

COURSE OUTLINE

GGOV620 Global Environmental Governance

Winter semester, 2017

Tuesdays 11:30–2:20 in BSIA Room 2-33.

Professor Thomas Homer-Dixon

Office: BSIA312

Office hours: Tuesdays, 3-5 pm, by appointment

Email: tad@homerdixon.com

Course description

This course examines how global governance, which includes international environmental organizations and institutions, addresses global environmental challenges. It investigates theories and concepts that can be used to analyze the relative strengths and weaknesses of existing governance structures and to suggest alternative governance forms that might advance sustainability. It examines specific actors and the management of selected global environmental challenges.

Requirements and assessment

Each students will lead a discussion of the readings on two occasions during the seminar (10%); actively attend all classes and participate in the seminar discussions (20%); prepare a paper proposal, with annotated bibliography, for their major paper (31 January deadline) (10%); make a presentation (21, 28 March, or 4 April) of a draft of their major paper (20%) and prepare that paper (11 April deadline, *maximum 5,000 words*) on a theme related to global environmental governance (40%).

Course Schedule

3 January: Global Challenges – The Scope of the Problem

Steffen, Will et al. Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet. *Science* 347(6223): 2015. 10.1126/science.1259855.

Levin, Kelly, Benjamin Cashore, Steven Bernstein, and Graeme Auld. 2012.

Overcoming the Tragedy of Super Wicked Problems: Constraining our Future Selves to Ameliorate Global Climate Change. *Policy Sciences* 45(2): 123-152.

Beddoe, Rachel, et al. 2009. Overcoming Systemic Roadblocks to Sustainability: Revolutionary Redesign of Worldviews, Institutions, and Technologies. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106(8): 2483-2489.

Sullivan, Sian. 2014. The Natural Capital Myth; or Will Accounting Save the World? Preliminary Thoughts on Nature, Finance, and Values. Manchester: Leverhulme Centre for the Study of Value, Working Paper Series No. 3.

Turner, Graham. 2014. Is Global Collapse Imminent? MSSSI Research Paper No. 4, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, The University of Melbourne.

http://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/sites/default/files/docs/MSSSI-ResearchPaper-4_Turner_2014.pdf

10 January: Complexity, Causes, Systems

Meadows, Donella. 1999. Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System.

Sustainability Institute Report.

<http://www.donellameadows.org/archives/leverage-points-places-to-intervene-in-a-system/>

Holling, C.S. 2001. Understanding the Complexity of Economic, Ecological, and Social Systems. *Ecosystems* 4(5): 390-405.

Westley, Frances, et al. 2011. Tipping Toward Sustainability: Emerging Pathways of Transformation. *Ambio* 40(7): 762-780.

Thomas Homer-Dixon et al 2015 Synchronous failure: the emerging causal architecture of global crisis *Ecology and Society* 20(3): 6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-07681-200306>

17 January: International Law (guest presenter Neil Craik)

Ruhl, J.B. and James Salzman. 2010. Climate Change, Dead Zones, and Massive Problems in the Administrative State: A Guide for Whittling Away. *California Law Review* 98(1): [excerpt] 73-91.

* Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

Brunnee, Jutta. 1993. Beyond Rio? The Evolution of International Environmental Law. *Alternatives* 20(1): 16-23.

* Case Study: Boundary Waters Treaty and Devils Lake Diversion

Bodansky, Dan. 1999. The Legitimacy of International Governance: A Coming Challenge for International Law. *American Journal of International Law* 93(3): 596-624.

24 January: Political Economy, Inequality and Justice

Adil Najam. 2005. Developing Countries and Global Environmental Governance: From Contestation to Participation to Engagement. *International Environmental Agreements* 5(3): 303-321.

Newell, Peter. 2008. The Political Economy of Global Environmental Governance. *Review of International Studies* 34(3): 507-529.

Dauvergne, Peter and Jane Lister. 2012. Big Brand Sustainability: Governance Prospects and Environmental Limits. *Global Environmental Change* 22(1): 36-45.

Hochstetler, Kathryn. 2012. Climate Rights and Obligations for Emerging States: The Cases of Brazil and South Africa. *Social Research* 79(4): 957-982.

Ciplet, David. 2014. Contesting Climate Injustice: Transnational Advocacy Network Struggles for Rights in UN Climate Politics. *Global Environmental Politics* 14(4): 75-96.

31 January: History, Institutions, Actors

Pierson, Paul. 2000. Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics. *American Political Science Review* 94(2): 251-267.

Seyfang, Gill. 2003. Environmental Mega-Conferences: From Stockholm to Johannesburg and Beyond. *Global Environmental Change* 13(3): 223-228.

Mitchell, Ron. 2006. Problem Structure, Institutional Design, and the Relative Effectiveness of International Environmental Agreements. *Global Environmental Politics* 6(3): 72-89.

Ivanova, Maria. 2012. Institutional Design and UNEP Reform: Historical Insights on Form, Function, and Financing. *International Affairs* 88(3): 565-584.

Raustiala, Kal and David Victor. 2004. The Regime Complex for Plant Genetic Resources. *International Organization* 58(2): 277-309.

7 February: Commons Problems/Economic Dynamics

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162(3859): 1243-1248.

Susan Jane Buck Cox 1985. No Tragedy of the Commons. *Environmental Ethics* 7: 49-61.

