

ERS 404/PSCI 432: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Winter 2019

DRAFT – DATES, ASSIGNMENTS AND MATERIAL SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Office Location: EV2 2007

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Contact Policy: Given various responsibilities and commitments, I am not always able to answer emails immediately. Anticipate hearing back from me within 1-2 business days (Monday-Friday) of sending your initial email. All emails regarding ERS 404/PSCI 432 should include the course code in the subject line, for instance: “ERS 404: Question about Week 10 reading”. Emails sent through Learn do this automatically.

Course Description: Our contemporary environmental crises do not operate in a political vacuum. Though efforts are made at all levels of society to address environmental issues, many of the challenges we face require transboundary coordination and governance. This course begins to unpack the various the challenges of governing environmental issues across international borders. Students will learn about conventional sites of state-based government, international organizations and agencies as well as emerging forms of governance, including private governance and the role of non-state actors. Students will develop a sense of the various political interests that influence global environmental governance and the challenges to enacting effective governance.

Pre-Requisites: *At least 3A.*

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should:

- Define and apply key concepts in contemporary global governance
- Describe the different kinds of global governance actors and their roles

- Understand global environmental issues in greater depth and the presence or absence of appropriate governance mechanisms
- Analyze and compare different forms of global environmental governance and assess their effectiveness

Texts:

O'Neill, Kate. *The Environment and International Relations*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. [This text is available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.]

Selected articles and book chapters, available on UWLearn.

MARK BREAKDOWN:

Class Preparation & Participation	10%
Two Research Briefings:	
• Briefing Note #1 – Due week of Fri. February 8, 2019	25%
• Briefing Note #2 – Due week of Fri. March 8, 2019	25%
Group Research Presentation & Essay – Week 12	15%
Final Take Home Exam	25%
• Due during the exam period	

SCHEDULE:

Week 1 – Introduction to the Course: What is “global environmental governance”?

This week will introduce students to the overarching theme of the course – specifically that ‘governance’ is a flexible and contested term – and introduce core concepts in international relations and global governance.

Week 2 – A History of Global Environmental Governance: Grappling with Global Environmental Problems

Week 3 - Multilateral Environmental Agreements, International Laws, and Regimes

Week 4 - States as Governance Actors

Week 5 – Intergovernmental Organizations ** First Briefing Note Due**

Week 6 - Transnational Corporations

Week 7 - Non-Governmental Organizations, Social Movements, Experts, and Civil Society

Week 8 - Global Environmental Justice, Equity & Resistance ** Second Briefing Note Due**

Week 9 - Local and Global Environmental Governance: Networks, Municipalities, and Indigenous Governance

Week 10 - The Future of Global Environmental Governance?

Week 11 - No Class; Use time to Prepare for Presentations

Week 12 - Research Presentations