

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

POSC 470.A01_1156 | SUMMER 2015

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Live online/telephone/in-person office hours:
M/T/W/Th 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Mondays 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Environmental problems are global in scope, either because they are global problems, like climate change, or because they are problems, often linked to globalization, that influence lives across the globe in similar ways, such as deforestation. Around the world, governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), activists, and scientists and other scholars are trying to better understand and address global environmental problems.

In this political science class, we will examine terms, concepts, processes and actors important in global politics related to environmental issues.

We will address eight questions:

- What are some of the most important global environmental issues?
- When and how did global environmental politics emerge?
- What are some of the important concepts in global environmental politics?
- What are regimes influencing global environmental politics?
- What are paradigms affecting global environmental politics and how are they changing?
- How is development related to global environmental politics?
- How are justice and human rights related to global environmental politics?
- What can be done to address global environmental problems?

Coursework includes completing guided readings, viewing documentaries, engaging in online discussions, journaling, carrying out basic Internet research, and writing a final essay.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

We will

- interpret political science texts presenting fundamental principles of global environmental politics, including concepts, processes, and actors
- analyze relations of power, governance, and processes of representation relevant to global environmental issues
- identify and assess Internet resources about global environmental issues
- reflect on issues of interest to students in global environmental politics

COURSE RESOURCES:

Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System we will use for our course. We will use Modules, Pages, Quizzes, People, Discussions and other Canvas tools.

Get started by visiting CWU's Canvas Help and Support for Students webpage:
<http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/canvas-help-and-support-students>.

CWU offers tutoring for students at westside campuses. To get started finding assistance, see <http://www.cwu.edu/learning-commons/cwu-westside-centers>. If the Learning Commons does not provide the kind of assistance you need, contact Sandi Gruberg at WestsideWC@cwu.edu for information about other resources.

Software and hardware

CWU's Online Learning site has information about technology requirements. See <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/technology-requirements>. You can download free programs and players there.

Some course documents are presented in .PDF format. You will need Adobe Reader to view these files. Visit <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> CWU's Online Learning site: <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/technology-requirements> to download Adobe Reader.

Some materials may be presented as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx). If you do not have Microsoft Word installed on your computer, you can use Open Office Writer, which you can obtain for free at <http://www.openoffice.org/>. See also: <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/technology-requirements>

Modules in Canvas present lists of course components you must complete. Modules should be completed in the order presented. In some cases, it is necessary to complete Module work before moving on to the next Module. Modules contain links to Canvas course Pages, which provide instructions, information about topics covered in the Module, and links to resources. Please note that Modules and Pages are updated periodically, so you must check for updates on a regular basis.

Readings

Online classes require a lot of reading. Because this is a five-credit course and we have only six weeks to complete it, reading will require a lot of your time. It is also important that you keep up with reading assignments. Students with average upper-division college reading skills should plan to spend about eight hours/week reading and about two hours/week preparing for reading quizzes. Please keep in mind that the amount of time you will need to complete readings will depend in large part on your skill levels and whether or not you have taken other political science courses.

Open-book reading quizzes are designed to help you identify and interpret key points in readings. Quiz questions are posted in Modules to use as study guides.

Some required readings are posted as PDF files in the Readings Page on Canvas. Others are available to you through CWU's library.

Documentaries

You will need to rent some movies online from Amazon.com or access them, as available, through other sources such as Netflix. Others may be available online at no cost.

Your instructor

I got my PhD in political science from the University of Oregon, with emphases in comparative politics, political theory, and political ecology. I have an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona, and got my BA in political science at CWU in 1988. Besides environmental politics, my areas of expertise are movements, political culture, political ecology, and cultural politics in Latin America, the US, and Canada. I've taught political science, Spanish, interdisciplinary studies, and women's studies at CWU since 2000. From 2005-2007, I worked as a professor of environmental studies and politics at Green Mountain College.

PLEASE contact me anytime you have questions or need assistance figuring out what to do or how to do it! I check my e-mail and the Canvas course site frequently and will respond to you promptly. I have an office on campus and am available during office hours or by appointment for face-to-face visits.

COURSE COMPONENTS:

Quizzes (30%) on Canvas guide and measure comprehension of readings. You should *review* them before you read and take them *after* you have read assigned texts.

We will engage in **Discussions (30%)** using Canvas. These will help us better understand concepts and cases through interaction as an online class community. Initial discussion posts must be at least 100 words in length and responses must further the discussion. See the rubric used for grading discussions at Canvas.

