ENVIRON 600K

Topics in International Environmental Policy

Fall 2017

Dates / contact hours:	300 minutes of contact time per week for 7 weeks
Academic Credit:	1 course
Course format:	lectures, presentations by students, classroom discussion

Instructor's Information

Lead Instructor:
Kathinka Fürst (Associate Director of Environmental Research Center, Assistant Adjunct Professor of Environmental Policy, DKU)

Guest Instructors:
Junjie Zhang (Associate Professor of Environmental Economics, DKU and Duke)
Erika Weinthal (Lee Hill Snowdon Professor of Environmental Policy, Nicholas School, Duke)
Billy Pizer (Professor, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke)

Prerequisite(s), if applicable

No prerequisite.

Course Description

This modular course will use a case-based curriculum to give an overview of the key areas in international environmental policy. The course will include seven modules covering international environmental economics, international environmental policy and politics, and international environmental negotiations. Students will be expected to participate in policy debates and simulations. The principal goal of the course is to preview the application of social sciences (economics, public policy, and political science) to the environment, and facilitate the translation of core curricular concepts into a variety of real-word applications.

Course Goals / Objectives

- Demonstrate understanding of the economic and political causes of transboundary environmental problems.
- Apply knowledge of economics, public policy, and political science to analyze current global environmental policy issues.
- Critically analyze international environmental conflict case studies and apply environmental social science knowledge to create potential strategies for intervention.
- Demonstrate the ability to synthesize and apply knowledge by analyzing international environmental agreements that affect specific global environmental outcomes.
- Engage in self-directed research and learning on international environmental policy.

Required Text(s)/Resources

All course readings will be available on the course Sakai site. The readings will include current research papers as well as papers from international organizations and policy institutions. Students are expected to actively read the papers before class.

The students are also encouraged to select readings from the international media that cover global environmental news.

Recommended Text(s)/Resources

Other materials may be provided, as determined by the instructor.

Course Requirements / Key Evidences

The course will be run as a combination of lectures and discussions with active student participation. For lecture sessions, the instructor will present basic materials on each topic. For discussion sessions, students will be asked to summarize the papers in class. The instructor will lead the discussions of the designated papers.

Technology Considerations, if applicable

We will use the Sakai site to communicate with students, make bibliographic references available, give assignments, etc. Students are required to prepare slides and make presentations. Students are encouraged to upload slides before the class in order to save transition time. Using laptop, cell phone or other digital devices in classroom is prohibited.

Assessment Information / Grading Procedures

Students are expected to finish reading course materials before class and lead paper discussions at least once. There is an individual project report. The course grade will be based 30% on classroom participation (including the debate), 30% on reports, 30% on the term paper, and 10% on the final presentation. The median grade is B+ and distribution around the median is determined by class performance.

Classroom Participation (30%):

The instructor will lead the literature discussion in class. Students are required to read assigned readings before class and join in the discussion during the discussions. The discussion in each week accounts for 4% each (6 weeks in total) and the debate accounts for 6%.

Weekly Reports (30%):

Every student needs to prepare six reading reports (maximum 2 pages each, double spaced). The topic of each report is based on the literature in the same week. Each report is graded on: relevance of the topic, summary of the article, critiques, additional information beyond the article, and policy implication. Each report accounts for 5%.

Term Paper (30%):

Each student is required to submit a paper on a research topic relevant to the course materials. The paper may be empirical or conceptual. Literature reviews are acceptable if they are interpretive. The paper should be no longer than 15 pages (exclusive of figures, tables and references). The paper should include a clear problem and objectives statement, review of relevant literature and analysis of the problem. All information or arguments drawn from the literature should be carefully cited.

A one-page project proposal is due on the Friday of the 2nd week. The complete paper should be submitted before the Friday of the 7th week.

Final Presentation (10%):

The final week is for each student to make an oral presentation. The presentation is graded on: content of the presentation, effective presentation skills, and effectiveness in stimulating discussion.

