

## **ERS/PSCI 604 Global Environmental Governance Course Outline: Winter Term 2010**

**Course Director:** Professor Jennifer Clapp

**Office:** EV2, Rm. 2016, **Tel:** x 32068

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1:30-2:30pm, or by appointment

**Email:** jclapp @ uwaterloo.ca

**Times and Location:** Thursdays 9:30-12:20 pm, in HH 259

The course is scheduled as a three hour seminar. Professor Clapp will be away on March 25, and we will need to reschedule that class, as it is one in which we will have student presentations.

**Calendar Description:** 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 objectives:** This course seeks to answer the broad question of how the global community responds to environmental challenges of an international nature. In exploring this question, the course aims to prepare students to conduct research and analysis at the leading edge of the field of global environmental governance. Emphasis will be placed on new and emerging forms of global governance for the environment and how these new forms of governance relate to more traditional forms of governance such as international environmental agreements and institutions.

**Readings:** The required readings for this course will be available on e-reserves and those that are not available in that format will be posted on the UW-ACE website. Relevant web links will also be on ACE. Assigned readings should be read *before* the relevant classes. Please also visit relevant weblinks.

**UW-ACE:** There will be a UW-ACE website set up for this course. Announcements, relevant web-links and some readings will be posted on this site. You should check the ACE site regularly.

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### **Marks Distribution:**

Literature brief - 15%

Policy brief - 15%

Participation -15%

Research presentation 15%

Final research paper 40%

**Literature brief:** Once during the term, you are to write a 3-4 page (single spaced, or approx 1200 words) literature brief that discusses the readings assigned for that week, plus 1-2 additional readings of your own choice. Please do not just summarize the readings – you should devote approximately 1/3 of the paper to outlining the main themes of the articles, and 2/3 to analysis and discussion. You

may wish to outline the commonalities and differences amongst the readings, what about the readings made you think differently (or the same) about the topic as you had prior to reading them, and bring up any issues/approaches in the readings that you may agree or disagree with. It would be ideal if you could develop an overall argument which ties these elements together. You should be prepared to help lead class discussions on the week that you are preparing your literature brief. This assignment is due in class on the date you have chosen. Please email it to me ahead of class, and bring a hard copy along to class.

**Institutional/Policy Brief:** You are to write up an approximately 3-4 page (single spaced, or approx 1200 words) policy brief on a key institution/initiative in global environmental governance. Each student is to write a brief on a different topic, with varying due dates. For this brief, you should outline the history and background to the initiative or institution, and the key activities with which it is associated, and debates that exist around that institution or initiative. you should devote approximately 1/3 of the paper to outlining the background and structure of the institution or initiative, and 2/3 to analysis and discussion. Please include references in this brief. Your sources should be varied – from academic articles and books, official websites, and NGO websites. You will be asked to present this brief to the class, and these briefs will be posted on the UW ACE page for the course, so that other students in the class can learn from them. These briefs will be due the TUESDAY before our Thursday meeting. Please email me a copy of this assignment on the Tuesday and bring a hard copy of this assignment to class on the Thursday. The possible topics for these briefs are as follows:

*Due Jan.19:*

United Nations Environment Programme  
Commission on Sustainable Development

*Due Jan. 26:*

UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol  
Montreal Protocol

*Due Feb 2:*

Cartagena Protocol  
Basel Convention (or Stockholm Convention or Rotterdam Convention)

*Due Feb.9:*

WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (or WTO Dispute Resolution Processes with respect to the environment)  
Border Carbon Adjustments

*Due Feb.23:*

Global Environment Facility  
Clean Development Mechanism

*Due March 2:*

ISO 14000 Environmental Management Standards  
Equator Principles  
Global Compact  
Carbon Disclosure Project

*Due March 9:*

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (Cities for Climate Protection)  
Greenpeace International or Friends of the Earth International  
ISEAL (International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance)

**Participation:** You are expected to be present and to participate in all class sessions. A mark out of 5 will be given for attendance. A mark out of 10 will be given for participation in discussions. Good participation is not simply a matter of speaking out in class. It involves contributions that demonstrate your engagement and connection with the course materials. This might include showing that you are making connections between different parts of the course materials and also between course materials and current events and external readings, as well as demonstration that you have carefully weighed the arguments and viewpoints expressed in readings and in class and have incorporated them into your own analysis. Each week, you are expected to have read and thought about that week's readings, and come prepared to discuss your thoughts and ideas with your classmates in a constructive and respectful manner.

