

**ERS 404 / PSCI 432 – Global Environmental Governance  
Course Outline**

**Course instructor:**

Ian Rowlands (EV2-2026; ext. 32574; irowlands@uwaterloo.ca).

Office hours: Tuesdays 9:30-11:00am (NOT 21 January, 18 February, 5 March); Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm (NOT 21 January, 18 February, 5 March)

**Teaching assistant:**

Caitlin Scott (c7scott@uwaterloo.ca)

Office location and hours: tba

**Meetings:**

Lectures (for all): Thursdays from 2:30pm-4:20pm in EV3-4412

Tutorials: Section 101 – Tuesdays from 11:30am-12:20pm in RCH-208

Section 102 – Tuesdays from 12:30pm-1:20pm in HH-345

Section 103 – Tuesdays from 1:30pm-2:20pm in HH-124

(Please note that – in the interests of group cohesion – students are only permitted to attend the tutorial in which they are enrolled.)

**Course website:**

Course information will be delivered through the UW-LEARN system. Students will submit assigned work through this website, and receive feedback on the same through it as well.

**Pre-requisite:**

The pre-requisite for the course is at least 3A standing.

**Course purpose and learning objectives:**

The recognition that some environmental challenges transcend national boundaries has encouraged peoples from different countries to work together in response. Consequently a range of international and transnational – and often global – structures to address environmental challenges are now in place. These include formal organisations (like the United Nations Environment Programme) as well as informal institutions (that is, implicit ‘rules of the game’).

These global structures inevitably interact with other ‘levels’, like the national and the local. Not only do sub-global positions influence the shape of global agreements (for example, one country’s views may be particularly influential in the development of an international agreement), but so too do global structures impact sub-global activities (for example, that same global agreement may restrict the options from which a local business or city hall may choose). A better understanding, therefore, of international, transnational and global responses to environmental challenges is useful for many different kinds of ‘environmental activity’.

Thus, the purpose of this course is to examine the ways in which world society is striving to address environmental challenges by means of ‘global governance’ – that is, international, transnational and global institutions and organisations intended to deal with international and global environmental issues. It will do so by examining the ways in which international, transnational and global structures have evolved over time, as well as examining specific organisations and other actors active in global environmental governance today. The management of specific global environmental challenges will also be investigated.

More specifically, coming out of this course, students should have developed capabilities in the following areas:

- a broad understanding of contemporary discussions and debates related to the practice and theory of global environmental governance;

- an in-depth understanding of selected contemporary discussions and/or debates related to particular practices and/or theories of global environmental governance;
- an ability to summarise effectively advanced discussions explaining outcomes in global environmental governance; and
- an ability to critique succinctly, supported by evidence and logic, a variety of perspectives on global environmental governance.

**Course assessment:**

The course will be assessed by six elements. Full details regarding expectations for each (except ‘final examination’) are provided in individual ‘rubrics’, available on the course website.

1) Reading context – 10%

Over the course of the term, each student will prepare one contextual analysis of one assigned reading. The selection regarding this will be made starting 8:00am on Wednesday, 15 January. Note that these will be made on a ‘first-come, first-served’ basis, and that there is one only summary per reading (per tutorial group). Those who have not selected theirs by 5:00pm on Thursday, 16 January will be assigned their reading by the course instructor. The written summary is to be submitted (in the appropriate LEARN drop-box) before 11:59pm on the Sunday before the appropriate Tuesday tutorial. It will subsequently be made available to all to review.

2) Reading critique – 10%

Over the course of the term, each student will prepare one critique of one assigned reading. Selection will be made randomly at the end of each tutorial meeting. (One will be chosen for each reading.) Note that the reading critique will be due before 11:59pm on the Sunday after the appropriate Tuesday tutorial. It will not be made available to all in the tutorial group.

3) Research paper outline – 10%

Students will complete a brief outline of their proposed research paper. This is to be submitted (in the appropriate LEARN drop-box) before 11:59pm on Tuesday, 11 February.

