

**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 5 March); Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm (NOT 5 March and 26 March)

**Teaching assistant:**

Michelle Morris (m24morri@uwaterloo.ca).

Office location and hours: tba

**Meetings:**

Lectures (for all): Thursdays from 2:30pm-4:20pm in EV3-3412

Tutorials: Section 101 – Tuesdays from 11:30am-12:20pm in ML-315

Section 102 – Tuesdays from 12:30pm-1:20pm in ML-311

Section 103 – Tuesdays from 1:30pm-2:20pm in ML-216

(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' Commission on Sustainable Development) 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;
- an ability to critique succinctly, supported by evidence and logic, a variety of perspectives on global environmental governance; and
- an ability to communicate summaries and critiques verbally and in written form.

**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) Participation -- 10%

2) Reading summary and critiques – 15%

Over the course of the term, each student will prepare three short written pieces on three different course readings. One will be a ‘summary’ and two will be ‘critiques’. Selections regarding these will be made starting 8:00am on Wednesday, 16 January. Note that these will be made on a ‘first-come, first-served’ basis, and that there is one only summary per reading and two critiques per reading. Those who have not selected theirs by 5:00pm on Thursday, 17 January will be assigned readings by the course instructor. Each written contribution 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 in the tutorial group to review.

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, 12 February.

4) Elevator pitch – 5%

On Thursday, 28 March (in lecture), each student will deliver a very brief ‘elevator pitch’ in front of the class.

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, 5 April.

6) Final examination – 30%

The final examination in this course will be held during the final examination period. (This will be held between 11 and 25 April, and every student is expected to be available throughout the final examination period.) Details of the final examination – including structure, candidate questions and allowable aids (if any) – will be provided in-class on 4 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

8 January – No meeting  
 10 and 15 January – Introduction and history  
 17 and 22 January – Concepts  
 24 and 29 January – Strong states  
 31 January and 5 February – Intergovernmental organisations  
 7 and 12 February – Transnational corporations  
 14 February – International financing  
 19 and 21 February – No meetings (Reading Week)  
 26 February – International financing (continued)  
 28 February – Not-for-profit organisations  
 5 March – to be announced  
 7 March – Global water governance  
 12 March – Not-for-profit organisations (continued) and global water governance (continued)  
 14 and 19 March – International trade  
 21 and 26 March – Global energy governance  
 28 March – Research paper ‘elevator pitches’  
 2 April – Q and A for final paper (optional)  
 4 April – Prospects

### Details

Topic	Thursday (lectures)	Tuesday (tutorials)
<i>n.a.</i>		<b>8 January</b> No tutorials.
<i>Introduction and history</i>	<p><b>10 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) Jeff Tollefson, ‘Wealth Gap Curbs Rio Goals’, <i>Nature</i> (Vol. 486, Issue 7404, 26 June 2012) – WEB (<a href="http://www.nature.com/news/wealth-gap-curbs-rio-goals-1.10887">http://www.nature.com/news/wealth-gap-curbs-rio-goals-1.10887</a>).</p>	<p><b>15 January</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 10 January</p>

<p><i>Concepts</i></p>	<p><b>17 January</b>  - thinking about international relations; variables of interest  <u>Required readings:</u>  1) Clapp and Dauvergne, pp. 1-18.  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>	<p><b>22 January</b>  Discussion of readings and lecture material from 17 January</p>
<p><i>Strong states</i></p>	<p><b>24 January</b>  - the role of the nation-state; particularly powerful states; shifts over time  <u>Required readings:</u>  1) Pamela S. Chasek, David L. Downie and Janet Welsh Brown, (part of) ‘Actors in the Environmental Arena’ (Chapter 2), <i>Global Environmental Politics, Fourth Edition</i> (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2006), pp. 41-51, 284-285 – CR.  2) J. Timmons Roberts, ‘Multipolarity and the new world (dis)order: US hegemonic decline and the fragmentation of the global climate regime’, <i>Global Environmental Change</i> (Vol. 21, 2011), pp. 776-784 – CR.</p>	<p><b>29 January</b>  Discussion of readings and lecture material from 24 January</p>
<p><i>Intergovernmental organisations</i></p>	<p><b>31 January</b>  - expectations of intergovernmental organisations; United Nations Environment Programme; UN Commission on Sustainable Development  <u>Required readings:</u>  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.  2) Stine Madland Kaasa, ‘The UN Commission on Sustainable Development: Which Mechanisms Explain Its Accomplishments?’, <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> (Vol. 7, No. 3, August 2007), pp. 107-129 – CR.</p>	<p><b>5 February</b>  Discussion of readings and lecture material from 31 January</p>

<i>Trans-national corporations</i>	<p><b>7 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, ‘Global Firms in International Environmental Politics’ (Chapter 1), <i>Business Power and Conflict in International Environmental Politics</i> (Basingtoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), pp. 3-15 – 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><b>12 February</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 7 February</p>
<i>International financing</i>	<p><b>14 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) Robert B. Zoellick, ‘Why We Still Need the World Bank’, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (Vol. 91, No. 2, 2012), pp. 66-78 – CR.</p>	
<i>Reading week</i>		<p><b>19 February</b></p> <p><b>No tutorials.</b></p>
	<p><b>21 February</b></p> <p><b>No lecture.</b></p>	
<i>International financing (continued)</i>		<p><b>26 February</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 14 February</p>

<p><i>Not-for-profit organisations</i></p>	<p><b>28 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>5 March</b></p> <p>TBA</p>
<p><i>Global water governance</i></p>	<p><b>7 March</b></p> <p>- case-study: global water governance; upcoming requirements</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <p>1) Claudia Pahl-Wostl, Joyetta Gupta and Daniel Petry, ‘Governance and the Global Water System: A Theoretical Exploration’, <i>Global Governance</i> (Vol. 14, 2008), pp. 419-435 – CR.</p>	<p><b>12 March</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 28 February and 7 March</p>
<p><i>International trade</i></p>	<p><b>14 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) ‘Canada – Certain Measures Affecting the Renewable Energy Generation Sector’ (Geneva: World Trade Organization, December 2012) – WEB (<a href="http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds412_e.htm">http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds412_e.htm</a>).</p> <p>3) Peter R. Murphy, ‘World Trade Organization Rules Against Ontario’s Feed-in Tariff Program’ (Toronto, ON: Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP, December 2012) – WEB (<a href="http://www.gowlings.com/KnowledgeCentre/article.asp?pubID=2708&amp;lang=0">http://www.gowlings.com/KnowledgeCentre/article.asp?pubID=2708&amp;lang=0</a>).</p>	<p><b>19 March</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 14 March</p>

<p><i>Global energy governance</i></p>	<p><b>21 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) Glen Wright, ‘The International Renewable Energy Agency: A Global Voice for the Renewable Energy Era?’ <i>Renewable Energy Law and Policy Review</i> (Issue 4, 2011), pp. 251-268 – CR.</p>	<p><b>26 March</b></p> <p>Discussion of readings and lecture material from 21 March</p>
<p><i>Elevator pitches</i></p>	<p><b>28 March</b></p> <p>- ‘elevator pitches’ presented</p>	
<p><i>‘In-tutorial’ office hour</i></p>		<p><b>2 April</b></p> <p>Q and A for final paper – optional.</p>
<p><i>Prospects</i></p>	<p><b>4 April</b></p> <p>- what next for global environmental governance?; course evaluation</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>	

Ian Rowlands, January 2013.