reading and to facilitate class discussion. Responses will be included in your discussion grade. Laptops and cell phones may not be used in class.

Graduate students taking the course for a letter grade will be required to prepare one lecture during the course of the semester on one of the assigned topics.

Mid-term exams (30 percent of grade)

The first mid-term exam will contain both essay and short answer questions on material covered in the assigned readings and in lectures. One question may take the form of open book assignment to be completed in advance of the exam. The second exam will consist of answers to a set of questions on risk and nuclear energy. Responses will be presented at a roundtable discussion in class. All students taking the course must take the two mid-term exams.

Midterm 1: In class exam

Midterm 2: Take home assignment on the Risk and nuclear energy after Fukushima

Final assignment—The Future of Water Governance (30 percent of grade).

This assignment will consist of an oral presentation and a 10-page paper on the way in which international institutions, singly or in groups, have responded to a perceived water crisis. Presentations and papers should focus on a single question related to water governance (e.g., transboundary conflict, water governance and terrestrial biodiversity, management of marine ecosystems, irrigation, water pricing), and it should answer ALL of the following questions:

1. Which international institutions and national government agencies have been involved in addressing this problem?
2. How does each of the agencies noted above define the problem?
3. Have these official definitions been contested? If so, by whom? What is the nature of the critique?
4. Overall, would you say that international institutions have helped manage the problem in a way that improves the environment? Government agencies?
5. Overall, would you say that proposed policies have reduced or contributed to social stability?
5. What do you see as the major obstacles to arriving at a clear and cohesive strategy for addressing the problem at hand?
6. Which countries, regions, economic sectors, and social groups (ethnic, class, gender) would be favored by the policies and actions of the institutions that you have studied? Which would be disadvantaged as a result of these policies and actions?

All students are required to participate actively in the symposium, either as panelists or discussants. Students taking the course for a letter grade are expected to prepare an oral panel presentation, an annotated bibliography, and a written paper (10 double-spaced pages, 1-inch margins, with reference list and citations in text) for this assignment. Others will participate as discussants. All students are expected to abide by Georgia Tech standards of academic integrity. All work submitted in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Assignments that do not comply with these standards will receive a failing grade.

COURSE CALENDAR AND READINGS

August 23	Introduction
PARADIGMS FOR POLICY	
Aug 25, 30 Limits to Growth	Hardin, Garrett. Tragedy of the Commons Ostrom, Elinor. Governing the Commons. Chapter 1 ----- Daly, Herman. <i>Beyond Growth</i> . Ch. 1.
Sept 1, 6 Sustainability, Ecol. Moderniz	Sonnenfeld, D. A. and A. P.J. Mol. Globalization and the transformation of environmental governance. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> 45 (9): 1318-1339 Eden, Politics of certification. In <i>Global Political Ecology</i> ----- WCED. <i>Our Common Future</i> . Overview, pp. 1-23
SEPT 8, 13 Political Ecology, Environ-	Peet et al. Global nature. In <i>Global Political Ecology</i> Ghertner, Green evictions. In <i>Global Political Ecology</i> ----- Bumpus and Liverman, Carbon colonialism? In <i>Global Political Ecology</i>

mental Justice	Braun, Bruce. Governing Disorder. In <i>Global Political Ecology</i>
LIFE ON EARTH	
SEPT 15, 20 Preservation and Displacement	Dowie: Conservation Refugees, ch. 1-8 ----- Conservation Refugees, ch 9-18
Sept 20,22 Naming and Saving Forests	Peluso and Vandergeest in <i>Global Political Ecology</i> Leach, M. and Fairhead, J. (2000) Challenging neo-malthusian deforestation analyses in West Africa's dynamic forest landscapes. <i>Population and Development Review</i> 26 (1):17-43 ----- Keck, Margaret. Social Equity and Environmental Politics in Brazil Lessons from the Rubber Tappers of Acre. <i>Comparative Politics</i> 27 (4): 409-424.
Sept 29, Oct 4 Agroeco-Systems	Blaikie and Brookfield, Ch 1 ----- Emel and Neo in <i>Global Political Ecology</i> Wainwright and Mercer in <i>Global Political Ecology</i>
Oct 6	Midterm I
RISK SOCIETIES	
Oct11,13 The politics of environmental risk	Beck, Ulrich. Risk Society. Ch. 1. On the logic of wealth distribution and risk distribution. ----- Rajan, Ravi. 2001. Toward a metaphysics of environmental violence: the case of the Bhopal diaster. In N. Peluso and M Watts, eds., <i>Violent Environments</i> . Ch. 16 Perrow, Charles. <i>Normal Accidents</i> . Chapter 1
Oct 20,25 Global garbage	Chiu, Hua-Mei. The dark side of silicon island: high-tech pollution and the environmental movement in Taiwan. In ----- Clapp, Jennifer. 2002. Seeping through regulatory cracks. TIPEC Working paper Moore, Sarah. Global garbage. In <i>Global Political Ecology</i>
Oct 27	Midterm II Roundtable: Nuclear Energy and Risk Politics after Fukushima
Nov 1, 3 Climate change	Giddens. Politics of Climate Change. Ch. 1-4 ----- Giddens, Ch. 5-9

Nov 8,10 Energy and “environ- mental security”	<p>Bridge, Past peak oil. In <i>Global Political Ecology</i></p> <p>Labban, Geopolitics of energy scarcity, in <i>Global Political Ecology</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>Shale-gas extraction faces growing public and regulatory challenges. 2011. <i>Physics Today</i> (July): 23-24</p> <p>UNEP. 2011. Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland. Exec Sum, Ch 1,2 http://www.unep.org/dnc/CountryOperations/Nigeria/EnvironmentalAssessmentofOgonilandreport/tabid/54419/Default.aspx</p>
WATER	
Nov15, 17 Dams	<p>McCully, Patrick. <i>Silenced Rivers</i>. Chapters 2, 3, 4</p> <p>-----</p> <p>McCully. Chapters 5, 7, 9</p>
Nov 22 Water govern- ance	<p>Bakker, Commons v. commodities. In <i>Global Political Ecology</i></p> <p>McCully, Chapters 8, 10, Afterward</p>
Nov 29, Dec 1 Scarcity, Conflict	<p>Mehta, Lyla. The social construction of scarcity. In <i>Global Political Ecology</i></p> <p>UNDP. Human Development Report 2006. Chap. 4</p> <p>Shultz, Jim. 2008. The Cochabamba water revolt and its aftermath. In J. Shultz and M.C. Draper, eds., <i>Dignity and Defiance</i></p>
Dec 6,8	Final Workshop: Nor Any Drop to Drink?