

Global Environmental Politics

Spring 2001 -- ENVSTD249 -- Tue/Thurs: 10.30-11.50 – Pick Hall 022

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This is an introduction to the emerging field of global environmental politics. The course is divided in three parts. In the first section students will acquire analytical tools to approach environmental issues. In the second part the main actors active in the field of global environmental politics will be introduced. Each week, a different issue area will be used to highlight the role, interests, and policies of states, international organizations, the corporate world, and NGOs. The third part of the course will explore contemporary debates that relate environmental issues to trade liberalization, security, and global justice.

Main Readings

- Conca, Ken/Dabelko, Geoffrey D. (eds.) 1998: Green Planet Blues. Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Kyoto, 2nd ed. Boulder: Westview (Conca/Dabelko).
- Goldfarb, Theodore D. (ed.) 2001: Taking Sides. Clashing Views on Controversial Environmental Issues, 9th ed., Guilford, CT: Dushkin (Goldfarb).
- Porter, Gareth/Brown, Janet Welsh/Chasek, Pamela S. 2000: Global Environmental Politics, 3rd ed., Boulder: Westview (Porter/Brown/Chasek).
- Young, Oran R. (ed.) 1997: Global Governance. Drawing Insights from the Environmental Experience, Cambridge: MIT Press (Young).

The literature used in this course is on reserve at Harper library. The main readings are available at the Seminary Coop. The World Wide Web is a main source of research for this course. Links can be found on the web page of this course at:

<http://chalk.uchicago.edu/courses/2001.02.06924901/>

General Guidelines and Course Requirements

The minimum requirements for successful completion of this class are - (1) regular reading of the required materials, class attendance, and active participation, 20 % (2) completion of two 2-3 page papers in response to weekly readings, 20% (3) participation in a group

The final paper should analyze a particular environmental controversy. You should focus on a particular region and/or a specific problem (pollution, energy, animal rights, etc.) You will prepare a one-page outline of the paper and discuss this with us before finishing the final paper. The paper should address the following issues: what is the background and nature of the problem? What positions have different actors (governments, NGOs, corporations, international organizations, scientists, professional associations, etc.) taken towards the issue? Identify the interests that inform those positions. Are these actors' responses adequate in resolving the environmental problem? Would you suggest other avenues of action?

Academic Honesty

Proper acknowledgment of another's ideas is expected, whether that use is by direct quotation or by paraphrase, however loose. In particular, if any written source is consulted and material is used from that source, directly or indirectly, the source should be identified by author, title, and page number. Any doubts about what constitutes "use" should be addressed to the instructor(s).

I. Competing Approaches to Environmental Issues

WEEK 1

3/27 Introduction to Seminar

3/29 The International Environmental Agenda

*Conca, Ken/Dabelko, Geoffrey: Twenty-five Years of Global Environmental Politics, in Conca/Dabelko, 3-15.

*Goldfarb: Issue 1, 2 and 19, 2-48 and 366-391.

*Porter/Brown/Chasek: Chapter 1, 1-34 (and chronology, 273-277).

*Young, Oran R.: Rights, Rules, and Resources in World Affairs, in Young, 1-23.

Questions:

- Why have environmental issues risen to growing international prominence?
- How are environmental issues different from or similar to trade, security, or human rights policies?
- What is the particular challenge of researching and protecting something like the

- *Baron, Jonathan: Utility Maximization as a Solution, in *American Behavioral Scientist*, Vol. (1999) 8, p. 1301-1321 (e-reserve).
- *Hardin, Garrett: The Tragedy of the Commons, in Conca/Dabelko, 40-47.
- *Jasanoff, Sheila: Skinning Scientific Cats, in Conca/Dabelko, 146-149.
- *Stokke, Olav Schram: Regimes as Governance Systems, in: Young, 27-63.
- *Wapner, Paul: Governance in Global Civil Society, in: Young, 65-84.

4/5 Issues and Analytical Tools II.

