ERS 404:
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE
Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Collins
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Office Location: EV2 2007
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30 – 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. All emails regarding ERS 404 should include the course code in the subject line, for instance: "ERS 404: Question about Week 10 reading".

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 be able to:

- 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 different forms of global environmental governance and assess their effectiveness
- Communicate key political challenges through both writing and public presentation.

University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (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://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts' grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Intellectual Property:

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

> **Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, 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 AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

TurnItIn:

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, and are subject to the USA PATRIOT ACT, 2001; therefore, students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography) if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

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 and/or through the University of Waterloo Library.

MARK BREAKDOWN:

Class Preparation & Participation	15%
Briefing Note – Due Monday, Feb. 10, by noon	15%
Research Essay – Due Friday, March 6, by noon	30%
Group Research Presentation – In class, Wed. April 1, 2019	10%
Research Presentation Report – Due Fri. April 3, 2019 by noon	5%
Final Take Home Exam	25%

- Due during the exam period

TERM RESEARCH PROJECT

This term, you will become an expert on a complex global environmental issue and the various ways in which it is governed. You will do this by writing a briefing note and a research essay, and delivering a group presentation to the class.

Each student will pick one topic from the following list and focus on this issue all term, applying concepts and lessons learned in class.

Climate Change
1. Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions
2. Cities and Climate Change
3. Climate Refugees
4. Ozone Depletion
5. Extreme Weather & Environmental Disaster Management

Oceans & Fisheries
6. Ocean Acidification
7. Ocean Conservation
8. Global Fisheries Management
9. Whaling
10. International Seabed Mining

Land, Food & Agriculture
11. Land Rights and Governance
12. Transnational Agricultural Investment
13. Food Security
14. Climate Smart Agriculture
15. International Food Safety & Standards

Wildlife & Biodiversity
16. Biological Diversity
17. Habitat Loss
18. Invasive species
19. Wildlife Conservation
20. The Trade in Endangered Species

Ecosystems & Change
21. Glacial Melting and the Arctic
22. Wetlands
23. Deforestation
24. Desertification
25. Coral Bleaching

Waste & Pollution
26. Electronic Waste (E-Waste)
27. Hazardous Waste
28. Food Waste
29. Transboundary Air Pollution
30. Transboundary Water Pollution (non-plastic)
31. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

SCHEDULE:

Week 1 – January 8 – Introduction to the Course: What is "global environmental governance"?

Week 2 – January 15 – A History of Global Environmental Governance: Grappling with Global Environmental Problems

Week 3 – January 22 – States as Governance Actors & Shifts in Global Politics
Featuring Guest Lecture and Q&A with Dr. Aaron Ettinger, Department of Political Science, Carleton University

Week 4 – January 29 – Multilateral Environmental Agreements, International Laws, and Regimes

Week 5 – February 5 – Intergovernmental Organizations

** Briefing Note Due Monday, February 10 by noon**

Week 6 – February 12 – Transnational Corporations

Reading Week – Feb. 17 – 21 – No Classes

Week 7 – February 26 – as Non-Governmental Organizations, Social Movements, Experts, and Civil Society

Week 8 – March 4 – Non-State Global Environmental Governance

** Research Essay Due Friday, Mar. 6 by noon**

Week 9 – March 11 – Global Environmental Justice, Equity & Resistance

Week 10 – March 18 – Local to Global Environmental Governance: Networks, Municipalities, and Indigenous Governance

Week 11 – March 25 – Group Projects

Week 12 – April 1 – Research Presentations & The Future of Global Environmental Governance