



Environmental Politics

Miri Lavi-Neeman

3 weekly lecture hours, 3 credits. Undergraduate level.

Course description

We live at a time when planetary ecologies appear to be most threatened and vulnerable, and global environmental problems, from climate change, to biodiversity have become pressing political concerns for the global economy.

This class examines different international politics, actors, processes, and structures that have emerged in the arena of global environmental politics.

Topics include:

- Global and regional environmental problems, agreements and structures of governance
- The politics of climate change, water shortage, energy
- Actors, tensions, processes, and theories in global environmental politics.
- Grassroots environmental politics
- Special focus on the upcoming Paris World Climate Summit December 2015

Part 1 of the course sets the context, assessing the history and current state of global environmental politics,

Part 2 introduce tensions in environmental politics introducing the language of environmental justice, and examining the roles of states, inter-state coalitions, business, and NGOs.

Finally in Part 3 we discuss grassroots environmental politics, the connection between global and local dimensions, and alternatives to the present framework of global governance.

Text books:

- James Gustave Speth and Peter Haas (2006) Global Environmental Governance (Washington, DC : Island Press)
- Ronnie D. Lipschutz (2003) Global Environmental Politics: Power, Perspectives, and Practice (Washington, DC: CQ Press)

- Ken Conca and Geoffrey Dabelko (2004) Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Johannesburg (Boulder: Westview)

Grade components:

Participation 15%

Presentation 20%

Mid term Quiz & Reading reflection 25%

Final Exam 40%

- There will be one mid-term quiz and one final examination at the end of term. The quiz will consist of short-answer questions. The final exam will consist of short answer questions and an essay.
- Students (with peers) will research and give short presentations about particular international environmental problems and efforts to solve them.
- Students should complete and reflect on all required readings prior to class.

Course schedule and reading:

Week 1

Introduction:

What is theory for, how to read theory, course administration and Framework to the course

Readings:

- Michael Burawoy. (2001) "How to Read Theory."
- Center for Convivial Research & Autonomy. "Reading Critically." (2012)
- Friedman, T. (2005) *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux: Chapters 1 & 11 (with review by Vandana Shiva).

Class 2

Approaches to Environmental Politics : historical materialism

Student Presentation: Ozon

Readings: Lipschutz ch.1

Class 3

Environmental security, Energy and Water with Prof. Itay Fishhendler , the Hebrew University

Readings:

- Fishhendler, I., Nathan, D. In the Name of Energy Security: the Struggle over the Exportation of Israeli Natural Gas
- **Recommended:** Deudeny, D. 1990. Environment and security: muddled thinking. *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 47(3): 21-28.

Class 4 **Environmental Negotiation: Prof. Kate O'neil , UC Berkeley
Towards the UN Climate change Negotiation in Paris**

Student Presentation: climate

Readings: TBA

Class 5 **History of the International Process: Stockholm to Johannesburg**

Student Presentation: deforestation

Readings:

- Speth ch.3
- Paul Warpner (2003) "WSSD: Towards a Post-Jo'burg Environmentalism". *Global Environmental Politics (GEP)* 3(1): 1-10

Class 6 **Structures of International Environmental Governance**

Student Presentation: Toxic Waste, Acid Rain

***Mid semester Review

Readings:

- Speth ch.4
- Lipschutz ch.5 pp.177-188, 211-223

Class 7 **Rethinking Environmental Justice: North and South**

Student Presentation: Trade in GMOs

Readings:

- Speth ch.5
- Stuart Hall "the west and the Rest"
- Robyn Eckersley (2004) "The Big Chill: The WTO and Multilateral Environmental Agreements". *GEP* 4(2): 24-50

Recommended:

Lipschutz ch.3 pp.121-128 & ch.5 pp.188-207

Class 8: **The Business of Environmental Politics**

Student Presentation: Dessertification

***Mid term Quizz

Readings:

- Peter Andréé, "The Genetic Engineering Revolution in Agriculture and Food: Strategies of the 'Biotech Bloc'".
- Matthias Finger, "The New Water Paradigm: The Privatization of Governance and the Instrumentalization of the State".

both in David L. Levy and Peter J. Newell, The Business of Global Environmental Governance (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2004)

- Trade in Greenhouse Gasses". Capitalism, Nature, Socialism 15(4): 5-20

Class 9: **An insider perspective on the UN work with Prof. Uriel Safriel**

Student Presentation: Biodiversity

Readings: TBA

Class 10: **NGOs in Environmental Politics**

Student Presentation: Whaling

Betsill, Michele M. and Elisabeth Corell (2001). "NGO Influence in International Environmental Negotiations: A Framework for Analysis." *Global Environmental Politics* 1(4): 65-85. (UCB Library only)

One of the following:

- Christoffersen, Leif E., "IUCN: A Bridge-BUILDER for Nature Conservation", *Green Globe Yearbook 1997*, on-line at http://www.greenyearbook.org/articles/97_04_christoffersen.pdf
- † Brown, Graham K., "Stemming the Tide: Third World Network and Global Governance", *Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development*, 2003/04, on-line at http://www.greenyearbook.org/articles/03_06_brown.pdf

Recommended:

- Hans-Martin Jaeger (2007) "'Global Civil Society' and the Political Depoliticization of Global Governance". *International Political Sociology* 1: 3 pp.257-277;
- Paul Wapner (2002) "Horizontal Politics: Transnational Environmental Activism and Global Cultural Change". *GEP* 2(2): 37-61

- Christoffersen, Leif E., "IUCN: A Bridge-Builder for Nature Conservation", *Green Globe Yearbook 1997*, on-line at http://www.greenyearbook.org/articles/97_04_christoffersen.pdf
- † Brown, Graham K., "Stemming the Tide: Third World Network and Global Governance", *Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development, 2003/04*, on-line at http://www.greenyearbook.org/articles/03_06_brown.pdf
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Class 11: Environmental Social Movements

Student Presentation: Fracking

Movie: occupy the farm

- Lipschutz ch.4 142-162
- Readings on MST and Land Movements TBA

Class12: Alternatives to the Current Framework

- Speth ch.6
- Lipschutz ch.6

Class 13: Conclusion: Where Next for Global Environmental Politics?

Ingolfur Blühdorn and Ian Welsh (2007) "Eco-politics beyond the Paradigm of Sustainability: A Conceptual Framework and Research Agenda". Environmental Politics 16(2): 185-205

Final exam