**Research Project:** 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. We will discuss research topics in class mid-way through the course. More information on this assignment will be handed out in class. This paper is due Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup>, to Prof. Clapp's office.

**Research Presentation:** In the last two sessions of the course, each student will present his/her research findings in a short 12-15 minute presentation to the rest of the class. You should be organized, clear, and persuasive in presenting your findings. Presentations will be organized by theme to approximate panels at a conference; chairs and discussant roles will also be assigned. The schedule for these presentations will be determined in class.

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### **Policies:**

- **Late Papers:** late papers will be accepted up to one week beyond the due date, and will be marked down at a rate of 3 percentage points per day. If you have a valid reason for a late paper, contact the course instructor immediately to make alternate arrangements.
- **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. [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)
- Students who are unsure what constitutes an academic offence are requested to visit the on-line tutorial at <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/>
- **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 the development of your research proposal consists of research that involves humans as participants, the please contact the course instructor for guidance and see [www.research.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/human/](http://www.research.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/human/)

- **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 :** Please inform the 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.
- **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, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.
- **Discipline (as noted above under 2a):** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offence, 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. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties, check Guidelines for Assessment of Penalties, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm)
- **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) [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)

## Schedule of Topics and Readings

**Part 1. Approaches to global environmental governance.** We begin with an overview of historical and conceptual issues. We will examine past global efforts to address environmental problems, including those catalyzed by major international environmental conferences such as those held in Stockholm in 1972, Rio in 1992, Johannesburg in 2002 and Copenhagen in 2009. Key actors in these efforts will be introduced, including both state and non-state actors (and sub-groups within those categories). We will then look at some of the key theories, concepts and practices in global environmental governance and examine competing and parallel conceptual lenses that have been used for examining global environmental problems and their responses. We will also cover some of the basics of international environmental law.

### January 7

**Introduction** – Course introduction; individual introductions; sign up for literature briefs and policy/institution briefs.

## January 14

### Historical evolution of global environmental governance and key actors

- Gill Seyfang, “Environmental Mega-conferences: From Stockholm to Johannesburg and Beyond”, *Global Environmental Change*, Vol. 13, No.3, 2003, pp. 223-28
- Adil Najam, “Developing Countries and Global Environmental Governance: From Contestation to Participation to Engagement”, *International Environmental Agreements*, Vol.5, No.3, 2005 pp.303-321.
- Maria Ivanova, “Designing the United Nations Environment Programme: A Story of Compromise and Confrontation”, *International Environmental Agreements*, Vol.7, No.4, 2007, pp.337-361.
- Paul Wapner, “World Summit on Sustainable Development: Toward a Post Jo’burg Environmentalism”, *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2003, pp. 1-10.

#### Questions to get us started:

- What are the key forces responsible for sparking international cooperation on environmental issues?
- What is ‘global environmental governance’?
- Who are the key actors in GEG?
- In what ways does the North-South dynamic influence global environmental cooperation?
- Why does international cooperation emerge on some global environmental issues and not others?

## January 21

### Key concepts, practices and theories in global environmental governance: international regimes and beyond

- Peter Dauvergne, “Research in Global Environmental Politics: History and Trends”, in P. Dauvergne (ed) *Handbook of Global Environmental Politics*, (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2005), pp.8-31.
- Peter Newell, “The Political Economy of Global Environmental Governance”, *Review of International Studies* Vol.34, No.3, 2008, pp.507–529
- Steven Bernstein, Jennifer Clapp and Matthew Hoffmann, [“Reframing Global Environmental Governance”](#), *CIGI Working Paper #45*, December 2009, pp.6-35.