Fullerton, Don and Robert Stavins. 1998. How Economists See the Environment. *Nature* 395: 433-434.

Stern, Nicholas. 2006. What is the Economics of Climate Change? *World Economics* 7(2): 1-10.

Arrow, Kenneth, et al. 2014. Should Governments Use a Declining Discount Rate in Project Analysis? *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 8(2): 145-163.

28 February: Accountability in Global Environmental Governance

Cashore, Ben. 2002. Legitimacy and the Privatization of Environmental Governance: How Non-State Market-Driven Governance Systems Gain Rule-Making Authority. *Governance* 15(4): 503-529.

Barnett, Jon, Simon Lambert, and Ian Fry. 2008. The Hazards of Indicators: Insights from the Environmental Vulnerability Index. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 98(1): 102-119.

Boström, Magnus and Kristina Tamm Hallström. 2010. NGO Power in Global Social and Environmental Standard-Setting. *Global Environmental Politics* 10(4): 36-69.

Park, Susan 2015. Assessing Accountability in Practice: The Asian Development Bank's Accountability Mechanism. *Global Policy* 6(4): 455-465.

7 March: Environmental Issues and International Trade

Eckersley, Robin. 2004. The Big Chill: The WTO and Multilateral Environmental Agreements. *Global Environmental Politics* 4(2): 24-50.

Baldwin, Robert. 2008. Regulation Lite: The Rise of Emissions Trading. *Regulation & Governance* 2: 193-215.

Lewis, Joanna I. 2014. The Rise of Renewable Energy Protectionism: Emerging Trade Conflicts and Implications for Low Carbon Development. *Global Environmental Politics* 14(4): 10-35.

Richard Schmalensee and Robert Stavins 2015. *Lessons Learned from Three Decades of Experience of Cap and Trade* Harvard Faculty Working Paper 15-069.

14 March: Prospects for Global Governance

Barnosky, Anthony D., et al. 2014. Introducing the *Scientific Consensus on Maintaining Humanity's Life Support Systems in the 21st Century: Information for Policy Makers*. *The Anthropocene Review* 1(1): 78-109.

Galaz, Victor, et al. 2014. *Connected Risks, Connected Solutions?* Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, and the Global Changes Foundation, Stockholm.

Online at <http://www.stockholmresilience.org/21/research/research-news/12-1-2014-connected-risks-connected-solutions.html>.

* Ogden, Laura, et al. 2013. Global Assemblages, Resilience, and Stewardship in the Anthropocene. *Frontiers in Ecological Economics* 11(7): 341-347.

Szerszynski, Bronislaw, et al. 2013. Why Solar Radiation Management Geoengineering and Democracy Won't Mix. *Environment and Planning A* 45(12): 2809-2816.

21 March Student Presentations

28 March Student Presentations

4 April Student Presentations

Possible additional readings:

(Background on carbon trading: Ward, Murray and Sean Weaver. 2008. *Leader's Guide: International Emissions Trading and Carbon Markets*.)

Keohane, R.O. (2015) 'The Global Politics of Climate Change: Challenge for Political Science' *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 48(1). 19-26.

William Nordhaus Climate Clubs: Overcoming Free-riding in International Climate Policy *American Economic Review* 2015, 105(4): 1339–1370

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1257/aer.15000001>

Van Alstine, James. 2014. Transparency in Resource Governance: The Pitfalls and Potential of "New Oil" in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Global Environmental Politics* 14(1): 20-39.

The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate. 2014. *The New Climate Economy*. Online at <http://newclimateeconomy.report>.

COURSE EVALUATION DETAILS

Participation: This is an important component of this course: the seminar will only work as a venue to explore the difficult issues raised by contemporary literature on climate change if there is sustained dialogue among *all* students. Hence students will be expected to read all the readings each week and come to class meetings prepared to discuss them.

Proposal: The proposal (due 31 January) will be a brief text, approximately 500 words, outlining the proposed paper theme; it should also include a brief annotated bibliography of 8–10 key sources (a few sentences for each annotation).

Seminar presentations (21, 28 March, 4 April): A single page outline of the presentation should be circulated in the seminar prior to the presentation. Presentations must be focused and to the point; they ought to be no longer than **twenty** minutes long, to allow plenty of time for discussion.

Papers: Papers will draw on the scholarly analysis of global environmental governance, be fully footnoted or referenced to the appropriate sources for academic writing. Papers must be original, in that they will be written specifically for this course. They should be clearly organized and should coherently articulate a single argument. They should be no longer than 5,000 words (excluding references, illustrations or notes), correctly and completely referenced, using any one of the standard academic reference or footnoting styles. Each of these factors will be taken into account when evaluating the paper. **Deadline: noon EDT, 11 April, by email to the instructor. (Late paper submissions will be deducted 5% per day, weekends included.)**

Academic and Research Misconduct *You are reminded that the University will levy sanctions on students who are found to have committed, or have attempted to commit, acts of academic or research misconduct. You are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing such offenses, and to take responsibility for your academic actions. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalty, please consult the relevant section of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar. If you need clarification of aspects of University policy on Academic and Research Misconduct, please consult your instructor. Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.*

Accessible Learning *Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier's Accessible Learning Office for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Graduate Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.*