



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE
ERS 404
Winter 2017
Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:30– 3:50 p.m.
PAS 2086

Instructor: Professor Andrea M. Collins

Email: andrea.collins@uwaterloo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. EV2-2007

Our contemporary environmental crises do not operate in a political vacuum. Though efforts are made at all levels of society to address environmental issues, all levels of government and modes of governance face competing demands and influences. This course begins to unpack the various power centres at which environmental issues are governed – both formally and informally. Students will learn about conventional sites of state-based government and international organizations like the United Nations and its various agencies. Students will also learn about informal governance, 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 meaningful governance. Over the course of the term, students will build a research profile and present their findings to the class. The class concludes with a take-home exam.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will 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 and compare different forms of global environmental governance and assess their effectiveness

Skills Development

This course will help students develop the following skills:

- Organization and time management through regular written assignments
- Reading comprehension, including identifying arguments and counter-arguments

- Analyzing and communicating complex issues and ideas
- Effective public speaking and communication
- Constructing academic arguments, supported by research, logic, and clear writing

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.]

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](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.] 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](#), 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 AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See: <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/guidelines-instructors> for more information.

MARK BREAKDOWN:

Research Topic Brief	5% - Due Monday, Jan. 23 rd
Three Research Reports:	
• Research Report #1	10% - Due Friday, Feb. 3 rd
• Research Report #2	10% - Due Friday, Feb. 17 th
• Research Report #3	10% - Due Friday, Mar. 10 th
Synthesis Research Presentation	10% - Between March 22 and April 3
Take Home Exam	35% - Due Monday, April 10 th
Class Preparation and Participation	20%

Late Policy:

All late written assignments will be deducted 10% per day and will not be accepted 7 days after the initial due date. Late submissions will also be returned later than submissions made on time.

Full Syllabus and Reading List available on Learn.