#### Questions to get us started:

- What insights does regime theory bring to our understanding of global environmental cooperation?
- Why has regime theory dominated the study of global environmental governance?
- How are political economy approaches different from liberal institutionalist approaches?
- How do the different ‘spheres’ of GEG interact with one another?
- How powerful are states vs. other actors (business; civil society; subnational actors) in GEG?

**Part 2. Pressing issues in global environmental governance.** There are so many issues that we could possibly cover, but we will have to focus our readings on just a few (with the hopes that students will investigate other areas for the research papers). We will first examine two global commons issues – the problem of ozone depletion and the problem of climate change. We will then look at two transboundary issues – the international movement of toxics across borders, and the global trade in genetically modified organisms. Students should feel free to bring in comparisons with other issues – such as water, food system sustainability, desertification, biodiversity loss, etc.

## **January 28**

### **Global commons – climate and ozone**

- Cass Sunstein, “Of Montreal and Kyoto: A Tale of Two Protocols”, *Harvard Environmental Law Review*, Vol.31, 2007, pp.1-64.
- Joanna Depledge, “The Opposite of Learning: Ossification in the Climate Change Regime”, *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol.6, No.1, 2006, pp.1-22.

*Questions to get us started:*

- Is the Kyoto Protocol dead? Should it be?
- Was the Montreal Protocol a success story?
- What factors contributed to the swift cooperation on ozone depletion?
- Are there lessons from the Montreal Protocol that can be applied to a climate change agreement?
- What is similar/different in these ‘global commons’ issues?

## **February 4**

### **Transboundary issues: toxics and biosafety**

- Jonathan Krueger and Henrik Selin, “Governance for Sound Chemicals Management: The Need for a More Comprehensive Global Strategy”, *Global Governance*, Vol.8, No.3, 2002, pp.323-342.
- Alastair Iles, “Mapping Environmental Justice in Technology Flows: Computer Waste Impacts in Asia”, in *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol.4, No.4, 2004, pp.76-107.
- Robert Falkner, “International Cooperation against the Hegemon: The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”, in *The International Politics of Genetically Modified Food: Diplomacy, Trade and Law* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), pp.15-33.

*Questions to get us started:*

- How are transboundary issues different from global commons issues and does this influence the ability to address them internationally?
- Can the Basel Convention and Cartagena Protocol be successful agreements even without the participation of the US?
- What actors have particular stakes in the hazardous waste, chemicals, and seed sectors, and do these players have clout in the formation of global governance of these issues?

**Part 3. The interface of global economic and environmental governance.** We will examine the ways in which global economic and environmental governance overlaps, as well as debates over whether the World Trade Organization and the World Bank in particular have played a positive role or negative in the promotion of global environmental protection.

## **February 11**

### **Trade and environment**

- Robyn Eckersley, “The Big Chill: The WTO and Multilateral Environmental Agreements”, *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol.4, No.2, 2004, pp.24-50.
- Eric Neumayer, “The WTO and the Environment: Its Past Record is Better than Critics Believe, but the Future Outlook is Bleak”, *Global Environmental Politics* Vol.4, No.3, 2004, pp. 1-8.
- Sarah Lieberman and Tim Gray, “The World Trade Organization’s Report on the EU’s Moratorium on Biotech Products: The Wisdom of the US Challenge to the EU in the WTO”, *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol.8, No.1, 2008, 33-52.
- Aaron Cosbey, [“Border Carbon Adjustment”](#). IISD: Winnipeg. 2008, pp. 1-8.

#### *Questions to get us started:*

- How should potential conflicts between trade agreements and environmental agreements be addressed at an international level?
- Is international trade liberalization a positive force for sustainable development?
- Has the WTO become more ‘green’ in recent years?
- Are border carbon adjustments justified on trade and/or environment grounds?

