

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Department of Political Science
Political Science 403D: Global Environmental Politics

Prof. Jonathan R. Strand
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Office Hours: T, Th 9:30-11:00 (and by appointment)

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Course Content: This course examines the political economy of global environmental issues. Theories of international politics are applied to environmental problems. We will address how environmental problems are defined and identified by scientists and activists and the various political solutions proposed to resolve these problems. Classic and contemporary environmental issues will be discussed. Topics we will focus on include social pressure groups, population pressures, biodiversity, climate change, epistemic communities, regimes, global and regional environmental governance, trade and the environment, sustainable development, environmental refuges, biosafety, and energy.

Format: As this is an upper-level course, the instructor assumes that students who have registered for the class are interested in the topic. The course will be conducted as a seminar. The instructor expects students will read the assigned materials prior to coming to class. Students are expected to actively participate in a constructive manner during class discussions.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To offer an examination of how political and economic structures interact in the environmental issue area
- 2) To familiarize students with major theories used in the study of global environmental politics
- 3) To engage students in critical debates on the identification of and solutions to pressing environmental problems
- 4) To facilitate the use of empirical evidence to assess theoretical perspectives

Course Requirements: *Exams:* There will be two exams each worth 100 points. All make-up exams are scheduled for Wednesday May 6th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Make-up exams will only be allowed when the instructor is notified *before* the scheduled exam and only for verifiable and excusable grounds. All in-class exams and quizzes must be written in black ink, dark blue ink, or a “number 2” pencil. Exams and quizzes not conforming to this requirement will not be graded. Students who do not exercise intelligible penmanship will be penalized on their exam and quiz grades. Please note that *all* final exams must be taken during the officially scheduled time and that make-up exams are not offered for the final exam.

Research Project: Students will write a research paper worth 100 points. More information on this assignment will be handed out in class.

Class Participation and attendance, including quizzes, will account for another 100 points. Make-up quizzes will not be offered. At least once during the semester each student will be called on to answer a question related to the assigned readings. This assignment is worth 50 points toward your participation grade. Missing more than 3 classes lowers your final grade by one-third (e.g., an A- turns into a B+). Missing more than 5 classes determines that your grade is an F. Students who arrive late or leave early will be marked absent.

Disruptions – such as using a cell phone, text messenger, pager, computer or other device – will have a deleterious effect on your participation grade. *The instructor requires all cell phones and pagers to be switched off during class.* Electronic devices, including language translation equipment, may not be used during exams. Recording devices may not be used at anytime; if any unauthorized recording is made and distributed you will be subject to civil suit. If you use a computer to take notes the instructor reserves the right to obtain a copy of your notes within 24 hours of the request; failure to comply with this will result in a failing grade for the course. Late assignments will be penalized 20 percent per day beyond the due date. Incompletes will only be offered when requested in writing on behalf of a student by the Chair of the Department of Political Science or the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. All grade

disputes must be in writing. Students who expect to miss class because of the observance of a religious holiday will have an opportunity to make up missed work given that the instructor has been notified in writing regarding the anticipated absence by the last day of late registration. Students who expect to miss class due to an officially sanctioned, UNLV activity (e.g., intercollegiate athletics) must notify the instructor in writing at least 7 days prior to the anticipated absence and provide verification of participation.

The instructor reserves the right to have students' written materials submitted electronically and assessed by plagiarism detection software. The University requires all members of the University Community to be familiar with and to follow copyright and fair use laws. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright page at: www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright. Plagiarism of any form will result in a failing grade for the course and the instructor will file a case with the Office of Student Conduct.

Synopsis of Grading:

Exams	200 points
Participation	100 points
Research Project	100 points
Total	400 points

Required Texts:

- Clapp, J. and P. Dauvergne (2005) *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Hicks, R. L., B. C. Parks, J. T. Roberts and M.J. Tierney (2008) *Greening Aid?: Understanding the Environmental Impact of Development Assistance*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Maslin, M. (2004) *Global Warming: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Student Accommodation: The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability>. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan. UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented

Course Outline: The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule as needed. In addition to the course texts, additional *required* readings have been uploaded to Webcampus.

January 13: Introduction

January 15: Introduction: Four Views/Four Lenses

Clapp & Dauvergne, Chapter 1

January 20: Introduction

Debra Davidson and Scott Frickel (2004) "Understanding Environmental Governance: A Critical Review," *Organization & Environment* 17, 4: 471-492.

Karen T. Litfin (1997) "Sovereignty in World Ecopolitics," *Mershon International Studies Review* 41, 2: 167-204.

January 22: TBA

January 27 & 29: Limits to Growth

The Limits to Growth, Abstract established by Eduard Pestel. A Report to The Club of Rome (1972) by Donella H. Meadows, Dennis I. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, William W. Behrens III (free download: <http://www.clubofrome.org/docs/limits.rtf>)

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

Dan Chay (2007) Are Humans Smarter than Yeast? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hM1x4RljmnE>

Graham M. Turner (2008) "A comparison of The Limits to Growth with 30 years of reality," *Global Environmental Change* 18, 3: 397-411

February 3 & 5: Science, Politics, and the Politics of Science

Dale Jamieson (1996) "Scientific Uncertainty and the Political Process," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 545, 1: 35-43.

