

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

84/37:388 | Spring Semester 2021 | 3 credits
Sage 1214 | TTh, 1:20-2:50pm | Mod. Tutorial

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JOINING OPEN (OFFICE) HOURS

The Political Science Department uses Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) for holding office hours. This system is available to all UW Oshkosh students. Faculty will be available during the hours noted on your syllabus. When logging into MS Teams, look closely at the status indicators for your instructor (green = available; red = with another student).

We hope that using MS Teams for office hours for all of our courses will help students become more accustomed to virtual office hours during the pandemic. The main point to remember is that we are available to you. Please use our office hours freely and often. We are here to help. We are also happy to set up meetings outside of my office hours if students have conflicts with the posted times.

For more information and a link to access open hours, see our course Canvas page.

"The ultimate test of a man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

—Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day

BULLETIN COURSE DESCRIPTION

"Examination of the role of environmental issues in international relations. We will look at such issues as global warming, global pollution, management of scarce resources, and eco-development. How have various countries responded to these problems? How should they respond? What is the role of international institutions such as the World Bank? What is the role of non-governmental organizations such as Greenpeace? How have countries and international institutions interacted to deal with these environmental problems?"

SPRING 2021 COURSE DESCRIPTION

The environment, in many ways, provides the ultimate test for policymakers: how can legislators craft legislation that will protect something that is sometimes tangible (e.g., water, trees), sometimes intangible (e.g., air quality, the ozone layer), whose effects might not be seen for decades, and that may or may not directly benefit the people who voted them into office in the first place? These are problems faced by every democratic country (authoritarian regimes can, of course, do as they please), and they are in particular focus now because of the urgency of climate change. The effects of climate change are becoming more difficult to ignore—even for dyed-in-the-wool skeptics—and they present unprecedented challenges for governance.

In this course, we focus on the challenges that climate change has presented to policymakers, while examining previous responses to other environmental issues. We also thoroughly examine international environmental agreements to determine how they work and what contributes to their success or failure. (That sounds kind of boring, but I promise you that it's not!)

SPECIAL SPRING 2021 NOTE

While some students have opted to access this course online, it was developed as an *in-person* course at the University's request and will be taught as such. In-person students are expected to physically attend each session. Online-only students are expected to attend each session virtually, but may have slightly different requirements than in-person students. Please read this syllabus carefully before the semester begins.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Although I am willing to sign interested students from any discipline into this course, students who have completed Political Science 101 (Introduction to Comparative Politics),

115 (Introduction to International Relations), 116 (Quest I: Environmental Politics & Sustainability) 261 (Environment & Society, PS/ES/Sociology), 301 (European Union Politics), or 308 (International Law) will find that those courses may provide a useful foundation for concepts and issues addressed in this course. Introductory-level science courses will also be extraordinarily useful in this class, though some background will be provided. Some knowledge will be assumed. Students who are struggling with the course because of the lack of background knowledge should see me for background readings and feel free to discuss them with me at any time.

COURSE FORMAT

This is an upper-division course in political science, and as such it will be taught in a seminar style as much as is practical. This means that student input is required for the course to be successful (and fun). As such, I expect that students will attend class each week prepared to discuss the readings; completing the readings ahead of time is essential. *My ability to teach is severely limited if you do not read.*

TEXTBOOK & OTHER READINGS

There is no textbook for this course. Readings will be available to you on Canvas and through Polk Library's databases. Please let me know ASAP if you cannot locate the readings. *You should bring all readings to class with you on the day they appear on the syllabus.*

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- *Identify* the major actors influencing environmental politics internationally;
- *Understand* the different ethical and philosophical positions on environmentalism;
- *Describe and critique* different political responses to environmental problems;
- *Assess* the reasons for inaction on environmental issues;
- *Create* new ways to understand and respond to environmental issues; and

- *Formulate* strategies for negotiating between actors with different amounts of power in order to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

The grading scale I use for this course is **93/90/87**. Grades are determined as follows:

- ***Participation and Leadership (15%)***: Students are expected to actively engage the material and contribute to class discussions. At various points in the semester you will be called upon to lead discussion. If you attend every single class but rarely say a word you can expect a C for this portion of your grade; that grade goes down even further if you don't attend class meetings.
- ***Critical Reflection Essays (20% each, 40% total)***: Each student will submit two of these essays during the semester. The essays should demonstrate deep thinking about the course readings and attempt to synthesize them in an original way. These essays are short (2-3 pages, single-spaced) and must be submitted according to a staggered schedule we will work out together such that one is submitted before spring break and the second one after.
- ***International Environmental Agreement Analysis (45%)***: This is the major project for the course and takes the place of a final exam. Each student (or a pair of students) will examine two IEAs (cataloged by Dr. Ronald Mitchell at <https://iea.uoregon.edu/>) according to criteria detailed in the assignment sheet.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your instructor directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here: <https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

GRIEVANCES

The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom or online experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with

the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at kruegerj@uwosh.edu. Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have or think you may have a learning difference or a disability—a mental health, medical, or physical impairment—that would limit your access to learning or demonstrating your knowledge in this course, please contact the Dean of Students Office. If you already have an accommodation, please let me know in the first week of class. Note that this class *may* be recorded for accommodation purposes.

STUDENT RIGHT TO KNOW ACT (1990)

Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990:

<https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>

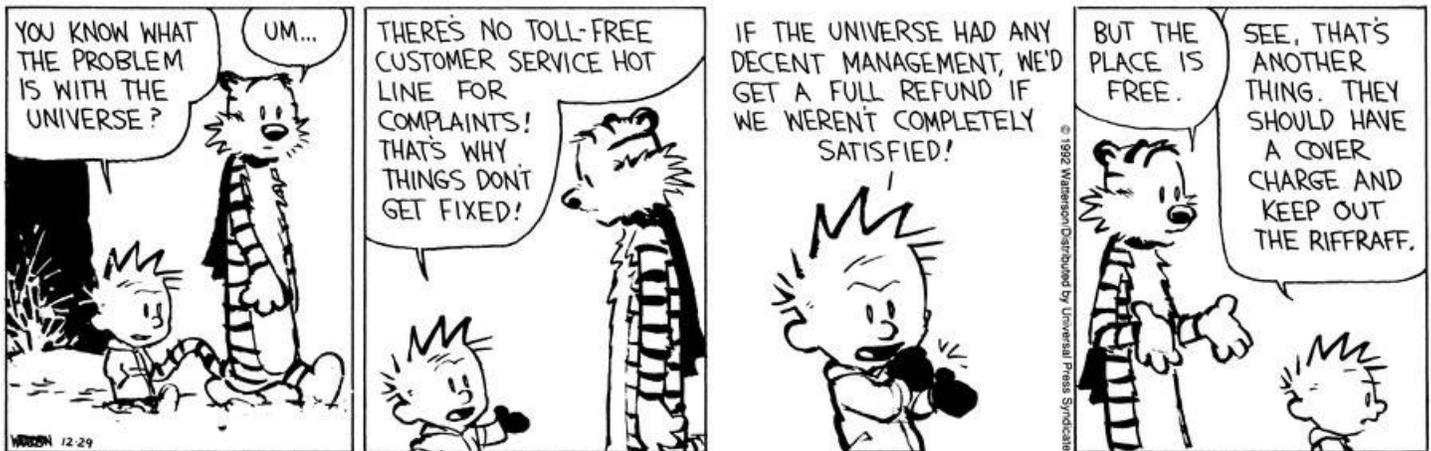
NOTE TO POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS

If you are currently a Political Science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class, preferably in the Google Drive associated with your University email account. Seniors in our department are required to take Political Science 401, a seminar in which students' progress through the major is surveyed and a portfolio of their work is created. If you have questions, please see me after class.