Diversity and Intercultural Learning (see Principles of DKU Liberal Arts Education)

This course will foster diversity and intercultural learning experiences through reading materials on China's environmental and energy problems from Chinese and Western media. The interactions of students in the classroom through discussion, debates, and presentation will also enhance diversity and intercultural learning. The instructor has been teaching environmental economics and policy to students with a variety of backgrounds, including students from China and other countries with English as a Foreign Language. All aspects of the experience, from field trips to group presentations

to library work, will be accomplished with attention to intercultural sensitivity and awareness of global cultural diversity.

Course Policies and Guidelines

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Each student is bound by the academic honesty standard of the Duke Kunshan University. Its Community Standard states: "Duke Kunshan University is a community composed of individuals of diverse cultures and backgrounds. We are dedicated to scholarship, leadership, and service and to the principles of honesty, fairness, respect, and accountability. Members of this community commit to reflect upon and uphold these principles in all academic and non-academic endeavors, and to protect and promote a culture of integrity."

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to engage in active classroom discussion, thus class participation and attendance is mandatory. If a student misses class, the attendance can be made up by submitting an extra reading report (up to 2 pages, double spaced) on the topics of the class in addition to the weekly report. This includes reading assigned articles, submitting reading reports, leading discussions and participate classroom debates.

POLICY ON MAKE-UP WORK:

Students are allowed to make up work only for medical reasons, consistent with DKU policy. You must notify the instructor in advance if you will miss a report or presentation.

Tentative Course Outline or Schedule

WEEK	TOPICS
1	**Course Overview and Introduction to Globalization and the Environment (Junjie Zhang)** **Readings:** • Maler, K.-G. 1990. International environmental problems. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 6: 80-108. • Dasgupta, S., B. Laplante, H. Wang, and D. Wheeler. 2002. Confronting the environmental Kuznets curve. Journal of Economic Perspectives 16(1):147-168. • Frankel, Jeffery A. 2003. The environment and globalization. NBER working paper. Available at http://www.nber.org/papers/w10090.pdf. • Copeland, B.R. and Taylor, M.S.. 2004. Trade, growth, and the environment. *Journal of Economic literature*, *42*(1), 7-71. • Gallagher, Kevin P. 2009. Economic Globalization and the Environment. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 34:279-304. • Carson, R. T. 2010. The Environmental Kuznets Curve: Seeking Empirical Regularity and Theoretical Structure. *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 4(1): 3-23.

2	**Global Environmental Politics (Erika Weinthal)** **Readings:** • Kate O'Neill. 2017. *The Environment and International Relations,* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction. • Ronald Mitchell and Liliana B. Andonova. 2010. The Rescaling of Global Environmental Politics. *Annual Review of Environmental Resources* 35:255–82. • Peter M. Haas. 1992. Banning chlorofluorocarbons: epistemic community efforts to protect stratospheric ozone. *International Organization* 46 (1): 187-224. • Bill McKibban. A Finite Earth. Simon Nicholson and Paul Wapner. 2015. Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet. Paridigm Publishers. • Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne. Brief History of International Environmental Cooperation. In Simon Nicholson and Paul Wapner. 2015. Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet. Paridigm Publishers.
3	**Environment and Conflict (Erika Weinthal)** **Readings:** • *Ken Conca and Geoffrey D. Dabelko. 2002.* Environmental Peacemaking. *Woodrow Wilson Center Press and the Johns Hopkins University Press, chapter 1.* • Matthew, R., O. Brown, and D. Jensen (2009) "From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of the Environment and Natural Resources," UNEP (50pp), http://www.unep.org/publications/search/pub_details_s.asp?ID=3998 • Le Billon, Philippe. 2001. The Political Ecology of War: Natural Resources and Armed Conflicts. *Political Geography.* 20: 561-84. • Friedman, Thomas. 2006. The First Law of Petropolitics. *Foreign Policy.* May/June. • Gleick, P.H. 1993. Water and Conflict. *International Security.* 18(1): 79-112. • Wolf, Aaron. 2003. Identifying Basins at Risk. *Water Policy* 5: 29-60. • Gleditsch, N.P., 2012. Whither the weather? Climate change and conflict. Journal of Peace Research 49:3-9. • E. Weinthal, N. Zawahri, and J. Sowers. 2015. Securitization of Migration, Water, and Climate Change Linkages in the Middle East. *International Environmental Agreements*.
4	**Political Economy of International Environmental Policy (Billy Pizer)** **Readings:** • Aldy, J. and R. Stavins. 2008. Climate Policy Architectures for the Post-Kyoto World. *Environment*.* • Sunstein, Cass. 2007. Of Montreal and Kyoto: A tale of two protocols. *Harvard Environmental Law Review* 31:1-29.