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### **\*\*\*February 18 – READING WEEK (No Class)\*\*\***

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## **February 25**

### **Multilateral environmental funding mechanisms**

- Susan Park, “Norm Diffusion Within International Organizations: A Case Study of the World Bank”, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, Vol. 8, No.2, 2005, pp. 111-141.
- Laurence D. Mee, Holly T. Dublin, Anton A. Eberhard, “Evaluating the Global Environment Facility: A Goodwill Gesture or a Serious Attempt to Deliver Global Benefits?”, *Global Environmental Change*. Vol. 18, No.4, 2008, pp. 800-810
- Christiana Figueres and Charlotte Streck, “The Evolution of the CDM in a post-2012 Climate Agreement”, *Journal of Environment and Development*. Vol.18, No.3, 2009, pp.227-247.

#### *Questions to get us started:*

- Has the World Bank effectively ‘greened’ itself? In what ways has it attempted to do so?
- Is the GEF a success? Does funding ‘incremental’ costs of sustainable development make sense?
- Is the CDM an effective financial mechanism for reducing carbon emissions in poor countries?

**Part 4. A closer look at three spheres of GEG and the reform agenda.** We will come back to debates over broader conceptual approaches to GEG and look at prospects for effective environmental governance reform in three ‘spheres’: 1) networks, civil society and individual responses; 2) business actor arrangements and market mechanisms; and 3) international institutional mechanisms.

#### **March 4**

##### **Private governance and market-based initiatives for the global environment**

- Robert Falkner, “Private Environmental Governance and International Governance: Exploring the Links”, *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol.3, No.2, 2003, pp.72-87
- Benjamin Cashore, “Legitimacy and the Privatization of Environmental Governance: How Non-State Market-Driven (NSMD) Governance Systems Gain Rule-Making Authority” *Governance*, Vol.15, No.4, 2002, pp.503–529.
- Jon Birger Skjærseth and Jørgen Wettestad, “The Origin, Evolution and Consequences of the EU Emissions Trading System”, *Global Environmental Politics*, May 2009, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp.101–122

*Questions to get us started:*

- What are the pros and cons of private voluntary approaches to GEG?
- How do business-led GEG initiatives gain legitimacy and authority?
- Is the use of market mechanisms (such as carbon markets) an appropriate way to address global environmental issues? Why or why not?

#### **March 11**

##### **Multiscale networks, civil society and individual responses to global environmental problems**

- Barry Rabe, “Beyond Kyoto: Climate Change Policy in Multilevel Governance Systems”, *Governance*, Vol.20, No.3, 2007, pp.423-444.
- Paul Wapner, “Horizontal Politics: Transnational Environmental Activism and Global Cultural Change” *Global Environmental Politics*, May 2002, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp.37-62.
- Gill Seyfang, “Shopping for Sustainability: Can Sustainable Consumption Promote Ecological Citizenship?”, *Environmental Politics*, Vol.14, No.2, 2005, pp. 290-306.
- Michael Maniates, “Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?”, *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol.1, No.3, 2001, pp.31-52.

*Questions to get us started:*

- In what ways are subnational actors important to achieving international environmental goals?
- Are individual actions ‘enough’ to tackle global environmental problems?
- In what ways do civil society actors affect the governance of environmental problems at the international level?



## **March 18**

### **Institutional reform: which way forward?**

- Frank Biermann, “The Case for a World Environment Organisation”, *Environment* Vol. 42, No. 9, 2000, pp.22-31.
- Adil Najam, “The Case Against a New International Environment Organization”, *Global Governance*, Vol.9, No.3, 2003, pp.367-384.
- Peter M. Haas, “Addressing the Global Governance Deficit”, *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol. 4, No. 4, 2004, pp. 1-15.
- Oran Young, “The Architecture of Global Environmental Governance: Bringing Science to Bear on Policy”, *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol.8, No.1, 2008, pp.14-32.

#### *Questions to get us started:*

- What are the key problems in current formulations of GEG?
- Is a World Environment Organization (either of the model proposed by Biermann, or some other model) required if we wish to improve the effectiveness of global environmental governance?
- What elements are needed for more effective GEG?

**March 25** – Professor Clapp will be away - we will reschedule this session for earlier this week or sometime the following week

Student research presentations – schedule to be determined

## **April 1**

Student research presentations – schedule to be determined