CHANGES

I reserve the right to change any portion of this syllabus at any time in the semester in order to accommodate the needs and pace of this particular group.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS



NOTE: *In some sense these topic divisions are artificial; many of these themes work together, and so it is likely that we won't strictly adhere to this schedule as we move through the course. We also might move more quickly or slowly through some of these topics. Please be flexible and listen for the reading assignment for the following class session.*

WEEK ONE (FEBRUARY 2 AND 4, 2021)

2/2 Introduction to Course

Print your syllabus and bring it to class so we can talk about it.

READ: Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons"

2/4 Do We Have an *Environment Ethic?* (Spoiler Alert: No.)

READ: Pope Francis. 2015. Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si* of the Holy Father Francis on Care for Our Common Home (we will assign sections of this; it's long); **AND** Trump, Donald. 2017. "Statement by President Trump on the Paris Climate Accord."

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-trump-paris-climate-accord/> (Assuming President Biden makes a statement on rejoining Paris, we will read that, too. It did not exist at the time of this writing [1/21/21].)

WEEK TWO (FEBRUARY 9 AND 11, 2021)

- 2/9 Recycling Your Soda Can Will Not Help That Much
READ: Seuss, Dr. *The Lorax*. (Just kidding. I'll summarize. If you don't know the story, the Maniates article below will be a little less effective, and I'm always surprised how many haven't read it as children.)
READ: Maniates, Michael F. 2001. "Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?" *Global Environmental Politics* 1: 31-52.
- 2/11 Setting Global Policy
READ: Brunner, Steffen. 2008. "Understanding Policy Change: Multiple Streams and Emissions Trading in Germany." *Global Environmental Change* 18: 501-507.

WEEK THREE (FEBRUARY 16 AND 18, 2021)

- 2/16 State Actors and Incentives
READ: Börzel, Tanja. 2002. "Pace-Setting, Foot-Dragging, and Fence-Sitting: Member State Responses to Europeanization." *Journal of Common Market Studies* 40: 193-214.
- 2/18 International Actors and Incentives
READ: Haas, Peter. 1992. "Banning Chlorofluorocarbons: Epistemic Community Efforts to Protect Stratospheric Ozone." *International Organization* 46: 187-224.

WEEK FOUR (FEBRUARY 23 AND 25, 2021)

- 2/23 International Environmental Law (IEL), Part I
READ: Slagter, Tracy H. "International Environmental Law." DRAFT. Forthcoming chapter in Slagter, Tracy and John D. Van Doorn, eds., *Slomanson's Fundamental Perspectives on International Law*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- 2/25 International Environmental Law (IEL), Part II
READ: Slagter, Tracy H. "International Environmental Law." DRAFT. Forthcoming chapter in Slagter, Tracy and John D. Van Doorn, eds., *Slomanson's Fundamental Perspectives on International Law*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

WEEK FIVE (MARCH 2 AND 4, 2021)

- 3/2 International Environmental Agreements: Do They Work?
READ: Mitchell, Ronald. 2010. "Evaluating the Effectiveness of International Environmental Institutions." Chapter 6 in *International Politics and the Environment*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 3/4 International Environmental Agreement Project
READ: Assignment Description (on Canvas by this date); peruse this site: <https://iea.uoregon.edu/> I will explain how to use this site and walk you through this assignment, which counts for substantial portion of your course grade.

WEEK SIX (MARCH 9 AND 11, 2021)

- 3/9 Cooperating on Climate Change
READ: Barrett, Scott. 2014. "Why Have Climate Change Negotiations Proved so Disappointing?" *Sustainable Humanity, Sustainable Nature: Our Responsibility*.
<http://www.pas.va/content/dam/accademia/pdf/es41/es41-barrett.pdf> AND Tingley and Tomz. 2014. "Conditional Cooperation on Climate Change." *Comparative Political Studies* 47: 344-368.
- 3/11 Breakthrough at Paris?
READ: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of Parties. 2015. Adoption of the Paris Agreement. (We will assign sections, as this document is long and complicated.)