Journal entries (30%) enable critical reflection on concepts and cases. They will be submitted as Word documents on Canvas at the end of weeks 2 through 5.

A **final essay (10%)** facilitates analysis of global environmental problems based on fundamental principles we've considered over the course of the term.

COURSE POLICIES:

Communication and feedback

- I regularly check for and respond promptly to e-mail messages. When possible, please use the mail function in Canvas instead of Outlook.
- We can talk by phone or schedule face-to-face meetings on the Ellensburg campus.
- Check the Canvas inbox and your CWU e-mail account on a daily basis and respond promptly to messages (within 24 hours.)
- Log in to Canvas every day, carefully read announcements and review Modules, Pages, and the course schedule in "Syllabus" for updates.

- I carefully review all student work and provide feedback through discussions, comments on student work, and e-mail. **I am happy to help** however I can.
- I welcome all feedback you may wish to provide on the course! If you have suggestions about how to make instructions clearer, assignments more valuable, or due dates more reasonable, LET ME KNOW. This will be helpful not just to you and me, but to others in this and future classes.

Missed or make-up work

- If an emergency prevents you from completing required coursework on time, please communicate with me right away.
- Make arrangements *in advance* before submitting late work.
- Missed course requirements are entered into the gradebook as “0” points.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic integrity and student conduct

You are expected to complete all coursework and assignments using your own original ideas and your own words and must properly cite the ideas and words of others. (Sanctions for plagiarism range from failure of a particular assignment to suspension from the university.) You are also expected to be honest and respectful in your interactions with other students and the instructor. Specific student responsibilities and expectations of student conduct are established by the University and by Washington state law. See the CWU Catalog for more information. See the Washington state Student Conduct Code (which includes proscribed conduct and disciplinary sanctions) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=106-120>.

Special needs

Students with disabilities wishing to use academic adjustments in this class must be registered with Disability Services (DS). Information about the DS intake process may be obtained by e-mailing cds@cwu.edu or calling (509) 963-2171. Qualified students with disabilities may establish academic adjustments in this class by:

- 1) Sending me their official accommodation request;
- 2) Speaking with me to establish the manner in which requested adjustments will be made.

THIS IS OUR PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE:

- Watch for announcements about course schedule updates and check the **course schedule** in “Syllabus” in Canvas for **updates!**
- Unless otherwise specified, coursework is **due at midnight** on dates indicated.

WEEK	MODULES	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES
1 6/22 – 6/28	Module 1: Getting started ***** Module 2: Intro. to global environmental politics	✓ 6/24: Survey due ✓ 6/24: Canvas PROFILE assignment due ✓ <u>BEGIN MODULE 2 on 6/24</u> ✓ 6/25: Discussion 1 (D1) - 1 st posts due ✓ 6/28: Finish D1

2 6/29 – 7/5	Finish Module 2 ***** Module 3: States and regimes	✓ 6/30: Reading Quiz 1 (RQ1) due ✓ 7/2: D2 – 1 st posts due ✓ 7/4: Finish D2 ✓ 7/5: RQ2 due ✓ 7/5: Journal #1 due
3 7/6 – 7/12	Module 4: Paradigms ***** Module 5: Development and global environmental politics	✓ 7/7: D3 – 1 st posts due ✓ 7/9: RQ3 due ✓ 7/10: Finish D3 ✓ 7/12 journal #2 due
4 7/13 – 7/19	Finish Module 5 ***** Module 6: Activism ***** Module 7 : Climate change	✓ 7/19: RQ4 due ✓ 7/19 Journal #3 due
5 7/20 – 7/26	Finish Module 7 ***** Module 8: Justice ***** Module 9: Water wars	✓ 7/21: D4 – 1 st posts due ✓ 7/24: Finish D5 ✓ 7/25: RQ5 due ✓ 7/26 Journal #4 due
6 7/27 – 8/2	Finish Module 9 ***** Module 10: What do you know?	✓ 7/27: D4 – 1 st posts due ✓ 7/30: Finish D5 ✓ Classes end 7/31 ✓ 8/2: Last day to submit final essay

GRADING:

Grades are based on the following distribution:

Component	% value
Quizzes	30%
Discussions	30%
Journals	30%
Final essay	10%

Grades are calculated using the following scale:

Grade	Percentage range
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-88
B	87-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-78
C	77-73

C-	72-70
D+	69-68
D	67-63
D-	62-60
F	0-5