

International Environmental Relations (INR 4350)

University of Florida – Fall 2019

Class Meetings: MWF, 8:30-9:20am
Instructor: Saskia van Wees
Office Hours: MW 9:30-10:45am – Anderson 321

Classroom: AND 0134
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Course Description

This course considers the special problems posed by environmental collective action for international policymakers; some of the primary actors and organizations involved in addressing environmental problems; and selected international environmental issues, such as climate change, ozone depletion, and migration.

Textbooks

Conka, Ken and Geoffrey D. Dabelko, eds. 2015. *Green Planet Blues: Critical Perspectives on Global Environmental Politics*. 5th edition. Routledge. ISBN: 9780813349527.

Chasek, Pamela S., David L. Downie, and Janet Welsh Brown. 2017. *Global Environmental Politics: Dilemmas in World Politics*. 7th edition. Routledge. ISBN: 9780813349794.

Responsibilities and Grading (in four parts):

- 1) **Attendance and participation.** Students are required to be in class for each of our meetings and prepared to discuss the material. Participation – in the form of questions, responses, thoughts – is *very* important if we are to have an interesting and enlightening class experience. Students will be permitted to miss a maximum of **two** class periods without penalty. Each subsequent absence will result in a loss of points from the attendance grade. Please come talk to me if you're having an ongoing problem that prevents you from attending class so we can work together to ensure this doesn't negatively impact your grade. Finally, please be on time; it is distracting to the professor and your fellow students when people are walking in at different times.
- 2) **Weekly chapter summaries.** Students will be required to submit three discussion questions regarding the course material for the week ahead. The discussion questions are due to me via email on Sundays at 7pm, though you are welcome to submit your questions earlier. No late submissions will be accepted. I encourage you to outline the chapters/articles as you read, highlighting any confusing areas you would like to have clarified in class. Such outlining encourages active-reading and helps students retain important information. These will also be your study guides for the midterm and final. Moreover, the **MOST** important part of writing is organization—and this is done with excellent outlines.
- 3) **5-7 page (double-spaced in Times New Roman) term paper.** Students will select a topic of interest for their term research paper, which they will work on throughout the

course. Potential topics include population and migration issues resulting from environmental degradation, biodiversity issues in France, a case study regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), what the US' rejection of the Paris Accord means for international environmental politics, etc. I am allowing a wide array of topics for the term paper since I would like students to pursue their own interests, but topics must be approved by me first. All term papers should begin by asking a question relevant for the study of international environmental politics. For example, "why did the US reject the Kyoto Protocol?" Then the paper should offer a range of two (or more) potential answers (hypotheses) to answer this question. The paper should also explain what we would expect to see if each competing hypothesis were true. Students should be sure to define key terms involved in evaluating competing hypotheses (for example, what are "relative gains" concerns or what is "economic rationality," etc.). Students will choose a research model (statistical design, or, more likely for this course, a case study or two). And then after carrying out their research, students will evaluate their findings and see which hypothesis best explains the empirical (observed) data the student has gathered on the case or cases in question.

The term paper will be completed in six parts:

- 1) **One-page description of term paper.** First, students will come up with a general research question as well as a case (or cases) that will be researched to answer the question. This should be one page, double-spaced. Due date: Sep 6
 - 2) **Annotated Bibliography.** Second, students will submit an annotated bibliography on Sep 27 consisting of at least five academic sources (peer-reviewed journal articles, news articles, and library books are acceptable, and you can also use the reader for of your sources if you explain which pages you will use and why). *Note: An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (~150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph (known as the annotation), which explains why this source is important for your research.*
 - 3) **Outline.** Third, students will submit an outline of their final paper. The outline should follow the format of the weekly chapter outlines, and should include an introduction with the research question, description of your case(s), & potential answers; a section on the competing answers (hypotheses); details of your case(s); an analysis of how they hypotheses are (or are not) reflected in the case(s); and finally a conclusion and evaluation of results. Due Oct 11.
 - 4) **Rough Draft.** A rough draft of the final paper is due on November 4. It should be 5-7 pages, double-spaced.
 - 5) **Presentation.** Students will give a 5-minute presentation of their research question and findings during the last two (full) weeks of class.
 - 6) **Final paper.** The final paper (again, 5-7 pages, double-spaced) is due on Wednesday, December 4.
- 4) **Group debates.** Having gone to college, I can recall the dread of group projects. Having worked in private industry, however, I also know that most of you will spend a significant percentage of your careers working on "group projects." Thus, since the stakes are probably lower in college than they will be in you your future careers, I want to

