

Global Environmental Politics and Policy
POL S 403
Winter 2007

Instructor: Aseem Prakash
Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-3:20 p.m.
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Course Objective

This course is designed for advanced undergraduate students interested in global environmental politics and policy. We will examine the conceptual issues such as the management of common pool resources as well as policy-oriented topics such as the trade-environment debate, global warming, and new regulatory tools.

Required Texts

Books

1. Desai, 2004, *Environmental Politics & Policy in Industrialized Countries*. MIT Press.
2. Dolsak & Ostrom. 2003. *The Commons in the New Millennium*. MIT Press.

Articles

Most articles can be accessed via UW's electronic journal collection. The URLs are:

On campus: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/ejournals>

Off campus: <http://offcampus.lib.washington.edu/menu>

For others, I have indicated the URLs in the syllabus.

Course Expectations

I will adopt seminar format. To maximize your learning from this course, you should read the required texts in advance and actively participate in class discussions. You are expected to do the following assignments:

1. Article Critique and Commentary:
I have identified several interesting articles and book chapters for class discussion. You will present and critique 3 of them. Please prepare a 2 page (single-spaced) summary of your comments and email it to the class prior to your presentation. Budget about 15 minutes for your presentation. I will circulate a sign up sheet on the first day of class.
2. Individual Project:
What environmental issues intrigue you? Well, here is an opportunity to study them. You will write short research paper (4-5 pages, single-spaced) on any global environmental problem. In this paper, identify the problem, highlight different perspective about its

causes and consequences, and suggest the most politically feasible policy solution. You will present your research to the class and also turn in a written report which is due March 8.

3. Documentary Critiques:

Global Warming is perhaps the most pressing and visible environmental problem of the contemporary era. We will be read articles on Global Warming and also watch Al Gore's movie, *The Inconvenient Truth*. Please write a one page (single-spaced) critique of the movie. What about the policy changes he suggests?

critique of the movie

In addition, you will watch and critique (one page each, single-spaced) three classic documentaries on environmental issues. These are: *The Silent Spring*, *Oil on Ice*, *Who killed the Electric Car?* I have placed all the documentaries on the course reserve in the Odegaard Library, Media Reserve.

Evaluation

Commentary	20 points
Documentary Critiques	
- The Inconvenient Truth	5 points
- Silent Spring	5 points
- Oil on Ice	5 points
- Who Killed the Electric car	5 points
Class Participation	30 points
Individual Project	30 points

I will strictly follow UW's policy on plagiarism:

<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm#plagiarism>

Class Schedule

Thursday, January 5

Introduction

Tuesday, January 9

Key concepts

- * Hardin, 1968. Tragedy of the commons, <http://dieoff.org/page95.htm>
- * Friedman, The Swedes get it right, http://www.daviddfriedman.com/Academic/Coase_World.html
- * Taylor, 1992, Economics, ecology, and exchange: Free Market Environmentalism. *Humane Studies Review*, 8(1), <http://mason.gmu.edu/~ihs/f92essay.html>
- * Blum 1992. The fallacies of Free Market Environmentalism, *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*, 15(2).

Thursday, January 11

Collective Action

- * Emmett, 2006. Malthus reconsidered: Population, natural resources, and markets. *PERC Policy Series*, <http://www.perc.org/pdf/ps38.pdf>
- * Hardin. 1974. Lifeboat ethics: The case against helping the poor, *Psychology Today*,

http://www.garretthardinsociety.org/articles/art_lifeboat_ethics_case_against_helping_poor.html

- * Curtis, 2003. Eco-localism and sustainability. *Ecological Economics* 46 (1): 83-102.

Tuesday, January 16

Politics and Institutions

- * Poguntke, 2002. Green parties in national governments: From protest to acquiescence? *Environmental Politics*, 11(1): 133-145.
- * Gross, 2006. Environmental advocacy in Washington: a comparison with other interest groups. *Environmental Politics*. 15(4)
- * Haas, 2004. Addressing the global governance deficit. *Global Environmental Politics*, 4(4).
- * Kollman and Prakash. 2001. Green by choice? *World Politics*, 53(1)
<http://faculty.washington.edu/aseem/kollman-prakash.pdf>

Thursday, January 18

Trade and Environment

- * Grossman and Kreuger. 1995. Economic growth and the environment. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 110:353-75.
- * Kütting. 2003. Globalization, poverty and the environment in West Africa: Too poor to pollute? *Global Environmental Politics*, 3(4).
- * Barkin. 2003. The counterintuitive relationship between globalization and climate change. *Global Environmental Politics*, 3(3).
- * Prakash and Potoski, 2006. Racing to the bottom. *American Journal of Political Science*.
<http://faculty.washington.edu/aseem/iso-ajps.pdf>

Tuesday, January 23

Business and the Environment

- * Porter and Van der Linde. 1995. Toward a new conception of the environment-competitiveness relationship. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 9(4).
- * Levy and Egan. 1998. Capital contests. *Politics & Society*, 26(3).
- * Reynolds, 2004. The globalization of organic agro-food networks. *World Development*, 32(5).
- * Iles, 2004. Mapping environmental justice in technology flows: Computer waste impacts in Asia. *Global Environmental Politics*, 4(4).

Thursday, January 25

Documentary: Rachel Carson's, *Silent Spring*

Tuesday, January 30

New Regulatory Tools

- * Marshall and Brown. 2003. Corporate environmental reporting: what's in a metric? *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 12(2).
- * Kolk. 2003. Trends in sustainability reporting by the Fortune Global 250. *Business Strategy and the Environment* 12(5).

- * Sasser et al. 2006. Direct targeting as NGO political strategy. *Business & Politics*, 8(3).
- * O'Faircheallaigh and Corbett. 2005. Indigenous participation in environmental management of mining projects: The role of negotiated agreements. *Environmental Politics*, 14(5).

Thursday, February 1

Global Crises

- * Limits to Growth, 1972. <http://www.clubofrome.org/docs/limits.rtf>
- * Julian Simon, 1996. A reply to my critics, <http://www.juliansimon.com/reply-critics.html>
- * Sverker and Stripple. 2003. Climate governance beyond the state. *Global Governance*. 9(3).
- * Bastianoni et al, 2004. The problem of assigning responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions. *Ecological Economics*, 49(3).

Tuesday, February 6

- * Desai, chapters 2,3,4

Thursday, February 8

Movie: Al Gore: The Inconvenient Truth

Tuesday, February 13

- * Desai, chapters 6,7,8

Thursday, February 15

- * Dolsak and Ostrom, chapters 2,3,4

Tuesday, February 20

- * Dolsak & Ostrom, Chapters, 5,6,7

Thursday, February 22

- * Dolsak & Ostrom, Chapters 8,9,10

Tuesday, February 27

In-class presentations

Thursday, March 1

Documentary: Who Killed the Electric Car

Tuesday, March 6

Documentary: Oil on ice

Thursday, March 8

In-class presentations

Project Report is due Thursday, March 8