Radoslav S. Dimitrov (2005) "Precaution in Global Environmental Politics," *International Journal of Global Environmental Issues* 5, 1/2: 96-113.

Henrik Selin and Noelle Eckley (2003) "Science, Politics and Persistent Organic Pollutants: The Role of Scientific Assessments in International Environmental Cooperation," *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 3, 1: 17-42.

February 10 & 12: Globalization & the Environment

Clapp & Dauvergne, Chapters 2 & 3

James Boyce (2004) "Green and Brown? Globalization and the Environment," *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 20, 1: 105-128.

February 17 & 19: Economic Growth & Sustainable Development

Clapp & Dauvergne, Chapter 4

World Commission on Environment and Development (access: www.un-documents.net/ocf-02.htm)

C.S. Sneddon (2000) "Sustainability in Ecological Economics, Ecology and Livelihoods: A Review," *Progress in Human Geography* 24, 4: 521-549.

Carlos J. Castro (2004) "Sustainable Development: Mainstream and Critical Perspectives," *Organization & Environment* 17, 2: 195-225.

Peter Dauvergne (2005) "Dying of Consumption: Accidents or Sacrifices of Global Morality?" *Global Environmental Politics* 5, 3: 35-47.

February 24 & 26: Trade & the Environment

Clapp & Dauvergne, Chapter 5

Michael M. Weinstein and Steve Charnovitz (2001) "The Greening of the WTO," *Foreign Affairs* (Nov/Dec) 80, 6: 147-156.

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

Rachel McCormick (2006) "A Qualitative Analysis of the WTO's Role on Trade and Environment Issues," *Global Environmental Politics* 6, 1: 102-124

March 3: Mid-Term Exam

March 5 & 10: Multinational Corporations & the Environment

Clapp & Dauvergne, Chapter 6

Ans Kolk and Jonatan Pinkse (2005) "Business Responses to Climate Change," *California Management Review* 47, 3: 6-20.

Jennifer Clapp (2005) "Global Environmental Governance for Corporate Responsibility and Accountability," *Global Environmental Politics* 5, 3: 23-34.

Robert Falkner (2003) "Private Environmental Governance and International Relations: Exploring the Links," *Global Environmental Politics* 3, 2: 72-87.

O. Boiral (2007) "Corporate greening through ISO 14001: A rational myth?" *Organization Science* 18, 1: 127-146.

March 12 & 17: Global Finance & the Environment

Clapp & Dauvergne, Chapter 7

March 19, 24 & 26: Foreign Aid & the Environment

Hicks, et al. Chapters 1-9

March 31: Global Environmental Governance

Paul Wapner (2003) "World Summit on Sustainable Development: Toward a Post-Jo'Burg Environmentalism," *Global Environmental Politics* 3, 1: 1-10.

Ambuj D. Sagar and Stacy D. VanDeveer (2005) "Capacity Development for the Environment: Broadening the Scope," *Global Environmental Politics* 5, 3: 14-22.

Oran R. Young (2008) "The Architecture of Global Environmental Governance: Bringing Science to Bear on Policy," *Global Environmental Politics* 8, 1: 14-32.

April 2 & 14: NGOs and Civil Society

David Humphreys (2004) "Redefining the Issues: NGO Influence on International Forest Negotiations," *Global Environmental Politics* 4, 2: 51-74.

Tora Skodvin and Steinar Andresen (2003) "Non-state Influence in the International Whaling Commission, 1970-1990," *Global Environmental Politics* 3, 4: 61-86.

Gary Gereffi (2001) "The NGO-Industrial Complex," *Foreign Policy* 125: 56-65.

April 16, 21 & 23: Global Warming

Maslin, chapters 1-10

J.E. Aldy and R.N. Stavins (2008) "Climate policy architectures for the post-Kyoto world," *Environment* 50, 3: 6-17.

Onno Kuik, et al., (2008) "Post-2012 climate policy dilemmas: a review of proposals: What's available?" *Climate Policy* 8, 3: 317-336.

April 28 & 30: Reforming Global Environmental Governance

Frank Biermann (2000) "The Case for a World Environment Organization," *Environment* 42, 9: 23-31.

Magnus Lodefalk and John Whalley (2002) "Reviewing Proposals for a World Environmental Organisation," *The World Economy* 25, 5: 601-617.

A. Najam (2003) "The case against a new international environmental organization," *Global Governance* 9, 3: 367-384.

Jonathan R. Strand (2004) "The Case for Regional Environmental Organizations," in N. Kanie and P.M. Haas (eds) *Emerging Forces in Environmental Governance*. Tokyo: United Nations University Press.

Konrad von Moltke (2001) "The Organization of the Impossible," *Global Environmental Politics* 1, 1: 23-28.
Clapp & Dauvergne, Chapter 8

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 7, 10:10 a.m (subject to change)