help you practice collaborating with peers to produce a final product. In this course, students will be divided into groups and assigned to one side of contentious debate regarding environmental politics. The course readings will be sufficient to inform your group's argument, though each group will have to meet before their in-class debate is scheduled to 1) compile an issue brief (1-2 pages outlining your group's position/argument) and 2) select a speaker/speakers and prepare the debate talking points. Each group will be allotted 10 minutes to make their arguments before a Q&A time period during which students—as well as the opposing group—make their arguments.

- 5) **Final Exam.** The final exam will cover the entirety of the course content. It will be held on December 12, from 12:30-2:30pm. Location TBA.

Assignment	Value
Attendance/participation	5%
Weekly Questions	10%
One-page description of term paper	5%
Outline	5%
Rough Draft, comments to partner	10%
Group Debates	10%
Project Presentation	5%
Final paper	30%
Final exam	20%

Grading Scale

A	90% to 100%
B+	87% to 89.9%
B	80% to 86.9%
C+	77% to 79.9%
C	70% to 76.9%
D+	67% to 69.9%
D	60% to 66.9%
F	0% to 59.9%

Due Dates

The dates for assignments and exams are final, unless modified by the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty

Any evidence of cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, and an academic dishonesty case report will be filed with the University of Florida administration. All work will be checked online for evidence of plagiarism, so be sure to cite your sources. When in doubt, CITE. Unintentional or intentional plagiarism is still plagiarism. For further information, refer to the UF student honor code and code of conduct: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Students with Disabilities (Americans with Disabilities Act ADA)

In compliance with the University of Florida policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Request for academic accommodations need to be made during the first week of the semester (except for unusual circumstances) so arrangements can be made. You must be registered with the Disabilities Resource Center is (DRC) disability verification and determination of reasonable academic accommodations. More info here:

<https://disability.ufl.edu>.

Counseling

College can be a very difficult time of transition, and difficulties can arise at any time in life. Help is available. The [Counseling and Wellness Center \(CWC\)](#) offers group, individual, and immediate emergency crisis counseling for UF students in need of help. Psychiatric services can be arranged through the CWC and [Student Health Center](#), as well. If you need immediate help, please call the CWC (24hours/day): 352-392-1575 or the Alachua Crisis Services (24 hours/day): 352-264-6789.

Course Schedule

This is a tentative course schedule. We may fall behind at points—or get further ahead at others—so dates for readings are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. Also, additional readings may occasionally be assigned, but students will be notified by the instructor via email ahead of time. Readings are listed under the date that they will be discussed in class and should be done before class meetings. All assignments should be completed before the class meeting.

WEEK1 (Aug 21-23): INTRO & GUIDING CONCEPTS FOR GLOBAL ENV. POLITICS

- Wednesday, Aug 21: Introduction to the Course
- Friday, Aug 23: Guiding Concepts
 - Calculate your carbon footprint: <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

WEEK 2 (Aug 26-30): GUIDING CONCEPTS & DIY RESEARCH

- Monday, Aug 26: Guiding Concepts contd.
 - GEP: Ch 1 - pgs -4, bottom of pgs 12 (An Intro to GEP) -23, pgs 30-49
- No class Wednesday, Aug 28 or Friday, Aug 30 (Saskia is out of town at the [American Political Science Association](#) conference) – work from the pool!
 - Unfortunately, no class also = more reading/home work. You are to use this time off to get started on your term papers. A one-page description of your research proposal will be due on Wednesday, Sept. 4. You will likely to have to look through the book and read ahead a little bit to figure out what topics spark your interest.