Questions:

- Identify and contrast the different perspectives on the environment.
- What are the main actors highlighted in these perspectives?
- Which scenarios for international cooperation emerge under these perspectives?
- What makes international environmental agreements more or less likely/successful?

II. The Main Actors on a Global and Local Stage

WEEK 3

4/10 States and Non-Governmental Organizations

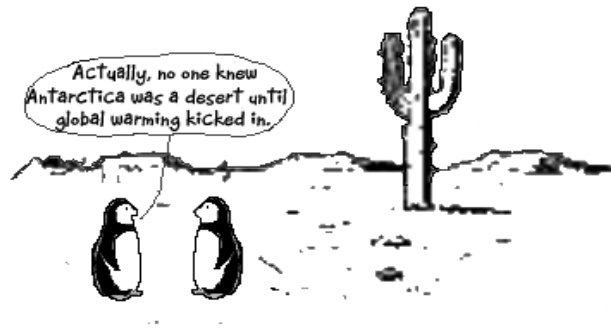
- *Porter/Brown/Chasek, Chapter 2, 35-78.
- *Keck, Margaret/Sikkink, Kathryn 1998: Environmental Advocacy Networks, in Activists Beyond Borders, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 121-163.
- *McCormick, John: The Role of Environmental NGOs, in Vig, Norman J./Axelrod, Regina S. (eds.) 1999: The Global Environment. Institutions, Law, and Policy, Washington DC: CQ Press, 52-71.
- Wapner, Paul 1995: Politics Beyond the State. Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics, in World Politics 47 (3), 311-340.

4/12 Discussion Session: Group I presents, Groups III and IV write responses.

Questions:

- Evaluate the role of various actors in taking up environmental issues.

- *Breitmeier, Helmut: International Organizations and the Creation of Environmental Regimes, in Young, 87-114.
- *Peterson, M.J.: International Organizations and the Implementation of Environmental Regimes, in Young, 115-151.
- *Benedick, Richard: Ozone Diplomacy, in Conca/Dabelko, 141-148.
- *Goldfarb: Issue 8 and 18, 134-151 and 338-364.
- *Porter/Brown/Chasek: Ozone Depletion, 87-93; Climate Change, 112-124.
- Molitor, Michael R.: The United Nations Climate Change Agreements, in Vig/Axelrod, 210-235.
- Paarlberg, Robert L.: Lapsed Leadership. US International Environmental Policy since Rio, in Vig/Axelrod, 236-255.
- Schelling, Thomas 1992: Some Economics of Global Warming, in American Economic Review 82 (1), 1-14.
- Susskind, Lawrence E. 1997: Environmental Diplomacy. Negotiating more Effective Global Agreements, Oxford: Oxford University Press.



4/19 Discussion Session: Group II presents, Groups IV and V write responses.

Questions:

- What makes climate change and ozone depletion different from other environmental issues?
- What determines the positions state actors take on the issues?
- Should we separate 'luxury emissions' from 'survival emissions'?

WEEK 5

4/26 Discussion Session: Group III presents, Groups I and VII write responses.

Questions:

- How can compliance with environmental treaties be strengthened?
- What are potential differences between developing and industrialized nations?
- How can international institutions generate more funds to support environmental causes?
- What is the role of NGOs within international environmental institutions?

WEEK 6

5/1 The Local in Global Environmental Politics: Are Indigenous Peoples Natural Allies of Environmentalists?

*Mendes, Chico: Fight for the Forest, in Conca/Dabelko, 102-106.

*Coordinating Body for Indigenous Peoples, Two Agendas on Amazon Development, in Conca/Dabelko, 337-342.

*Turner, Terence 1995: An indigenous people's struggle for socially equitable and ecologically sustainable production: The Kayapo revolt against extractivism, in Journal of Latin American Anthropology 1 (1), 98-121.