	• UNFCCC. 2011. Establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. Draft decision -/CP.17. Geneva: UNFCCC. • Lazarus, Richard. 2009. Super Wicked Problems and Climate Change: Restraining the Present to Liberate the Future. *Cornell Law Review* 94(5): 1153-1187. • Gruber, J. Distinctions between Price and Quantity Approaches to Addressing Externalities. Section 5.4 in Public Finance and Public Policy. • Aldy, J.E. and W.A. Pizer. 2009. Issues in Designing U.S. Climate Change Policy. *Energy Journal* 30(3).
5	**Climate Change Economics and Policy (Billy Pizer)** **Readings:** • Goulder, Lawrence and William A. Pizer. 2008. The economics of climate change. In The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics 2nd edition. Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan. • Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government. 2010. Technical Support Document: Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis. • IPCC. 2014. Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Summary for Policymakers: 1-16. • Per-Anders Enkvist, Tomas Nauclér, and Jerker Rosander. 2007. A cost curve for greenhouse gas reduction. McKinsey Quarterly. • Weyant and Hill. 1999. Introduction and Overview. Kyoto Protocol Special Issue of *Energy Journal*: xix-xxii. • Dell, Melissa, Benjamin Jones, and Benjamin Olken. 2012. Temperature Shocks and Economic Growth: Evidence from the Last Half Century. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 4(3): 66-95. • C2ES. 2016. Outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris.
6	**International Environmental Agreements (Junjie Zhang)** **Readings:** • Sebenius, J. 1983. Negotiation Arithmetic: Adding and Subtracting Issues and Parties. *International Organization* 37(2): 281-316. • Barrett, S. 1994. Self-enforcing international environmental agreements. *Oxford Economic Papers*: 878-894. • Barrett, S. 1998. On the theory and diplomacy of environmental treaty-making. *Environmental and Resource Economics* 11:317-333. • Mitchell, R.B. 2003. International environmental agreements: a survey of their features, formation, and effects. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 28(1): 429-461. • Nowak M, Sigmund K. 2006. Five rules for the evolution of cooperation. *Science* 314:1560–63 • Young, Oran. 2008. The Architecture of Global Environmental Governance: Bringing Science to Bear on Policy. *Global Environmental Politics* 8(1): 14-32. • Nordhaus, W. 2015. Climate clubs: overcoming free-riding in international climate policy. *The American Economic Review 105*(4): 1339-1370.

	• Keohane, R.O. and Victor, D.G. 2016. Cooperation and discord in global climate policy. *Nature Climate Change 6*(6):570-575.
7	**Session 1: Debate (Junjie Zhang)** **Topic:** The current climate negotiations follow the United Nations model that requires all countries to reach consensus. Some criticized that it is too slow to make progress. Some are worried that the climate talk could be hijacked by a number of countries. It is proposed that only top 20 or even less emitters should be involved in the negotiations. Do you agree or disagree with this point of view? The half class will comprise the ”pro” team that supports the UN model, while the other half will comprise the ”con” team that supports the G20 model. Each team is randomly selected. The format will be as follows. Each team will have 15 minutes to present their position. The use of graphs, statistics, and specific examples is encouraged. After both teams have finished their presentations, there will be a brief recess, and then each team will have up to 5 minutes to respond to points made by the opposing team. This will be followed by questions and arguments from the floor.
	Session 2: Final Presentations (Junjie Zhang)

Bibliography (optional)