

Geography 635
Winter 2006

M-W 12:30-2:18
1116 Derby Hall

Geography 635

Globalization and Environment

This course is about international dimensions of environmental issues, including the effect of economic globalization on the environment and the globalization of environmental conservation. The course will focus on the politics and economics of biodiversity, and central themes include trends in and controversy about food production, population, and the commons. We will cover different aspects of globalization, including free trade and global production chains, and how these contribute to environmental transformations. We will also cover responses to environmental problems, with an emphasis on international conservation efforts. We will examine the development of global environmentalism, international environmental conferences and protocols, and the role of inter- and non-governmental organizations. Throughout the course we will examine ways that relationships between more and less developed regions of the world influence variation in environmental impacts and responses.

Professor: Becky Mansfield

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Office hours: by appointment

Course format:

This course is organized primarily as a seminar, with small and large group discussions. There will be short lectures, but the emphasis is on student involvement in discussions and other activities. Students should feel free to ask questions and offer comments at all times.

Reading materials:

There is no single text that covers the material for this course. Instead, the readings include a series of individual articles and book chapters. Readings are all required, and are to be done before the class session for which they are listed.

Reading are available through OSU Electronic Reserves. Once you log-on to the reserve system, you can download and print each reading. See the handout for directions.

Course requirements:

Participation	15%
Pop quizzes	15%
Midterm	20%
Final	25%
Research essay	25%

Participation (15%): All students are expected to come to class daily having done the day's readings and to participate in discussions and related activities. This portion of your grade will be based on your daily presence in class and the *quantity* and *quality* of your contributions to the class. Quality contributions are comments or questions which clearly reflect that you have read the material and have given careful thought to the topic being discussed. Meeting with me to discuss class material also counts toward participation. Regular attendance is the minimum required to receive a passing grade for participation.

Pop quizzes (15%): There will be an unspecified number of pop quizzes. Quizzes may be of two kinds. The first kind is a closed-book quiz exclusively on the readings for that day. These will be designed to be fairly easy for anyone having completed the readings. The second kind is an in-class, open-book, group activity using course materials to answer specified questions. Your lowest grade will be dropped.

Midterm and Final (Midterm 20%, Final 25%): The exams will be in-class, closed book. They will consist of definitions, short answers, and essay questions. The final will focus on material covered after the midterm, but will be require you to address and integrate themes from the entire course.

Research Essay (25%): This assignment asks you to apply course concepts, vocabulary, and readings to analyze *your* role in globalization and environment by researching a food item (of your choice) that you have recently eaten. The assignment requires that you do outside research and write an essay. You will be graded on the quality of the research and analysis, the extent to which you use course concepts and how well you use them, and your writing. An assignment with detailed instructions will be distributed in class.

Graduate Students: Graduate students have the option of writing a 15-20 page research paper *instead of taking* the midterm and final. You will still be graded on quizzes, attendance and participation, and the research essay; the paper will comprise 45% of your grade. The topic is of your choosing, as long as it is related to course themes. This assignment requires secondary, library research (books, research articles) rather than primary research, and consists of:

1. A research proposal (4-5 pages outlining the topic, your approach, and your hypothesized thesis), due during the midterm on Feb 6
2. A complete draft (as though you were turning in a final draft), due in class on Mar 1
3. A revised draft (taking into account my comments), due during the final on Mar 15

Course policies:**Grading policies:**

- *Attendance:* participation is based on attendance. If you are regularly absent, your participation grade will reflect your absences, even if you participate well on the days you do attend.
- *Quizzes:* missed quizzes *cannot* be made up. If you show up late for class on a quiz day, you will *not* be given extra time to take the quiz. (Remember, your lowest grade will be dropped.)
- *Exams:* exams can only be made up if you have an emergency such as a medical problem or death in the family. You will need to document the emergency. No early finals will be given.
- *Course projects:* late projects will lose one point (out of 15) for every day they are late. To avoid losing points, you must make arrangements AHEAD OF TIME.
- *To pass the course:*
 - You must receive a total grade of at least 55%.
 - You must complete all major assignments. Regardless of how well you do on other parts of the course, you will not pass the course if you miss an exam, fail to turn in a project, or miss more than six (1/3) of the class sessions. PLEASE SEE ME if you are having problems that prevent you from meeting this requirement; we may be able to make alternative arrangements.
- Grading scale: 93-100 A; 90-92 A-; 87-89 B+; 83-86 B; 80-82 B-; 77-79 C+; 73-76 C; 70-72 C-; 67-69 D+; 55-66 D (I will use the rules of rounding: < .5 is rounded down, ≥ .5 is rounded up.)

Misconduct:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as using another person's ideas without acknowledging from where the idea came. Plagiarism ranges from direct copying of someone else's work to presenting someone else's ideas as though they are yours. Please use citations to differentiate between your ideas and those you got from other sources (such as books and articles). Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Disability:

Accommodation will be made for any student with special needs based on the impact of a disability. Please contact the instructor and also the Office for Disability Services at 292-3307, 150 Pomerene Hall.

