

SEP 710

International Governance and Sustainability

Winter Term 2024

Class will be held **every Thursday** from **5:30 A.M. to 8:30 P.M.**

Location of the class: ETB 535

Instructor: **Velma I Grover**
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Description: In a world undergoing rapid environmental changes due to global warming, achieving sustainability is ever more difficult. International governance mechanisms, including the United Nations, NGOs and international treaties, play an increasingly important role.

Objectives: This course examines how policymaking at the international level relates to achieving sustainability , including affordable and sustainable technology and science based solutions. It will introduce the students to the current debates in the international environmental governance realm, as well as the methods and structures that guide policy formulation. This course will expand the mandate to include the understanding of international organizations in shaping global policies with the inclusion of soft and hard technologies for developing nations.

COURSE OUTLINE

Readings, when available, will be provided on avenue. Role play material will be distributed in the class and first half hour of the class will be given to read that material.

INTRODUCTION

- Jan 11 2024** **Lecture on**, “Introduction to international governance – role of the UN”
- Jan 18 2024** Introduction to the course, **Video, demonstration and explanation of Role Play**
- Jan 25 2024** **Simulation Role Play**

WATER

- Feb 1 2024** **Lecture:** Transboundary water governance issues in general **AND Game** to plan global water policy
- Feb 8 2024** **Lecture:** Transboundary Ground water (**lecture AND role play**)
- Feb 15 2024** Transboundary lake governance issues **AND Role play** for transboundary water issues
- Feb 22 2024** **READING WEEK**

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Feb 29 2024** **Lecture:** International Governance and Politics of Climate Change, Role of the UN in negotiations
- Mar 7 2024** **Lecture:** Technology transfer and finance, Role of the World Bank
- Mar 14 2024** **Lecture:** A legal Approach on Climate Matters: delivering UNFCCC goal
- Mar 21 2024** **Lecture:** Role of NGOs in climate negotiations AND roles and responsibilities of federal/provincial/municipal governments in climate change mitigation/adaptation

CHEMICALS

- Mar 28 2024** Mercury **Role Play** (UN setting)
- Apr 4 2024** Chemicals/Plastics **Role Play**
- Apr 11 2024** Student Presentations

ASSESSMENT

1. **Journal:** reflections on the class lecture: **40%** (this should include main lessons learnt from each class or role play and how it connects with lectures? Maximum one page for each lecture). Submit the journal after each section i.e. Introduction, Climate Change, Water and Chemicals section. (Reflection journal helps you to understand the topic better by connecting learnings from different lectures on the same topic). Name the file as “lastnamesectionname.doc” **for example GroverWater.doc Submission dates:**
Introduction Section **Feb 2nd 2024**
Water Section **Feb 22nd 2024**
Climate Change Section **Mar 28th 2024**
Chemicals Section **Apr 11th 2024**

2. **Role Play participation: 30%** (marks will be based on your contribution to the discussion and interaction with the group. Dominating the group or rambling will not get extra marks. Grades are based on your progress through various role plays.)
3. **Research project and Class presentation: 20%** (Power point presentation with speaking notes to be uploaded on A2L **on Apr 6th 2024**). As a group (or as an individual) pick a topic related to transboundary environmental issue (it can be between two cities, two states/provinces, two or more countries or a global issue). The assignment involves analysis of the problem and recommended solution for this problem OR if there is a current solution/treaty for this transboundary issue, you can analyze the current treaty i.e. how the treaty is working towards solving the current problem and what are the things that can be improved. For example, if your case study is Indus River – the first step will be describing the current situation and conflict. Second step will be to look at the Indus water treaty and analyze what is working or not working and how the treaty can be improved to fit the current situation. The assignment does not require you to submit a written paper. You can make a power point and type major points in the notes section. See the rubrics on avenue to learn, for marking scheme. Please, send me the list of your group members and your topic by **Feb 15th 2024**.
4. **Class participation: 10%.** Marks will be allocated to your meaningful contribution in the class discussions/questions asked.

Policy Reminders:

Please read the following carefully:

Academic Dishonesty

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that result or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Inclusivity

The Booth School of Engineering Practise is committed to creating an equitable environment and encourage openness to multiple perspectives and points of view. Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach one of the instructors and/or Student Accessibility Services (<http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>) as soon as possible.

A Note About The Use Of Avenue To Learn

This course uses Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or

concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with a course instructor.

Course Modifications

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster graduate student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.