



Conflict or Cooperation?

The Politics and Economics of Trans-Border Environmental Issues

1.5 hour lectures twice a week, 3 credits, **Undergraduate**

This course examines the relationship between politics, economy and the environment, with a focus on environmental conflicts and co-operations in Palestine and its vicinity. **Its aim is to give the participants:**

- (1) basic knowledge of theories, models and ideas;
- (2) acquaintance with exemplary case studies;
- (3) a forum for discussing contemporary issues;
- (4) opportunities for initiative research in the field.

Part 1: ***Political and Economic*** Models and Theories;

Part 2: ***Contemporary and Historical*** Case Studies;

Part 3: Environmental ***Threats and Opportunities*** in our Region.

Grade Components

- Writing Assignment – 30%
- Exercises in Class – 20 %
- Final Exam - 30%
- Attendance and Participation 20%

Course's Program

A. Political and Economic Models and Theories

1 Introduction and Overview

Peter Gleick (2014) Water, Drought, Climate Change and Conflict in Syria. *Weather, Climate and Society* 6, pp. 331-340.

2 Basic Terms and Ideas

“Scarcity”, “Environmental Politics”, “Rational Choice”, “Prospect Theory”, Games and Decision Making

3 The “Tragedy of the Commons”

Hardin Garrett (1968) .The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162 pp.1243-1248.

Hardin Garrett (1998) Extension of the Tragedy of the Commons. *Science*, pp. 682-683.

Feeny, Berkes, McCay & Acheson (1990) The Tragedy of the Commons: Twenty-Two Years Later, *Human Ecology* 18, pp. 1-19.

4 Markets: Classical

Dietz et al. (2003) The Struggle to Govern the Commons. *Science* 302 pp. 1907-1912.

Pearce, David (2002) An Intellectual History of Environmental Economics, Annual Review of Energy Env. 27, pp. 57-81.

5 Markets: Environmental Views

Keohane & Olmstead (2007) *Markets and the Environment*. Island Press (Chapter 5).

6 Markets: Critical Views

John O'Neill, Markets and the Environment: The Solution Is the Problem, *Economic and Political Weekly* 36, pp. 1865-1873.

7, 8 Resources and War(part 1)

Brunnschweiler & Bulte (2009), Natural Resources and Violent Conflict: Resource Abundance, Dependence, and the Onset of Civil Wars, *Oxford Economic Papers* 61, 651–674.

Resources and War (part 2)

Halle S (2009) *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and Environment*. Nairobi: UNEP and the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

B. Contemporary and Historical Case studies

9 Fossil Resources

Heinberg (2005) *The Party is Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies*. New Society Press.

10 Non-Renewable Resources: Oil

Zeller & Tamir (forthcoming) *Homo s.combustans* Goes to Battle: Correlation Between Availability of Petroleum and Armed Conflicts in the Age of Oil.

11 Enter Malthus: Food Shortages...

Diamond, Jared. (2005) *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. Penguin Group, New York. ch. 10 pp. 311-328

12 ... or is it? Some Critic on Rwanda's Case Study

Boudreux K (2009) Land Conflict and Genocide in Rwanda, *Electronic Journal of Sustainable Development* 1, pp. 61-73.

C. Regional and Local Case Studies

13 The “Israeli-Palestinian” Conflict

Adwan S, Bar-On D, Musallam A, Naveh E, Steinberg S, Livni L (2003) *Learning Each Other’s Historical Narrative*. Prime Publication Beit Jalla

14 The “Israeli-Palestinian” Conflict: Some Other Views

Boaz Evron (1995) *Jewish State or Israeli Nation*, Indiana University Press.

15 Water in the Holy Land 1

Fisher F, Huber-Lee A (2010) Using Economics for Sustainability, Efficient Management and Conflict Resolution in Water, *Economie Publique*, pp. 11-49.

Haddadin MJ (2002) Water in the Middle East Peace Process, *The Geographical Journal* 168 pp. 324-340.

16 Water in the Holy Land 2

Robin Twite (2010) The Role of Third Parties in Conflict Resolution, in: Alon Tal & Alfred Abed Rabbo (eds.) *Water Wisdom: Preparing the Groundwork for Cooperative and Sustainable Water Management in the Middle East*, Rutgers Uni. Press, pp. 297-306.

Marwan Haddad & Eran Feitelson (2010) Joint Aquifer Management: Institutional Options, in: Alon Tal & Alfred Abed Rabbo (eds.) *Water Wisdom: Preparing the Groundwork for Cooperative and Sustainable Water Management in the Middle East*, Rutgers Uni. Press, pp. 313-321.

17-18 Environmental Mediation

Lecture and Workshop with Robin Twite (Guest Lecturer)

D. Back to the Global Level

19 The “Arab Spring” and Climate Change: Environmental History of the Fertile Crescent

Adam W. Schneider & Selim F. Adalı (2014) “No harvest was reaped”: demographic and climatic factors in the decline of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, *Climatic Change* 2014, pp. 1-17.

20 The “Arab Spring” and Current Global Climatic Trends

Werrell CE, Femia F (2013) *The Arab Spring and Climate Change: A Climate and Security Correlations Series*. Center for American progress.

21 Environment in Peace Building 1

Ken Conca & Jennifer Wallace (2012) Environment and peace building in war-torn societies: Lessons from the UN Environment Programme’s experience with post-conflict assessment, in *Assessing and Restoring Natural Resources in Post-Conflict Peace building*, London: Earthscan.

22 Environment in Peace Building 2

Readings TBA

23 Is War Always Bad for the Environment?

Pearson, Chris (2011) Researching Militarized Landscapes: A Literature Review on War and the Militarization of the Environment, *Landscape Research* 37, pp. 115-133.

24 Conclusion

Atran S, Axelrod R, Davis R (2007) Sacred Barriers to Conflict Resolution. *Science* 317 pp. 1039-1040.

25 Final Exam

