

## **Global Environmental Politics**

PLSC 354

TTh 1:00-2:15

Cuneo Hall 311

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This class examines the challenges, potential solutions, and significant actors relating to global environmental politics and problems. The problems are sometimes national or subnational problems occurring in various parts of the globe and sometimes problems which span national boundaries and require international solutions. During the first half of the course we will examine the nature of environmental problems and the political actors and institutions involved in global environmental politics. In the second half of the course we will examine in greater detail a number of global environmental issues, including climate change, globalization, energy, habitat destruction, and water systems.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge about the major international environmental issues facing the world today (including overfishing, tropical deforestation, whaling, climate change, ozone depletion, topsoil depletion, etc.).
- provide explanations of the international environmental policy processes, including the various governmental and non-governmental actors involved in the development of international environmental protocols, treaties and regimes
- understand how the various “driving factors” of international environmental politics and policy - including population change, economic development, changing attitudes and beliefs, political culture, and globalization - both shape the problems and affect possible solutions to these problems.
- access available public sources to conduct research on global environmental policies and concerns.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Lester Brown. 2011. *World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse*. Washington, DC: Earth Policy Institute. THIS BOOK CAN BE DOWNLOADED FOR FREE AT <http://www.earth-policy.org/books/wote>

Regina Axelrod and Stacy Van Deveer (eds.). 2015. *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy*, Fourth Edition. Los Angeles: CQ Press. [Referred to as Axelrod in the course schedule]

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Readings: Readings are matched to topics, and students are expected to complete reading assignments

before class. Assigned readings include text chapters, articles, and informational websites; URLs and/or instructions on how to find readings not in the assigned texts are at the end of the syllabus. Students are responsible for material from lectures, class discussions, on-line postings, and the assigned texts and websites.

Attendance: Students should attend class. Attendance records will be kept, and attendance will be one of the factors used to assign a grade if the final average is on the border between two grades.

Grading: There will be two exams (a midterm examination and a comprehensive final examination), two (brief) essay assignments, a web-based assignment (“In the News”), and a class collaborative research project. A study guide will be distributed before each exam. The course grade will be computed as follows:

- 2 brief written assignments, 35 points each
- “In the News,” 32 points
- course collaborative research project, 33 points
- midterm examination, 65 points
- final exam, 100 points

The final course grade will be based upon the total points earned in the exams and assignments, according to the following scale:

Course Grade	Total Points Earned
A	282-300
A-	270-281
B+	261-269
B	249-260
B-	240-248
C+	231-239
C	219-230
C-	210-218
D+	198-209
D	180-197
F	0-179

This corresponds to an *approximate* weighting as follows: 2 brief written assignments, 23% (12% each), “In the News,” 11%, course collaborative research project, 11%, midterm examination, 21% , final exam, 33%.

In the News: The class will be divided into 7 groups, with each group’s members responsible for monitoring the news for items related to their topic. Over the course of the semester, each student will need to post several items on the course Sakai site describing a news report related to the group topic and post comments on other students’ posts. Additional details on this are contained in a separate handout on “In the News,” posted on the course site.

Essays: Over the course of the semester, you will be responsible for 2 brief (approximately 3-5 page)

written/research assignments. Additional details will be provided during the semester and posted on the course site.

Course collaborative research project: Over the course of the semester, we will all work together to collect and post information on the course Sakai site on the three case studies: The Gates Foundation and Global Health, Recycling Electronics, and Whaling. Additional details are contained in a separate handout, posted on the course site.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Scheduled office hours are TTH from 10:15-11:15 and TH from 2:30-3:15. Other times can be arranged by making an appointment.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The Departmental Academic Integrity Policy Statement follows. If you have any questions, please check with the instructor.

### **Academic Integrity**

In writing course papers, students must document all passages, paraphrases, and ideas that are borrowed from any source. Direct quotations must be placed within quotation marks. Papers must represent research conducted for the course in which they are assigned and no other; it is not appropriate to submit a paper that has already been or will be submitted for another course. Finally, papers must be the product of the student's own work. Papers written by anyone other than the student, including those purchased from commercial services, are unacceptable.

Academic dishonesty on an examination or other assignments is inconsistent with Loyola's standards of academic integrity. This includes, in the words of the catalogue, "obtaining, distributing or communicating examination material prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the teacher; providing to, or obtaining information from, another student during the examination; or attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted."

The Loyola Undergraduate Studies catalogue states that "plagiarism on the part of a student in academic work or dishonest examination behavior will result minimally in the instructor assigning a grade of "F" for the assignment or examination. In addition, all instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the chairperson of the department." The department chair is required to forward such reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Additional rules concerning academic integrity and examples of acceptable and unacceptable conduct can be found in the current Undergraduate Studies catalogue.

The University's undergraduate Academic Integrity statement is found at [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml) .