WEEK 3 (Sep 4-6): GUIDING CONCEPTS

- No Class on Monday, Sept 2 (Labor Day)
- Wednesday Sep. 4: Guiding Concepts
 - GPB: Ch 1 – “The Limits to Growth” by Meadows et al

- Julian Simon's "[A Reply to my Critics](#)"
 - Ch 1 - "Confronting Consumption" by Princen et al
- Friday, Sep 6: Guiding Concepts
 - One page description of case of interest (for final paper) due Sep 6
 - [The Tragedy of the Commons](#) (1968) by Garret Hardin
 - GPB: Ch 5 – "Beyond the Tragedy of the Commons" by Basurto and Ostrom
 - Bartlett, Rv. 1986. "Ecological Rationality: Reason and Environmental Policy." *Environmental Ethics* 8: 221-239.

WEEK 4 (Sep 9-13): ACTORS & FRAMING IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

- Monday Sep 9: Actors and Framing in Global Environmental Politics
 - GEP: Ch 2 – pgs 59-75, 89-99
 - Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics." *International Social Science Journal* 51(159): 89-101.
- Wednesday, Sep 11: Actors and Framing in Global Environmental Politics
 - Monteiro, S.A. Marko, Sonia Regina, and Simone Aparecida Vieira. 2014. "The Politics of Amazonian Deforestation: Environmental Policy and Climate Change Knowledge." *WIREs Clim Change* 5: 689-701.
- Friday, Sep 13: Actors and Framing in Global Environmental Politics
 - Today's reading is your choice: select a major company (Coca Cola, BP, etc) and check out their "corporate social responsibility" (CSR) webpage. Print either the webpage, a recent CSR report, or similar type of document and bring it to class. Be prepared to share your findings with the class.

WEEK 5 (Sep 16-20): ACTORS IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS; REGIMES, TREATIES, AND INTL LAW

- Monday, Sep 16: Actors and Framing in Global Environmental Politics
 - DEBATE 1: Is the state the most effective actor in addressing global environmental politics?
- Wednesday, Sep 18: How to do Research
 - David Schweider, UF Political Science Librarian, will give a tutorial on how to use the library for research
- Friday, Sep 20: Regimes, Treaties, and International Law
 - GEP: Ch 3

WEEK 6 (Sep 23-27): REGIMES, TREATIES, AND INTL LAW

- Monday, Sep 23: Regimes, Treaties, and International Law
 - GPB: Ch 9: "Rethinking the Ecology-Sovereignty Debate" by Conca
 - GPB: Ch 6: "The 1992 Earth Summit: Reflections on an Ambiguous Event" by Conca and Dabelko
- Wednesday, Sep 25: Regimes, Treaties, and International Law
 - "[Montreal versus Kyoto: A Tale of Two Protocols](#)" – by Cass R. Sunstein
- Friday, Sep 27: Regimes, Treaties, and International Law
 - Annotated bibliography due Sep 27

- DEBATE 2: Should the US ratify the Paris Accord?

WEEK 7 (Sep 30-Oct 3): ECONOMICS AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Monday, Sep 30: Economics and Global Environmental Protection
 - GEP: Ch 6
- Wednesday, Oct 1: Economics and Global Environmental Protection
 - GPB: Ch 17: “Towards Sustainable Development” by the World Commission on Environment and Development
 - GPB: Ch 18: “Sustainable Development: A Critical Review” by Lele
- No class on Friday, Oct 4 (Homecoming)

WEEK 8 (Oct 7-11): ECONOMICS AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Monday, Oct 7: Economics and Global Environmental Protection
 - Newell, Peter. 2008. “The Political Economy of Global Environmental Governance.” *Review of International Studies* 34: 507-529.
- Wednesday, Oct 9: Economics and Global Environmental Protection
 - Van Wees, Saskia. 2019. Manuscript pending review (so title not listed here)
- Friday, Oct 11: Economics and Global Environmental Protection
 - Outline due
 - DEBATE 3: Is “sustainable development” a useful concept? Is it achievable?

