

PO8028: Global Environmental Politics

Hillary Term 2020-21
Tuesday 12:00-14:00

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1 Module Description

International cooperation is often vital for the avoidance of severe environmental risks such as anthropogenic global warming. The tragedy, as we will cover in this module, is that international environmental cooperation has oftentimes (although not always) proven exceptionally difficult to realize. This graduate seminar offers a review of analytical concepts and thematic topics concerning global environmental politics and policy. In the first week, we will cover central theories relevant to international cooperation on mitigation of global environmental threats. Next, we will shift focus to the prospects, challenges and effectiveness of international environmental institutions and regimes. The remainder of the module will cover a selection of salient themes in contemporary global environmental politics research: the impact of non-state actors on international environmental cooperation, the politics and policy of global warming, and the nexus between the environment, globalization, and security.

2 Module Requirements and Policies

2.1 Participation (20%)

Student participation in class discussion and debate on the readings is a central element of the seminar. Students are expected to have read all required readings and to have acquired detailed knowledge and developed informed critiques of the readings prior to the class meeting. The objective of class discussion will be to critically assess the readings and offer insights on what direction new research could and should proceed in the field. Students will be evaluated on the quality of their input in class discussion and debate. Those who are deemed to be falling behind in class participation may be asked to submit additional response papers.

Some questions to keep in mind while reading: What are the central theories discussed in the study? Are the assumptions of the theory consistent or do they contradict each other? If the study seeks to test a theory with evidence, what are the findings? How would you rate the quality of the test, e.g. do the data adequately measure the theoretical concepts; is the design strong enough to adequately test the theory? Are there cases that the author has overlooked? How would you go about re-designing the test to overcome any limitations? Can the study be extended to cover other issue areas; if so, which ones?

2.2 Response Papers (30%)

Students will be required to submit two (2) response papers over the duration of the module. Response papers are not mere descriptions or summaries of the readings, but rather offer original insight and commentary on the weeks readings. An example of an effective response paper is one where the author offers a critical evaluation of the research design of a set of readings and provides suggestions for overcoming limitations

and extending the research. Response papers must engage with the required readings from the week, but may also include the suggested readings as well. Submitted response papers may be circulated in class to add to the discussion.

The required length of the response papers is between 600-900 words, double-spaced pages. The deadline for submission on Blackboard is by **5pm the day before class**. Late submissions will not be accepted. To ensure engagement over the entire module, you will not be permitted to submit two response papers in the final two weeks.

2.3 Critical Literature Review (50%)

Students will be required to submit an extended literature review on research relevant to a theme covered in the module. The objective of the critical literature review is not to simply summarize existing research. Rather, the purpose of the paper is to evaluate the student's ability to effectively review, synthesize and critically evaluate published research dealing with a specific aspect of global environmental politics and policy. Students should provide an original, thorough and coherent discussion on the goals of the studies being covered, as well as a critical evaluation of the effectiveness of their respective approaches, analyses, and evidence. Effective papers will offer an informed discussion on which direction research should move given existing knowledge and limitations in the field.

Excellent examples of effective literature review essays can be found within the *Annual Review of Political Science* <http://www.annualreviews.org/journal/polisci>.

The required length of the critical literature review is approximately 3,000 words, double spaced pages. The deadline for submission on Blackboard is **5PM on Friday March 19th, 2021**. Five (5) points will be deducted for every day that a paper is late.

2.4 Written Work Submission Guidelines

2.5 Academic & Professional Ethics

Please do not plagiarize. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter, with serious consequences that can result in receiving no credit for an assignment, a failing grade for the module, and even expulsion from the programme. It is never permissible to turn in any work that contains others' ideas without proper acknowledgment. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the College Calendar (see H18 paragraphs 76-79). If you are paraphrasing, cite the source. If you are quoting, use quotation marks and appropriate citation. Remember that academic integrity is a reflection of one's character. Lastly, students are required to only submit "new work" in each module, which means work that has not been submitted previously in any other university module. Students who wish to use previously submitted work as part of a new project will need the approval of the lecturer.

2.6 Syllabus Modification Rights

I reserve the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time. More often than not this will mean adjusting the reading list to keep pace with the course schedule, although I may add reading assignments as well.

3 Readings

This class does not have a textbook. Readings consist of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and articles from journals intended for wider audiences. All readings are available through Trinity College Library.