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments in the following schedule.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings/Websites</u>
1/17	Course Introduction The International System	Axelrod, Ch. 1
1/19	Environmental Problems, Challenges, and Opportunities	Brown, Chs. 1 & 13
1/24	The State of the Global Environment: Alternative Views	Lomberg and Pope (Web) Vogel, et al. (Web)
1/26	The Special Character of <i>Global</i> Environmental Problems	Hardin (Web) Berger and Gochfeld (Web)
1/31	Environmental IGOs	Axelrod, Ch. 2 : 26-37 Bauer (Web) UNFCCC (Web)
2/2	NGOs and the Global Environment <b>First Essay Due in Class</b>	Axelrod, Ch. 2: 37-48
2/7	Overview of International Environmental Law	Axelrod, Ch. 3
2/9	Global Environmental Regimes	Axelrod, Chs. 4 & 5
2/14	Private Philanthropy versus Collective Action <i>Case Study: The Gates Foundation and Global Health</i>	TBD
2/16	North versus South in International Affairs	Axelrod, Ch. 9
2/21	The US as an Actor in Global Environmental Politics	Axelrod, Ch. 6

2/23 The EU as an Actor in Global Environmental Politics Axelrod, Ch. 7

2/28 Review

**3/2 (Thursday) Midterm Examination** (covers topics through EU)

**3/7 and 3/9 Spring Break – No Classes all week**

3/14 Emerging Global Actors: China Axelrod, Ch. 8

3/16 Globalization Four pages at Globalization101

3/21 Trade Policy versus Environmental Concerns Axelrod, Ch. 14

3/23 Climate Change Axelrod, Ch. 10  
IPCC (Web)

3/28 Energy and the Global Environment Axelrod, Ch. 13

3/30 Hazardous Chemicals and Toxic Waste  
*Case Study: Recycling Electronics* Axelrod, Ch. 11

4/4 Water: Availability of Clean Water Behr (Web)  
Gleick (Web)

4/6 Oceans and Fisheries Weeks (Web)

4/11 Biodiversity and Habitat Protection Axelrod, Ch. 12  
Karaim 2012 (Web)  
*Case Study: Whaling*

4/13	Wetlands	TBD
4/18	Topsoil Erosion and Agriculture	Brown, Ch. 3 Fisher (Web)
4/20	Race for the Arctic <b>Second Essay Due in Class</b>	Karaim 2016 (Web)
4/25	Sustainability	Axelrod, Ch. 15
4/27	The Future of the Global Environment	TBD

**Final Examination – Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm**

URLs of Web Readings and Websites of interest

Bjorn Lomborg and Carl Pope. 2005. “The State of Nature.” *Foreign Policy* 149 (July-August): 66-73. Available in JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30048043>

Jason M. Vogel, Karen M. Carney, and Joel B. Smith. 2009. “Cool it with Cold, Hard Facts: A Review of Bjorn Lomborg’s Book: *Cool it.*” *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change* 14: 1-5. Available at <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=0&did=1895890661&SrchMode=1&sid=1&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1314387131&clientId=31822>

Garrett Hardin, “Tragedy of the Commons” At: <http://dieoff.org/page95.htm>

Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld, “The Tragedy of the Commons 30 Years Later”, *Environment* Dec ‘98, Vol. 40 Issue 10, p4. Available on Sakai or through Library.

Steffen Bauer. 2006. Does Bureaucracy Really Matter? The Authority of Intergovernmental Treaty Secretariats in Global Environmental Politics. *Global Environmental Politics* 6(1), 23–49. Available through the library through Academic Search Premier.

UNFCCC - read the entries under PROCESS on the UNFCCC website: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Four pages at Globalization101: “What is Globalization?” at <http://www.globalization101.org/what-is-globalization/> ; “Introduction”, Globalization and the Environment”, and “Are International Trade

and Protection of the Environment Enemies?” found in order at <http://www.globalization101.org/category/issues-in-depth/environment/>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers*. Found at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>

Peter Behr. 2008. “Looming Water Crisis.” *CQ Researcher* 2 (February). This is available free through the LUC Libraries, which has an on-line subscription to *CQ Researcher*.

Peter H. Gleick. 1993. “Water and Conflict: Fresh Water Resources and International Security.” *International Security* 18 (Summer): 79-112. Available through JSTOR.

Jennifer Weeks. 2014. “Protecting the Oceans.” *CQ Researcher* 24 (October 17). This is available free through the LUC Libraries, which has an on-line subscription to *CQ Researcher*.

Reed Karaim. 2012. “Vanishing Biodiversity.” *CQ Researcher* 6 (November 6). This is available free through the LUC Libraries, which has an on-line subscription to *CQ Researcher*.

Jon Fisher. 2014. “Global Agriculture Trends: Are We Actually Using Less Land?” posted on Cool Green Science site, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at <http://blog.nature.org/science/2014/06/18/global-agriculture-land-sustainability-deforestation-foodsecurity/>

Reed Karaim. 2016. “Arctic Development.” *CQ Researcher* 26 (December 2). This is available free through the LUC Libraries, which has an on-line subscription to *CQ Researcher*.