WEEK 9 (Oct 14-18): ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- Monday, Oct 14: Environment and Human Rights
 - Hiskes, Richard P. 2005. “The Right to a Green Future: Human Rights, Environmentalism, and Intergenerational Justice.” *Human Rights Quarterly* 27(4): 1346-1364.
 - *SKIM* UNEP. December 2015. “[Climate Change and Human Rights](#).”
- Wednesday, Oct 16: Environment and Human Rights
 - Benohr, Jens and Patrick J. Lynch. August 14, 2018. “[Should Rivers Have Rights? A Growing Movement Says It’s About Time](#).” *Yale Environment* 360.
- Friday, Oct 18: Environment and Human Rights
 - Ch 4: “Too Many People? Gender and Population Debates” by Nicole Detraz from her 2017 book, *Gender and the Environment*.

WEEK 10 (Oct 21-25): ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS; ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

- Monday, Oct 21 – Environment and Human Rights
 - Debate 4: Should access to a clean and safe environment be considered a universally-shared human right?
- Wednesday, Oct 23 – Environmental Security
 - Homer-Dixon, Thomas. 1994. “Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases.” *International Security* 19 (Summer): 5-40.
 - GPB: Ch 24: “The Case Against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security” by Daniel Deudney

- Friday, Oct 25 – Environmental Security
 - Hendrix, Cullen S. and Idean Salehyan. 2012. “Climate Change, Rainfall, and Social Conflict in Africa.” *Journal of Peace Research* 49(1): 35-50.
 - Borger, Julian. “[Darfur Conflict Heralds Era of Wars Triggered by Climate Change, UN Report Warns.](#)” *The Guardian*: Jun 23, 2007

WEEK 11 (Oct 28-Nov 1): ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

- Monday, Oct 28 – Environmental Security
 - Detraz, Nicole. 2009. “Environmental Security and Gender: Necessary Shifts in an Evolving Debate.” *Security Studies* 18(2): 345-369.
- Wednesday, Oct 30 – Environmental Security
 - Ch 4 “Man Over Nature: Gendered Perspectives on Ecological Security” by J. Ann Tickner from her 1992 book, *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security*.
- Friday, Nov 1
 - Debate 5: Should governments understand environmental issues to be security threats?

WEEK 12 (Nov 4-Nov 8): THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Monday, Nov 4 – Rough draft exchange
 - Rough draft of final paper due
- Wednesday, Nov 6 – The Future of Global Environmental Protection
 - GEP: Ch 7
- Friday, Nov 8 -- The Future of Global Environmental Protection
 - Familiarize yourself with the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)
 - Long, Graham. “The Idea of Universality in the Sustainable Development Goals.” *Ethics & International Affairs* 29(2): 203-222.

WEEK 13 (Nov 13-15): THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- No class Monday, Nov 11 (Holiday)
- Wednesday, Nov 13 – The Future of Global Environmental Protection
- Friday, Nov 15 – The Future of Global Environmental Protection
 - Jinnah, Sikina. 2017. “Makers, Takers, Shakers, Shapers: Emerging Economies and Normative Engagement in Climate Governance” *Global Governance*. 23(2): 285-306.

WEEK 14 (Nov 18-22): FINAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- Monday, Nov 18 – final paper presentations
- Wednesday, Nov 20 – final paper presentations
- Friday, Nov 22 – final paper presentations

WEEK 15 (Nov 25): FINAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- Monday, Nov 25 – final paper presentations
- No class on Weds Nov 27, Friday, Nov 29 (Thanksgiving)

WEEK 16 (Dec 2-4): CATCH UP AND REVIEW

- Dec 2, 4: Catch up/review
 - Wednesday, Dec 4: final paper due
- No class on Friday, Dec 6 (reading day)

FINAL EXAM: DECEMBER 12 – 12:30 - 2:30pm