*Turner, Terence 2000: Indigenous Rights, Environmental Protection, and the Struggle over Forest Resources in the Amazon, in Conway, Jill K./Keniston, Kenneth/Marx, Leo (eds.) Earth, Air, Fire, Water. Humanistic Studies of the Environment. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press.

*Ramos, Alcida Rita: Development does not Rhyme with Indian, or does it?, in Ramos, Alcida Rita, Indigenism. Ethnic Politics in Brazil, 195-221.

*Wilmer, Franke 1998: Taking Indigenous Critiques Seriously. The Enemy 'R' Us, in Litfin, Karin (ed.): The Greening of Sovereignty in World Politics, Cambridge: MIT Press, 55-78.

5/3 Discussion Session: Group IV presents, Groups II and VI write responses.

WEEK 7

5/8 Who owns the Paradise?: Bioprospecting and Intellectual Property Rights

- *"Biopiracy Project in Chiapas, Mexico Denounced by Mayan Indigenous Groups" at: <http://64.4.69.14/web/allnews-one.shtml?dfl=allnews.db&tfl=allnews-one-frag.ptml&operation=display&ro1=recNo&rf1=81&rt1=81&usebrs=true> (12/1/1999)
- *"Stop Biopiracy in Mexico! Indigenous Peoples Organizations from Chiapas Demand Immediate Moratorium - Mexican Government Says No to Bioprospecting Permits" at: <http://www.rafi.org/web/allnews-one.shtml?dfl=allnews.db&tfl=allnews-one-frag.ptml&operation=display&ro1=recNo&rf1=119&rt1=119&usebrs=true> (10/23/2000)
- *"Knowledge? Whose Property? Whose Benefits? The case of OMIECH, RAFI, and the Maya ICBG" at: <http://guallart.dac.uga.edu/ICBGreply.html> (12/13/1999).
- *More Information at: <http://www.laneta.apc.org/omiech/museum.htm>
- *Blum, Elissa 1993: Making Biodiversity Profitable, A Case Study of the Merck/INBio Agreement, in Environment 35 (4), 17-45.
- Gupta, Anil K. 1998: Rewarding Local Communities for Conserving Biodiversity, in Guruswamy, Lakshman D./McNeely, Jeffrey A. (eds.), Protection of Global Biodiversity, Durham: Duke University Press, 180-189.
- <http://www.defenders.org/bio-bi03.html> (What is biodiversity?)

5/10 Discussion Session: Group V presents, Groups III and VII write responses.

Questions:

- Is there such a thing as "global knowledge" (or "science") that transcends individual intellectual property rights issues/questions?
- When there are contesting indigenous views over the ownership of intellectual property, how can one determine which are the "authentic" indigenous voices in such debates?

WEEK 8

5/15 Violent Conflict and the Environment

- *Deudney, Daniel: The Case Against Linking, in Conca/Dabelko, 304-313.
- *Homer-Dixon, Thomas: Environmental Scarcities, in Conca/Dabelko, 287-297.
- *Seed, Samson: For Whose Benefit? in Conca/Dabelko, 314-316.

WEEK 9

5/22 Trade and the Environment

*Bhagwati, Jagdish: The Case for Free Trade, in Conca/Dabelko, 179-186.

*Daly, Herman: The Perils of Free Trade, in Conca/Dabelko, 187-194.

*Porter/Brown/Chasek: Chapter 5, 182-218.

*Moltke, Konrad von: Institutional Interactions, in: Young, 247-272.

Allison, Juliann 1997: Trade Liberalization and the Natural Environment, in Kamieniecki, Sheldon et al. (eds.), Flashpoints in Environmental Policy Making, Albany: State University of New York, 229-256.

5/24 Discussion: Group VII presents, Groups I and V write responses.

Questions:

- Describe the differences in the statements of Bhagwati and Daly.
- Should one use sanctions to enforce environmental standards?
- Is the WTO an environmental regime?

WEEK 10

5/29 Conclusion of Seminar

6/6 *Final Paper due.*