4 Course Outline

Week 1	Introduction & Theoretical Foundations	p. 3
Week 2	Environmental Institutions & Regimes	p. 4
Week 3	Global Climate Politics & Policy	p. 5
Week 4	Non-State Actors & Global Env. Politics & Policy	p. 6
Week 5	Environment, Trade & Security	p. 7
19/3/21	<i>Critical literature review due, 5 PM</i>	

5 Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction & Theoretical Foundations

Required:

1. Hardin, G. (1968). The tragedy of the commons. *Science*, 162(3859), 1243-1248.
2. Burger, J., & Gochfeld, M. (1998). The tragedy of the commons 30 years later. *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, 40(10), 4-13.
3. Ostrom, E., Burger, J., Field, C. B., Norgaard, R. B., & Policansky, D. (1999). Revisiting the commons: local lessons, global challenges. *Science*, 284(5412), 278-282.
4. Sandler, T. (2004). *Global collective action*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. cc. 1-3
5. Steffen, W., Grinevald, J., Crutzen, P., & McNeill, J. (2011). "The Anthropocene: conceptual and historical perspectives." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences*, 369(1938), 842-867.
6. Video: NASA (17 November 2014) *NASA Computer Model Provides a New Portrait of Carbon Dioxide* http://www.nasa.gov/press/goddard/2014/november/nasa-computer-model-provides-a-new-portrait-of-carbon-dioxide/#.VHcew3V_uUk

Week 2. Environmental Institutions & Regimes

Required:

1. Downie, D. L. (2005). Global environmental policy: governance through regimes. *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy*, 70-91.
2. Mitchell, R. B. (1994). Regime design matters: intentional oil pollution and treaty compliance. *International Organization*, 48(3), 425-458.
3. Helm, C., & Sprinz, D. (2000). Measuring the effectiveness of international environmental regimes. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 44(5), 630-652.
4. Breitmeier, H., Underdal, A., & Young, O. R. (2011). The effectiveness of international environmental regimes: Comparing and contrasting findings from quantitative research. *International Studies Review*, 13(4), 579-605.
5. Lieberman, S., Gray, T., & Groom, A. J. R. (2012). Moratoria in International Politics: A Comparative Analysis of the Moratoria on Genetically Modified Products and Commercial Whaling. *The British Journal of Politics & International Relations*, 14(4), 518-533.

Recommended:

- Young, O. R. (1994). *International governance: Protecting the environment in a stateless society*. Cornell University Press.
- Mitchell, R. B., & Keilbach, P. M. (2001). Situation structure and institutional design: Reciprocity, coercion, and exchange. *International Organization*, 55(04), 891-917.
- Bernauer, T. (1995). The effect of international environmental institutions: how we might learn more. *International Organization*, 49(02), 351-377.
- Downs, G. W., Roche, D. M., & Barsoom, P. N. (1996). "Is the good news about compliance good news about cooperation?." *International Organization*, 50(03), 379-406.
- Von Stein, J. (2005). "Do treaties constrain or screen? Selection bias and treaty compliance." *American Political Science Review*, 99(4), 611-622.

Week 3. Global Climate Politics & Policy

Required:

1. Stocker, T. F., Qin, D., Plattner, G. K., Tignor, M., Allen, S. K., Boschung, J., ... & Midgley, P. M. (2013). *Climate change 2013: The physical science basis. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group I Contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5)* New York: Cambridge Univ Press.
2. Matthews, H. D., Graham, T. L., Keeverian, S., Lamontagne, C., Seto, D., & Smith, T. J. (2014). National contributions to observed global warming. *Environmental Research Letters*, 9(1), 1-9.
3. Betsill, M. M. (2005). International climate change policy: Toward the multilevel governance of global warming. *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy*, 111-131.
4. Michaelowa, K., & Michaelowa, A. (2012). Negotiating climate change. *Climate policy*, 12(5), 527-533.
5. McCright, A. M., & Dunlap, R. E. (2003). Defeating Kyoto: The conservative movement's impact on US climate change policy. *Social Problems*, 50(3), 348-373.
6. Von Stein, J. (2008). The International Law and Politics of Climate Change Ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 52(2), 243-268.
7. Virgoe, J. (2009). International governance of a possible geoengineering intervention to combat climate change. *Climatic Change*, 95(1-2), 103-119.

Recommended:

- Weart, S. R. (2008). *The discovery of global warming: revised and expanded edition*. Harvard University Press.
- Keohane, R. O., & Victor, D. G. (2011). "The regime complex for climate change." *Perspectives on politics*, 9(1), 7-23.
- Rogelj, J., Nabel, J., Chen, C., Hare, W., Markmann, K., Meinshausen, M., ... & Höhne, N. (2010). Copenhagen Accord pledges are paltry. *Nature*, 464(7292), 1126-1128.
- Victor, D. G. (2011). *Global warming gridlock: creating more effective strategies for protecting the planet*. Cambridge University Press. cc. 2-4.
- Hovi, J., Sprinz, D. F., & Underdal, A. (2009). "Implementing long-term climate policy: Time inconsistency, domestic politics, international anarchy." *Global Environmental Politics*, 9(3), 20-39.
- Thompson, A. (2006). Management under anarchy: the international politics of climate change. *Climatic Change*, 78(1), 7-29.
- Hovi, J., Greaker, M., Hagem, C., & Holtmark, B. (2012). A credible compliance enforcement system for the climate regime. *Climate Policy*, 12(6), 741-754.
- Bernauer, T., & Koubi, V. (2009). Effects of political institutions on air quality. *Ecological economics*, 68(5), 1355-1365.
- Boussalis, C., & Coan, T. G. (2016). Text-mining the signals of climate change doubt. *Global Environmental Change*, 36, 89-100.