4) Tutorial attendance – 5%

5) Research paper – 30%

Students will complete a research paper on some aspect of global environmental governance. This is to be submitted (in the appropriate LEARN drop-box) before 11:59pm on Friday, 4 April.

6) Final examination – 35%

The final examination in this course will be held during the final examination period. (This will be held between 8 and 24 April, and every student is expected to be available throughout the final examination period.) Details of the final examination – including structure and candidate questions – will be provided in-class on Thursday, 3 April. It will be two-and-one-half hours in duration, will cover the entire course, will require answers written in sentence-paragraph format, and will have extensive choice available.

Note on late submissions:

Late submissions will be penalised 5 per cent (of the 100 per cent available for that particular assignment) for each day (or part thereof) late. Please note that the LEARN system ‘time-stamps’ submissions, and ‘late’ will be considered anything after the deadline time (even, for the record, ‘one minute’). Additionally, submissions will not be accepted after seven days (beyond the due date) have lapsed. Alternative arrangements may be made in exceptional circumstances (usually related to medical emergencies supported by documentation). As soon as students realise that their assignment may be submitted late, they are encouraged to contact the course instructor.

## Appropriate student behaviour and other notes:

### Consequences of academic offences:

*A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>*

*Within ENV, those committing academic offences (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) will be placed on disciplinary probation and will be subject to penalties which may include a grade of 0 on affected course elements, 0 on the course, suspension, and expulsion.*

*Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>*

Students are strongly encouraged to review the material provided by the university’s Academic Integrity office (see: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Students/index.html>).

**Research ethics:** Please also note that the ‘University of Waterloo requires all research conducted by its students, staff, and faculty which involves humans as participants to undergo prior ethics review and clearance through the Director, Office of Human Research and Animal Care (Office). The ethics review and clearance processes are intended to ensure that projects comply with the Office’s Guidelines for Research with Human Participants (Guidelines) as well as those of provincial and federal agencies, and that the safety, rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected. The Guidelines inform researchers about ethical issues and procedures which are of concern when conducting research with humans (e.g. confidentiality, risks and benefits, informed consent process, etc.).’ If your research involves humans as participants, then please contact the course instructor for guidance and see <http://iris.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/>.

**Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

**Religious observances:** As appropriate, students need to inform the course instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

### Course readings:

All readings are either available in the required course book -- Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne, *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment, Second Edition* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011), which is available for purchase from the UW Bookstore – or are available electronically, either through UW course reserve (CR) or at a particular website (WEB).

## Course schedule:

### Overview

7 January – No meeting  
 9 and 14 January – Introduction and history  
 16 January – Concepts  
 21 January – Research paper discussion  
 23 and 28 January – Strong states  
 30 January and 4 February – Intergovernmental organisations  
 6 and 11 February – Not-for-profit organisations  
 13 February – Transnational corporations  
 18 and 20 February – No meetings (Reading Week)  
 25 February – Transnational corporations (continued)  
 27 February – International financing  
 4 March – *Tutorials cancelled – Rowlands away*  
 6 March – *Lecture cancelled – Rowlands away*  
 11 March – International financing (continued)  
 13 and 18 March – International trade  
 21 and 25 March – Global energy governance  
 27 March and 1 April – Global climate change  
 3 April – Prospects