WEEK SEVEN (MARCH 16 AND 18, 2021)

- 3/16 Bridging the North-South Divide
READ: Najam, Adil. 2005. "Developing Countries and Global Environmental Governance: From Contestation to Participation to Engagement." *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 5 (3): 303-321.

3/18 Shifting Our Focus?

READ: Colgan, Jeff, Jessica Green, and Thomas Hale. 2020. "Asset Revaluation and the Existential Politics of Climate Change." *International Organization* (first view; print version forthcoming): 1-25.

SPRING BREAK (March 21-28) | *Enjoy!*

WEEK EIGHT (MARCH 30 AND APRIL 1, 2021)

3/30 Damned If You Do...

READ: Keller, Ann Campbell. 2009. "Scientists and Legislation." Chapter 3 in *Science in Environmental Policy: The Politics of Objective Advice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

4/1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

READ: Beck, Silke and Martin Mahony. 2018. "The Politics of Anticipation: the IPCC and the Negative Emissions Technologies Experience." *Global Sustainability* 1(8): 1-8.

WEEK NINE (APRIL 6 AND 8, 2021)

4/6 Climate Science: Refuting the Skeptics

READ: Union of Concerned Scientists, "The Hidden Cost of Climate Change" at <https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/coal-and-other-fossil-fuels/hidden-cost-of-fossils> AND Mann, Michael and Tom Toles. 2016. "The Stages of Denial." Chapter 4 in *The Madhouse Effect*. New York: Columbia University Press.

4/8 Liberals, Conservatives, and Climate Change

READ: Gehlbach, Hunter, et al. 2019. "Leveraging Cognitive Consistency to Nudge Conservative Climate Change Beliefs." *Journal of Environmental Psychology* (forthcoming); AND Roberts, David. 2019. "The Green New Deal Explained." <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2018/12/21/18144138/green-new-deal-alexandria-ocasio-cortez>

WEEK TEN (APRIL 13 AND 15, 2021)

4/13 🦋 In-Class IEA Paper Workshop: bring drafts to class!

4/15 An Example

READ: Dauvergne, Peter. 2018. "Why is the Global Governance of Plastics Failing the Ocean?" *Global Environmental Change* 51:22-31.

WEEK ELEVEN (APRIL 20 AND 22, 2021)

4/20 The European Green Deal

READ: Ossewaarde, Marinus and Roshnee Ossewaarde-Lowtoo. 2020. "The EU's Green Deal: A Third Alternative to Green Growth and Degrowth?" *Sustainability* 12.

4/22 The First Step Toward Better Policy: Trust?

READ: Kulin, Joakim and Ingemar Johanssen Seva. 2021. "Who do you trust? How trust in partial and impartial government institutions influences climate policy attitudes." *Climate Policy* 21(1): 33-46.

WEEK TWELVE (APRIL 27 AND APRIL 29, 2021)

4/27 Environmental Policy Under Authoritarianism

READ: Goran, Coraline and Cyril Cassisa. 2017. "Regulatory Institutions and Market-Based Climate Policy in China." *Global Environmental Politics* 17(1): 99-120.

4/29 Environmental Policy Under Authoritarianism

READ: Wu, Fenshi and Ellie Martus. 2020. "Contested Environmentalism: the Politics of Waste in China and Russia." *Environmental Politics* (first view, forthcoming).

WEEK THIRTEEN (MAY 4 AND 6, 2021)

5/4 🦋 **Final meetings on IEA papers;** meet with partners if you have decided to work with someone. Drafts required.

5/6 The Future of Global Environmental Politics?

READ: Pattberg, Philipp and Oscar Widerberg. 2015. "Theorizing Global Environmental Governance: Key Findings and Future Questions." *Millennium* 43(2): 684-705.

WEEK FOURTEEN (MAY 11 AND 13, 2021)

5/11 📄 Papers **DUE** to Canvas by class time. No class, but I will be available if you want to chat!

5/13 **NO CLASS:** Enjoy the summer!