Week 4. Non-State Actors & Global Environmental Politics & Policy

Required:

1. McCormick, J. (2005). The Role of Environmental NGOs in International Regimes. *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy*, 92-110.
2. Wapner, P. (1995). Politics beyond the state environmental activism and world civic politics. *World Politics*, 47(03), 311-340.
3. Betsill, M. M., & Corell, E. (2001). NGO influence in international environmental negotiations: a framework for analysis. *Global Environmental Politics*, 1(4), 65-85.
4. Angel, D. P., Hamilton, T., & Huber, M. T. (2007). Global environmental standards for industry. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 32(1), 295-316.
5. Andonova, L. B. (2014). Boomerangs to partnerships? Explaining state participation in transnational partnerships for sustainability. *Comparative Political Studies*, 47(3), 481-515.

Recommended:

- Keck, M. E., & Sikkink, K. (1998). *Activists beyond borders: Advocacy networks in international politics* (Vol. 35). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. cc. 1 & -4.
- Bernauer, T., & Betzold, C. (2012). Civil society in global environmental governance. *The Journal of Environment & Development*, 21(1), 62-66.
- Böhmelt, T., Koubi, V., & Bernauer, T. (2014). Civil society participation in global governance: Insights from climate politics. *European Journal of Political Research*, 53(1), 18-36.
- Auld, G., Bernstein, S., & Cashore, B. (2008). The new corporate social responsibility. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 33, 413-435.
- Raustiala, K. (1997). States, NGOs, and international environmental institutions. *International Studies Quarterly*, 41(4), 719-740.
- Dryzek, J. S., & Stevenson, H. (2011). Global democracy and earth system governance. *Ecological Economics*, 70(11), 1865-1874.

Week 5. Environment, Trade & Security

Required:

1. Gallagher, K. P. (2009). Economic globalization and the environment. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 34, 279-304.
2. Prakash, A., & Potoski, M. (2006). Racing to the bottom? Trade, environmental governance, and ISO 14001. *American Journal of Political Science*, 50(2), 350-364.
3. Homer-Dixon, T. F. (1999). *Environment, scarcity, and violence*. Princeton University Press. pp. 12-27, 47-72, 133-168.
4. Bernauer, T., & Siegfried, T. (2012). Climate change and international water conflict in Central Asia. *Journal of Peace Research*, 49(1), 227-239
5. Deudney, D. (1991). Environment and Security: Muddled Thinking. *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 47(3), 22-28.
6. Gleditsch, N. P. (1998). Armed conflict and the environment: A critique of the literature. *Journal of peace research*, 35(3), 381-400.

Recommended:

- Vogel, D. (2009). *Trading up: Consumer and environmental regulation in a global economy*. Harvard University Press.
- Copeland, B. R., & Taylor, M. S. (2003). *Trade and the environment: Theory and evidence*. Princeton University Press.
- Antweiler, W., Copeland, B. R., & Taylor, M. S. (2001). Is Free Trade Good for the Environment? *American Economic Review*, 877-908.
- Frankel, J. A., & Rose, A. K. (2005). Is trade good or bad for the environment? Sorting out the causality. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 87(1), 85-91.
- Neumayer, E. (2002). Does trade openness promote multilateral environmental cooperation? *The World Economy*, 25(6), 815-832.
- DeSombre, E. R., & Barkin, J. S. (2002). Turtles and trade: the WTO's acceptance of environmental trade restrictions. *Global Environmental Politics*, 2(1), 12-18.
- Mathews, J. T. (1989). Redefining security. *Foreign affairs*, 162-177.
- Detraz, N., & Betsill, M. M. (2009). Climate change and environmental security: for whom the discourse shifts. *International Studies Perspectives*, 10(3), 303-320.
- Bernauer, T., Böhmelt, T., & Koubi, V. (2012). Environmental changes and violent conflict. *Environmental Research Letters*, 7(1), 015601.
- Koubi, V., Bernauer, T., Kalbhenn, A., & Spilker, G. (2012). Climate variability, economic growth, and civil conflict. *Journal of Peace Research*, 49(1), 113-127.