### Details

Topic	Thursday (lectures)	Tuesday (tutorials)
<i>n.a.</i>		<b>7 January</b> No tutorials.
<i>Introduction and history</i>	<p><b>9 January</b></p> <p>- course introduction; empirical issues of relevance; history of global environmental politics</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) Clapp and Dauvergne, pp. 48-72.</p> <p>2) Gill Seyfang, 'Environmental Mega-conferences: From Stockholm to Johannesburg and Beyond', <i>Global Environmental Change</i> (Vol. 13, 2003), pp. 223-28 – CR.</p> <p>3) Steven Bernstein, 'Rio+20: Sustainable Development in a Time of Multilateral Decline', <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> (Vol. 13, No. 4, 2013), pp. 12-21 – CR.</p>	<b>14 January</b> Discussion of readings and lecture material from 9 January
<i>Concepts</i>	<p><b>16 January</b></p> <p>- thinking about international relations; variables of interest</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) Clapp and Dauvergne, pp. 1-18.</p> <p>2) Liliana B. Andonova and Ronald B. Mitchell, 'The Rescaling of Global Environmental Politics', <i>Annual Review of Environment and Resources</i> (Vol. 35, 2010), pp. 255–82 – CR.</p>	<b>21 January</b> Research paper discussion

<p><i>Strong states</i></p>	<p><b>23 January</b></p> <p>- the role of the nation-state; particularly powerful states; shifts over time</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) Robert Falkner, ‘The Nation-State, International Society, and the Global Environment’, in Robert Falkner (ed), <i>The Handbook of Global Climate and Environment Policy</i> (Chichester, UK: John Wiley &amp; Sons, Ltd., 2013), pp. 251-267 - CR.</p> <p>2) Maximilian Terhalle and Joanna Depledge, ‘Great-Power Politics, Order Transition, and Climate Governance: Insights from International Relations Theory’, <i>Climate Policy</i> (Vol. 13, No. 5, 2013), pp. 572-588 – CR.</p>	<p><b>28 January</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 23 January</p>
<p><i>Intergovernmental organisations</i></p>	<p><b>30 January</b></p> <p>- expectations of intergovernmental organisations; United Nations Environment Programme</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) Maria Ivanova, ‘UNEP in Global Environmental Governance: Design, Leadership, Location’, <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> (Vol. 10, No. 1, February 2010), pp. 30-59 – CR.</p> <p>2) Maria Ivanova, ‘Reforming the Institutional Framework for Environment and Sustainable Development: Rio+20’s Subtle but Significant Impact’, <i>International Journal of Technology Management &amp; Sustainable Development</i> (Vol. 12, No. 3, 2013), pp. 211–231 – CR.</p>	<p><b>4 February</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 30 January</p>
<p><i>Not-for-profit organisations</i></p>	<p><b>6 February</b></p> <p>– kinds and examples of nongovernmental organisations; increasing power and exercising influence; a ‘transformative influence’ in global environmental governance?; a focus on the Humphreys article (#2, below)</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) John McCormick, ‘The Role of Environmental NGOs in International Regimes’, in Regina S. Axelrod, Stacy D. VanDeveer and David Leonard Downie (eds), <i>The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy, Third Edition</i> (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2011), pp. 92-110 – CR.</p> <p>2) David Humphreys, ‘NGO Influence on International Policy on Forest Conservation and the Trade in Forest Products’, in Michele M. Betsill and Elisabeth Corell (eds), <i>NGO Diplomacy: The Influence of Nongovernmental Organisations in International Environmental Organisations</i> (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008), pp. 150-176 – CR.</p>	<p><b>11 February</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 6 February.</p>

