

**ERS 604 / GGOV 620 / PSCI 604 – Advanced Topics in Global Environmental Governance  
Course Outline**

**Course instructor:** Ian Rowlands (EV2-2026; ext. 32574; irowlands@uwaterloo.ca); office hours: tba

**Meetings:** Thursdays from 8:30am-11:20pm in ML-311.

**Course website:** Course information will be delivered through the UW-LEARN system. Students will make submissions through LEARN, and also receive feedback through LEARN.

**Pre-requisite:** Graduate studies enrollment.

**Course purpose:**

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 or one company'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.

**Course assessment:**

The course will be assessed by seven elements. Full details regarding expectations for each are provided in individual 'rubrics', available on the course website.

1) Attendance 5%

Students are expected to attend every meeting (lecture and tutorial).

2) Participation 20%

Students are expected to arrive at meetings fully-prepared (completed and thought about required readings, reviewed relevant lecture notes, etc.) and to engage constructively in the discussion.

3) Article evaluation 20%

Students will prepare an ‘article evaluation’, summarising and critiquing one of a select number of articles on ‘global environmental governance’. This is to be submitted (in the appropriate LEARN drop-box) before 11:59pm on Friday, 10 February.

4) Research paper outline and annotated bibliography 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 Friday, 17 February.

5) Draft of research paper 2%

Students will complete a draft of their research paper (Details about the research paper may be found below.) This is to be submitted (in the appropriate LEARN drop-box) before 11:59pm on Friday, 9 March.

6) Research paper presentation 8%

Students will present key elements of their research paper – in class on either Thursday, 15 March or Thursday, 22 March.

7) Research paper 35%

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 Monday, 2 April.

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. Submissions will not be accepted after seven days (beyond the due date) have lapsed. Exceptions will 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 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 available electronically – either through UW course reserve (CR) or at a particular website (WEB).

### **Course schedule:**

#### Overview

- 5 January – History and concepts
- 12 January – Intergovernmental organisations
- 19 January – Transnational corporations
- 26 January – Not-for-profit organisations
- 2 February – International financing
- 9 February – International trade
- 16 February – Global energy governance
- 23 February – No class (Reading Week)
- 1 March – Global climate change
- 8 March – No class (Instructor away)
- 15 March – Student presentations
- 22 March – Student presentations
- 29 March – Prospects for global environmental governance

## **5 January – History and concepts**

- introduction to course
- what are the different kinds of ‘international environmental issues’?
- the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972)
- the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Report, 1987)
- the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)
- the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002)
- the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 2012)
- ‘Summitry’ as a strategy
- the present agenda
- introduction to theory and concepts related to global environmental governance
- how might/could international environmental politics unfold?
- what contribution does ‘theory’ make in the study of international/global environmental politics?

### Required readings:

Gill Seyfang, ‘Environmental Mega-conferences: From Stockholm to Johannesburg and Beyond’, *Global Environmental Change* (Vol. 13, 2003), pp. 223-28 – CR.

Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne, ‘Peril or Prosperity? Mapping Worldviews of Global Environmental Change (Chapter 1)’, *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment, Second Edition* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011) – CR.

Peter Newell, ‘The Political Economy of Global Environmental Governance’, *Review of International Studies* (Vol. 34, 2008), pp. 507-29 – CR.

Liliana B. Andonova and Ronald B. Mitchell, ‘The Rescaling of Global Environmental Politics’, *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* (Vol. 35, 2010), pp. 255–82 – CR.

## **12 January – Intergovernmental organisations**

- in-depth discussion of readings from 5 January
- what should be expected of an intergovernmental organisation?
- introduction to the United Nations system
- evaluating the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

### Required readings:

Maria Ivanova, ‘UNEP in Global Environmental Governance: Design, Leadership, Location’, *Global Environmental Politics* (Vol. 10, No. 1, February 2010), pp. 30-59 – CR.

Stine Madland Kaasa, ‘The UN Commission on Sustainable Development: Which Mechanisms Explain Its Accomplishments?’, *Global Environmental Politics* (Vol. 7, No. 3, August 2007), pp. 107-129 – CR.

## **19 January – Transnational Corporations**

- in-depth discussion of readings from 12 January
- what forces have encouraged and discouraged the ‘greening of business’?
- how have businesses responded to the ‘new environmentalism’?
- do transnational corporations (TNCs) operate differently in different countries?
- are TNCs reactive or proactive in the political debates?
- what influence do groups like the WBCSD have?
- how have ‘voluntary initiatives’, on the part of business, developed at the international level, and what impact have they had?

### Required readings:

- Robert Falkner, 'Business Power and Business Conflict: A Neo-Pluralist Perspective' (Chapter 2), in *Business Power and Conflict in International Environmental Politics* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), pp. 16-45 – CR.
- Gregory C. Unruh, 'The United Nations Global Compact Environmental Principles: Achievements, Trends, and Challenges', in Andreas Rasche and Georg Kell (eds), *The United Nations Global Compact: Achievements, Trends and Challenges* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 59-79 – CR.
- Amandine Orsini, 'Thinking Transnationally, Acting Individually: Business Lobby Coalitions in International Environmental Negotiations', *Global Society* (Vol. 25, No. 3, 2011), pp. 311-329 – CR.
- Peter Dauvergne and Jane Lister, 'Big Brand Sustainability: Governance Prospects and Environmental Limits', *Global Environmental Change* (in press) – CR.