Schedule, with topic, readings, and assignments (a list of readings with full references is at the end)

Jan 4 Introduction: globalization and the global environment

Jan 9 Environmental problems: focus on biodiversity conservation

Introduction to global environmental issues, with an emphasis on defining biodiversity and threats to it; different approaches to biodiversity conservation

Read: French – pp. 184- top of 189 of *Coping with ecological globalization*
Speth – Selections from *Red Sky at Morning*: pp. 23-36
Myers et al. – Biodiversity hotspots for conservation priorities
Neumann – Land, justice, and the politics of conservation in Tanzania

Jan 11 Defining globalization

Different perspectives on globalization in general, and how it relates to the environment; geographical patterns of economic globalization

Read: Speth – Two perspectives on globalization and environment
Lechner and Boli – General Introduction to *The Globalization Reader*
Dicken – Selections from *Global Shift*: pp. 32-64 (**Read for overall patterns, not details**)

Jan 16 NO CLASS: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 18 Globalization: Free trade

Defining free trade and controversy about it; posing the broad question “is free trade good for the environment” as a major theme of this course

Read: WTO – “10 benefits”; point 4 of “10 misunderstandings”
French – pp. 189-194 of *Coping with ecological globalization*
Conca – *The WTO and the undermining of global environmental governance*
Langman – Letter from Chile

Jan 23 Globalization: financial aid, loans, and structural adjustment

How different countries are tied together economically, and how they are brought into the global political and economic system through aid and financing; understanding why aid and financing are controversial; understanding the geography of political economic power

Read: French – pp. 194-top of 200 of *Coping with ecological globalization*
Porter and Sheppard – Chapter 23 of *A World of Difference*

Jan 25 Globalization: the “global environment”

Global environmentalism as a form of globalization; understanding prominent discourses about environmental problems, especially population and the tragedy of the commons

Read: Held et al. – Selections from *Global Transformations*: pp. 378-380
Hardin – *The tragedy of the commons*
Adger et al. – Selections from *Advancing a political ecology of global environmental discourses*
Mitchell – Selections from *Rule of Experts*: pp. 209-221

Jan 30 Globalization: the example of food

Identifying global patterns of food production and consumption today; illustrating economic globalization and free trade; food as an example with direct implications for biodiversity and environmental degradation

Read: Atkins and Bowler – Chapters 4 and 13 of Food in Society

Feb 1 Historical roots: Colonialism and globalization of food

Understanding that globalization of food is nothing new; understanding how colonialism created the Third World and brought it into the global economy; showing how this history helps us understand how we got where we are today

Read: Freidberg – Conclusion to French Beans and Food Scares
Juma – Selections from The Gene Hunters: pp. 12-25 and 37-51
Mintz – Selections from Sweetness and Power: pp. 35-46

Feb 6 MIDTERM EXAM; Graduate research proposals due

Feb 8 Altering plants and their environments: from the Green Revolution to Biotechnology

Defining the Green Revolution and its role in globalization of food; the GR as an illustration of global environmentalism and its emphasis on population and technology; understanding the geography of environmental and social effects of the GR

Read: Atkins and Bowler – Chapter 17 of Food in Society
The Ecologist – CGIAR: agricultural research for whom?
The Ecologist – Letter Forum, between Norman Borlaug and Vandana Shiva

Feb 13 Issues in biotechnology

Biotechnology as a current chapter in the globalization of food; raising environmental and social questions associated with biotechnology; showing how today's controversies are rooted in the history of globalization

Read: Schapiro – Sowing disaster?
Avery – Genetically modified organisms can help save the planet
Caplan – GMOs in agriculture: an environmentalist perspective
Lambrecht – Selections from Dinner at the New Gene Café: pp. 156-166

Feb 15 Global fisheries and aquaculture

Fisheries crisis and the rise of aquaculture as another current chapter in globalization of food; illustrating global environmentalism and approaches to the commons; also showing how today's controversies are rooted in the history of globalization

Read: McGinn – Promoting sustainable fisheries
Fairlie et al – Selections from The politics of overfishing
Volpe – Dollars without sense
Primavera – Mangroves, fishponds, and the quest for sustainability

Feb 20 Global environmental politics 1970s-80s: Stockholm to the Brundtland Report

How issues, controversies, and global relations coalesced into a global politics of the environment that is carried out in international conferences and reports; identifying major themes of this politics and how they have changed over time; using the history of globalization of food to understand why these issues are so contentious and controversial, and to understand the geography of the controversy

Read: Re-read pp. 2-10 of Speth, Two perspectives on globalization and environment (from Jan 11)
Adams – Chapter 3 of Green Development

