Global Environmental Governance

Winter 2015, Mondays, 2:30-5:20 in BSIA 131

Instructor Information
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Office Phone: 226-772-3096
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 and by appointment
Email: hochstet@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description
The transnational character of many environmental problems has encouraged people from difference countries to work together to address these problems. In response, a range of international, transnational, and even global structures has evolved to address environmental challenges, including formal organizations as well as informal institutions.

This course examines the ways in which environmental challenges are being addressed by means of 'global governance' - that is, international organizations and institutions intended to deal with these environmental challenges. Concepts are investigated both to help analyze the relative strengths and weaknesses of existing structures and to suggest ways in which alternative forms of global governance might advance sustainability. Specific organizations and other actors presently active in global environmental governance are given particular attention, as is the management of selected global environmental challenges.

Course Requirements and Assessment
Information on course requirements and assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date of Evaluation (if known)</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper outline and annotated</td>
<td>February 2, beginning of class</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>bibliography</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature brief 1</td>
<td>First half of semester</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature brief 2</td>
<td>Second half of semester</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper presentation</td>
<td>March 16 or 23</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Notes on the various class assessments

Assessment 1
All students are expected to attend every class, to closely read the readings assigned for the day, and to participate actively in the discussion. Since the class meetings will be in the seminar format, the success of the class depends on your own preparation and participation. At the time of the reading week, I will
provide written evaluation of your participation to that point. Note that attending every class is expected and is the minimal acceptable level of performance on this assignment unless there is a documented reason for missing class.

**Assessment 2**
Assignment 6 asks you to write a research paper on one aspect of global environmental governance. On February 2, at the beginning of class, you will turn in a one-page outline of your proposed research topic, along with an annotated bibliography of major related sources that you have located. You are encouraged to discuss the project with the professor in advance of this deadline. Because this assignment is designed to make sure you promptly begin work on the research paper, late assignments will not be accepted except in extraordinary circumstances (usually related to medical emergencies supported by documentation).

**Assessment 3**
For the two literature briefs (Assessments 3 and 4), you should prepare a short paper (3-4 double-spaced pages) on the readings assigned for one of the weeks. The first should be completed in the first half of the semester and the second (Assessment 4) in the second half. While these papers should show that you have read and understood the assigned readings, with citations to individual readings, the main purpose of the paper is to assess and evaluate them. Among other approaches, you might discuss their commonalities and differences, evaluate when and for what purposes the analytical approach is useful, and/or lay out a future research agenda based on the material in the readings. You may, but are not required to, include additional readings from other weeks of the course or your outside readings; the focus should remain on the class readings of the week, however, and you are expected to bring your arguments into the discussions for the week. For this reason, these papers may only be written and turned in before the class in which the readings are discussed.

**Assessment 4**
See Assessment 3.

**Assessment 5**
During two sessions of the course, you will present your own research to the class in a 12-15 minute presentation, followed by questions and comments from the class participants. You should be organized, clear, and persuasive in your presentation. Since these presentations will be given before your papers are completed, you may also present conundrums and challenges in your project for feedback and assistance.

**Assessment 6**
You are to write a research paper on one aspect of global environmental governance (the specific topic is your choice). The paper is to be approximately 3500-4000 words in length (around 15-20 pages, double spaced). Your paper should have a clear research question and argument accompanied by analysis tied to the key issues and themes covered in the course. Your argument should be backed up with the use of literature and data, and should be properly referenced. You should refer to readings assigned for this course as well as additional research from a variety of sources. More information on
this assignment will be handed out in class. There will be no penalty for late papers, but they will receive fewer comments.

Attendance Policy
See policy in Assessment 1.

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>The Problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1/19</td>
<td>Systems, Causation, Complexity Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>International Law and Ideas</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Political Economy, Inequality, and Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Historical Institutionalism and Environmental Institutions and Actors</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>Reading Week – no class</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2/23</td>
<td>Game Theory and International Environmental Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Environmental Problems as Commons Problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Environmental Economics and Economic Dynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>Prospects for Global Environmental Governance</td>
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List of Readings
Most readings are available through the UW electronic course reserves system (https://www.reserves.uwaterloo.ca/ares/ares.dll). Those marked with an asterisk (*) will be distributed.

1/5 Course Introduction

1/12 The Problem: Global Environment and Global Environmental Governance
1/19 Systems, Causation, and Complexity Ecology

1/26 International Law and Ideas
- * Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*
- * Case Study: Boundary Waters Treaty and Devils Lake Diversion*

2/2 Political Economy, Inequality, and Justice

2/9 Historical Institutionalism and Environmental Institutions and Actors
2/16 Reading week – no class

2/23 Game Theory and International Environmental Cooperation
- *Taylor, Michael. The Possibility of Cooperation, Chapters 1 and 2.

3/2 Environmental Problems as Commons Problems
- * UNFCCC Elements of the 2015 Agreement.

3/9 Environmental Economics and Economic Dynamics

3/16 Student Presentations – No Readings

3/23 Student Presentations – No Readings

3/30 Prospects for Global Environmental Governance [read 4-5 of the works listed]


Other course information

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.

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.

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.

Other sources of information for students
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

*Note for students with disabilities:* The AccessAbility Services office, 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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.