<p><i>Trans-national corporations</i></p>	<p><b>13 February</b></p> <p>- ‘greening of business’; transnational corporations’ operations; business lobbying in international negotiations</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) Clapp and Dauvergne, pp. 161-191.</p> <p>2) Robert Falkner, ‘Business power, business conflict: A neo-pluralist perspective on international environmental politics’, in Peter Dauvergne (ed), <i>Handbook of Global Environmental Politics, Second Edition</i> (Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2012), pp. 319-329 – CR.</p> <p>3) Amandine Orsini, ‘Thinking Transnationally, Acting Individually: Business Lobby Coalitions in International Environmental Negotiations’, <i>Global Society</i> (Vol. 25, No. 3, 2011), pp. 311-329 – CR.</p>	
<p><i>Reading week</i></p>	<p><b>18 February</b></p> <p><b>No tutorials.</b></p>	
	<p><b>20 February</b></p> <p><b>No lecture.</b></p>	
<p><i>Trans-national corporations (continued)</i></p>		<p><b>25 February</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 13 February.</p>
<p><i>International financing</i></p>	<p><b>27 February</b></p> <p>– the need for international finance; the rationale for international finance; the World Bank’s role in sustainable development; the Global Environment Facility</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) Clapp and Dauvergne, pp. 193-225.</p> <p>2) Bruce Rich, <i>Foreclosing the Future: Examining 20 Years of the World Bank’s Environmental Performance</i> (London: Bretton Woods Project, October 2013) – WEB (<a href="http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/At-Issue-Bruce-Rich-FINAL.pdf">http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/At-Issue-Bruce-Rich-FINAL.pdf</a>).</p> <p>2) Robert B. Zoellick, ‘Why We Still Need the World Bank’, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (Vol. 91, No. 2, 2012), pp. 66-78 – CR.</p>	<p><b>4 March</b></p> <p><b>- Tutorials cancelled.</b></p>
<p><i>International financing (continued)</i></p>	<p><b>6 March</b></p> <p><b>- Lecture cancelled.</b></p>	<p><b>11 March</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 27 February</p>

<p><i>International trade</i></p>	<p><b>13 March</b></p> <p>– are free trade and environmental protection compatible?; the position of the World Trade Organisation; trade and environment case-studies; Ontario case-study</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) Clapp and Dauvergne, pp. 127-160.</p> <p>2) Scott Sinclair, <i>Saving the Green Economy: Ontario’s Green Energy Act and the WTO</i> (Ottawa, ON: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, November 2013) – WEB (<a href="http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/saving-green-economy">http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/saving-green-economy</a>)</p>	<p><b>18 March</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 13 March</p>
<p><i>Global energy governance</i></p>	<p><b>20 March</b></p> <p>– issues in ‘global energy governance’; the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) compared; should Canada join IRENA?</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) Ann Florini and Benjamin K. Sovacool, ‘Who Governs Energy? The Challenges Facing Global Energy Governance’, <i>Energy Policy</i> (Vol. 37, No. 12, December 2009), pp. 5239-5248 – CR.</p> <p>2) Johannes Urpelainen and Thijs Van de Graaf, ‘The International Renewable Energy Agency: A Success Story in Institutional Innovation?’, <i>International Environmental Agreements</i> (forthcoming) – CR.</p>	<p><b>25 March</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 20 March</p>
<p><i>Global climate governance</i></p>	<p><b>27 March</b></p> <p>- case-study: global climate change</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <p>1) Philip T. Bedall, ‘“Climate Justice”, “Green Economy” or “A One Planet Lifestyle”: Hegemonic Narratives in Transnational NGOs and Social Movements’, in Chris Methmann, Delf Rothe and Benjamin Stephan, <i>Interpretive Approaches to Global Climate Governance: (De)constructing the Greenhouse</i> (London: Routledge, 2013), pp. 198-216 – CR.</p> <p>2) Matthew J. Hoffmann, ‘Experimenting in Practice’, Chapter 4 of <i>Climate Governance at the Crossroads: Experimenting with a Global Response after Kyoto</i> (Toronto, ON: Oxford University Press) – CR.</p>	<p><b>1 April</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 27 March</p>

<p><i>Prospects</i></p>	<p><b>3 April</b></p> <p>- what next for global environmental governance?; course evaluation; final examination preview</p> <p><u>Required readings:</u></p> <p>1) Clapp and Dauvergne, pp. 227-249.</p> <p>2) Frank Biermann et al, <i>Transforming Governance and Institutions for Global Sustainability: Key Insights from the Earth System Governance Project</i> (Earth System Governance Project, 2011) – WEB (<a href="http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/ESG-WorkingPaper-17_Biermann-et-al.pdf">http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/ESG-WorkingPaper-17_Biermann-et-al.pdf</a>).</p>	
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Ian Rowlands, December 2013.