

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Politics
Fall 2008
PLIR 300Z: Global Environmental Policy
Upper Division
Faculty name: Armin Rosencranz

Pre-requisites: None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to acquaint students with the international management of regional and global environmental issues. The focus is not only on the issues themselves, but on the international institutions and agreements that have been created to manage them. The course will begin with an overview of facts and root causes of global environmental problems; international environmental law sources and norms; and how such norms are implemented. Next, we will seek to develop a sense of what works in international environmental management and what does not. Specific topics to be addressed include transboundary air and water pollution, ozone depletion, global climate change, biological diversity and endangered species, global forest protection, freshwater resources, the export and dumping of hazardous wastes, international trade and the environment, human rights and the environment, and North/South issues and the role of the World Bank. Field trips will emphasize local responses to these international environmental problems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the global environmental regime, including the governmental and non-governmental institutions that implement them.
2. Become familiar with the main global environmental agreements, including their strengths and limitations.
3. Learn the principal areas of contention in this arena: equity between northern and southern countries; trade barriers; common but differentiated responsibility; human rights violations among indigenous people at the hands of multinational corporations.
4. Contrast national, regional (eg the European Union) and international enforcement capabilities.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

(CD refers to Clapp and Dauvergne; GEP refers to Global Environmental Politics.)

1. Peril or Prosperity? Mapping Worldviews of Global Environmental Change (CD, ch. 1)
2. The Ecological Consequences of Globalization (CD, ch.2)
3. Globalization of Environmentalism (CD, ch.3) Also, Norms of International Environmental Policy and Law (Armin's article)
4. Economic Growth in a World of Wealth and Poverty CD, ch. 4
5. Global Trade and the Environment CD, ch.5
6. Transnational Corps, Global Investment and the Environment CD ch.6
7. Global Financing and the Environment CD ch.7
8. Four Visions for a Healthy Global Environment CD ch.8
9. Midterm
10. The Emergence of Global Environmental Politics: GEP ch. 1
11. Actors in the Environmental Arena: GEP ch. 2
12. Case Studies: Acid Rain, Ozone Depletion, and Toxic Waste Trade: GEP ch. 3
13. Case Studies: Whaling, African Elephants, and Biodiversity Loss: GEP ch. 3.
14. Case Studies: Global Commons – Antarctica, Desertification and Fisheries depletion: GEP ch.3.
15. Global Climate Change I
16. Global Climate Change II
17. Effective Environmental Regimes: Obstacles and Opportunities: GEP ch. 4.
18. Economics, Development and the Future of Global Enviro. Politics: GEP ch. 5.
19. conclusions and review
20. Final exam

FIELD COMPONENT

Each student is required to complete THREE practica (either faculty directed, or independent). At least TWO of these should be faculty-directed field trips led by me or lectures organized by me in Cape Town, Chennai, Vietnam or Hong Kong. They are central to the material covered in this class. The third can be an independent practicum designed by you and approved by me, and based on information gathered in at least four countries on our itinerary. Each student will prepare three reports of 1000 words each explaining what s/he learned in each practicum about two or more global environmental problems.

SUGGESTED PRACTICA:

SOUTH AFRICA: Climate and Change Environmental Scientist (FDP)
INDIA: Swaminathan Research Foundation (FDP); Consumer Action Group (FDP)
HONG KONG: Environmental Attitudes and Values in China (FDP)

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Attendance and discussion participation – 20%
class presentations on nine case studies (topics 11,12 and 13) – 20%
midterm – 20%
field report – 20%
final exam – 20%

REQUIRED TEXTS

Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne. *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment*, MIT Press, 2005.

Gareth Porter, Janet Brown and Pamela Chasek, *GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS* (4th ed.) Westview, 2006