



Global 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 past and present international politics, actors, processes, and structures that have emerged in the arena of global environmental politics.

Topics include:

- Approaches to Global Environmental Politics
- Global and regional environmental problems, agreements and structures of governance
- Actors, tensions, processes, and theories in global environmental politics.
- Grassroots environmental politics

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)



- O'Neill Kate (2009) *The Environment and International Relations* (Cambridge University Press)

Grade components:

Participation	15%
Presentation	20%
Quiz & Reading	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, and reflect in writing on 3 key readings .

Course schedule and reading:

Class 1 Introduction: Theory and Globalization

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

Readings:

- Michael Burawoy. "How to Read Theory." (2001)
- Center for Convivial Research & Autonomy. "Reading Critically." (2012)
- Thomas Friedman: *The World is Flat*

Class 2 Approaches to Global Environmental Politics

Student Presentation: Ozon

Readings:

Lipschutz ch.1

1st reading commentary

Class 3 History of the International Process: Stockholm to Johannesburg

Student Presentation: Acid Rain



Readings:

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

2nd reading commentary

Class 4 Environmental Negotiation: The Law of the Sea with Yael Teff Seker.

Student Presentation: sea level rise

Readings: TBA

Class 5 Structures of International Environmental Governance

Student Presentation: Deforestation

Mid Term Quiz

Readings:

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

3rd reading commentary

Class 6 Biodiversity and TiME organization

Guest Lecture : Prof Uri Shanas

Student Presentation: Biodiversity

Class 7 Rethinking Environmental Justice: North and South

Student Presentation: Toxic Waste, Acid Rain

Readings:

- Speth ch.5
- 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

4th reading commentary



Class 9 **NGO's and Environmental Social Movements**

Student Presentation: Whaling

Movie—Occupy the Farm

Readings on social movements:

- Lipschutz ch.4 142-162

Readings on NGO's :

- 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)

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

5th reading commentary

Class 10 **: The Business of Environmental Politics**

Student Presentation: Trade in GMOs

Movie: David against Monsanto

Reading:

- Peter Andrée, "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 Gases". Capitalism, Nature, Socialism 15(4): 5-20
6th reading commentary

Class 11 The Environmental Movement in Israel from Global Perspective
Guest Lecture Dr. Benny First

Readings TBA

Class 12 Alternatives to the Current Framework

Student Presentation: desertification, Deforestation

Reading:

- Speth ch.6
- Lipschutz ch.6

Conclusion: Where Next for Global Environmental Politics?

Reading:

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

7th reading commentary

Class 13 Final exam