### **26 January – Not-for-profit organisations**

- in-depth discussion of readings from 19 January
- what kinds of nongovernmental organisations are involved in global environmental governance?
- what are some specific examples of each kind?
- how do they try to increase their power and exercise influence?
- compare and contrast their 'grass-roots activities' and their 'corridors of power activities'.
- are they a 'transformative influence' in global environmental governance?

### Required readings:

- John McCormick, 'The Role of Environmental NGOs in International Regimes', in Regina S. Axelrod, Stacy D. VanDeveer and David Leonard Downie (eds), *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy, Third Edition* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2011), pp. 92-110 – CR.
- David Humphreys, 'NGO Influence on International Policy on Forest Conservation and the Trade in Forest Products', in Michele M. Betsill and Elisabeth Corell (eds), *NGO Diplomacy: The Influence of Nongovernmental Organisations in International Environmental Organisations* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008), pp. 150-176 – CR.
- Magnus Boström and Kristina Tamm Hallström, 'NGO Power in Global Social and Environmental Standard-Setting', *Global Environmental Politics* (Vol. 10, No. 4, November 2010), pp. 36-59 – CR.

### **2 February – International financing**

- in-depth discussion of readings from 26 January
- do North and South have different responsibilities in the area of global environmental governance?
- should the North pay the South?; if so, why, how much and in what form(s)?; if not, why not?
- the World Bank's role in sustainable development
- the Global Environment Facility

### Required readings:

- Susan Park, 'Socialization, the World Bank Group and Global Environmental Governance', in Frank Biermann, Bernd Siebenhüner and Anna Schneyögg (eds), *International Organizations in Global Environmental Governance* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2009), pp. 91-110 – CR.
- 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, 2008), pp. 800-810 – CR.

Michael Goldman, 'Imperial Science, Imperial Nature: Environmental Knowledge for the World (Bank)', in Sheila Jasanoff and Marybeth Long Martello (eds), *Earthly Politics: Local and Global in Environmental Governance* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004), pp. 55-80 – CR.

### **9 February – International trade**

- in-depth discussion of readings from 2 February
- are free trade and environmental protection compatible?
- what is the position of the WTO on this issue?
- what are the criticisms of this position?
- in what cases have trade and environmental concerns conflicted?
- how have each of these cases been resolved (or not)?
- how are regional trading blocs (like NAFTA) addressing the trade and environment issue?

#### Required readings:

Steve Charnovitz, 'An Introduction to the Trade and Environment Debate', in Kevin P. Gallagher (ed), *Handbook of Trade and the Environment* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2008), pp. 237-245 – CR.

Thomas Gehring, 'The Institutional Complex of Trade and Environment: Toward an Interlocking Governance Structure and a Division of Labor', in Sebastian Oberthür and Olav Schram Stokke (eds), *Managing Institutional Complexity: Regime Interplay and Global Environmental Change* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011), pp. 227-254 – CR.

Marie Wilke, 'Feed-in Tariffs for Renewable Energy and WTO Subsidy Rules: An Initial Legal Review', Trade and Sustainable Energy Series, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, ICTSD Global Platform on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainable Energy, 2011 – WEB (<http://ictsd.org/i/publications/112508/?view=document>).

### **16 February – Global energy governance**

- in-depth discussion of readings from 9 February
- what are the issues in 'global energy governance'?
- do we need 'global energy governance'?
- what organisations are most active?
- the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) compared
- how have each of these cases been resolved (or not)?
- should Canada join IRENA?

#### Required readings:

Ann Florini and Benjamin K. Sovacool, 'Who Governs Energy? The Challenges Facing Global Energy Governance', *Energy Policy* (Vol. 39, No. 12, December 2009), pp. 5239-5248 – CR.

Earth Negotiations Bulletin, 'Summary of the Fifth Preparatory Commission and First Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency, 3-5 April 2011' (Winnipeg, MB: International Institute for Sustainable Development) – WEB (<http://www.iisd.ca/vol30/enb3004e.html>).

### **1 March – Global climate change**

- history of international climate change negotiations
- prospects for international agreements on carbon taxes
- prospects for international agreements on tradeable emissions permits
- alternative approaches for global climate governance

Required readings:

- William Hare, Claire Stockwell, Christian Flachsland and Sebastian Oberthür, 'The Architecture of the Global Climate Regime: A Top-Down Perspective', *Climate Policy* (Vol. 10, 2010), pp. 600-614.
- Robert Falkner, Hannes Stephan and John Vogler, 'International Climate Policy After Copenhagen: Towards a "Building Block" Approach', *Global Policy* (Vol. 1, No. 3, October 2010), pp. 252-262.
- Manjana Milkoreit and Jason J. Blackstock, *Taking Global Climate Governance Beyond 2012: Reflections on CIGI '10* (Waterloo, ON: Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2011) – WEB ([http://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/CIGI'10\\_Special\\_Report\\_3.pdf](http://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/CIGI'10_Special_Report_3.pdf)).

**15 March – Student presentations**

**22 March – Student presentations**

**29 March – Prospects for global environmental governance**

- what should happen next, and why?
- what will happen next, and why?

Required readings:

- The Future We Want* (New York: United Nations, 2011) – WEB ([http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/189conf\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/189conf_brochure.pdf)).
- Frank Biermann et al, *Transforming Governance and Institutions for Global Sustainability: Key Insights from the Earth System Governance Project* (Earth System Governance Project, 2011) – WEB ([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)).

Ian Rowlands, December 2011.