Feb 22 Sustainable development 1980s-90s: the Brundtland Report to the Earth Summit

The next stage in development of global environmental politics; defining sustainable development and North-South controversy over the idea

Read: Adams – Chapter 4 of Green Development

Feb 27 Sustainable development and globalization early 2000s: the Johannesburg Summit

The current stage in the development of global environmental politics; examining the entrenchment of sustainable development as a central idea; identifying the current relationship between economic globalization and sustainable development

Read: Wapner – World Summit on Sustainable Development
La Viña, Hoff and DeRose – The outcomes of Johannesburg

Research Essay due, in class

Mar 1 Corporations in global environmental politics

Analyzing corporations as actors in today's global environmental politics; corporations as key actors because of their economic dominance; defining and identifying "greenwash;" is greenwash a problem?

Read: World Business Council on Sustainable Development – Business Card
World Business Council on Sustainable Development – Member companies
Bruno and Karliner – Excerpts from earthsummit.biz: pp. 10-21 and 80-109

Graduate paper drafts due

Mar 6 Inter-governmental organizations (IGOs)

Analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of IGOs such as the UNEP and World Bank as players in today's global environmental politics; comparing the roles that different IGOs play

Read: Soroos – Global institutions and the environment: an evolutionary perspective
Horta – Selections from Rainforest: biodiversity conservation: pp. 190-202
French – pp. 200-202 of Coping with ecological globalization

Mar 8 Civil society: non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and activist movements

Analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of NGOs such as Conservation International and WWF as players in today's global environmental politics; Identifying different kinds of activist environmental movements; comparing and contrasting NGOs and Activist movements

Read: Tamiotti and Finger – Environmental Organizations: Changing roles...
Chapin – A Challenge to Conservationists
Guha – Selections from Environmentalism: A Global History: pp. 98-108
Starr – Selections from Naming the Enemy: pp. 46-49, 58-61, 65-69, 84-88

Mar 15 (Wednesday) FINAL EXAM 11:30-1:18; Graduate revised papers due

Reading list

- Adams, W. M. 2001. *Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in the Third World*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.
- Adger, W Neil, Tor A Benjaminsen, Katrina Brown, and Hanne Svarstan. 2001. Advancing a political ecology of global environmental discourses. *Development and Change* 32:681-715.
- Atkins, Peter, and Ian Bowler. 2001. *Food in Society: Economy, Culture, Geography*. London: Arnold.
- Avery, Dennis T. 2001. Genetically modified organisms can help save the planet. In *Genetically Modified Organisms in Agriculture: Economics and Politics*, edited by G. C. Nelson, 205-215. San Diego: Academic Press.
- Bruno, Kenny, and Joshua Karliner. 2002. *earthsummit.biz: The Corporate Takeover of Sustainable Development*. Oakland, CA: Food First Books.
- Caplan, Richard. 2001. GMOs in agriculture: an environmentalist perspective. In *Genetically Modified Organisms in Agriculture: Economics and Politics*, edited by G. C. Nelson, 197-203. San Diego: Academic Press.
- Chapin, Mac. 2004. A Challenge to Conservationists. *World Watch* (November/December):17-31.
- Conca, Ken. 2000. The WTO and the undermining of global environmental governance. *Review of International Political Economy* 7 (3):484-494.
- Dicken, Peter. 2003. *Global Shift: Reshaping the Global Economic Map in the 21st Century*. 4 ed. New York: Guilford Press.
- Ecologist. 1996. CGIAR: Agricultural research for whom? *The Ecologist* 26 (6):259-270.
- Ecologist. 1996. Letter Forum (Borlaug and Shiva). *The Ecologist* 27 (5).
- Fairlie, Simon, Mike Hagler, and Brian O'Riordan. 1995. The politics of overfishing. *The Ecologist* 25 (2/3):46-73.
- Freidberg, Susanne, ed. 2004. *French Beans and Food Scares: Culture and Commerce in an Anxious Age*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- French, Hilary. 2000. Coping with ecological globalization. In *State of the World 2000*, edited by L. R. Brown. New York: W.W. Norton and Co.
- Guha, Ramachandra. 2000. *Environmentalism: A Global History*. New York: Longman.
- Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The tragedy of the commons. *Science* 162:1243-1248.
- Held, David, Anthony McGrew, David Goldblatt, and Jonathan Perraton. 1999. *Global Transformations: Politics, Economics and Culture*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
- Horta, Korinna. 2000. Rainforest: biodiversity conservation and the political economy of international financial institutions. In *Political Ecology: Science, Myth, and Power*, edited by P. Stott and S. Sullivan. London: Arnold, pp. 179-202.
- Juma, Calestous. 1989. *The Gene Hunters: Biotechnology and the Scramble for Seeds*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Lambrecht, Bill. 2001. *Dinner at the New Gene Café*. New York: Thomas Dunne Books.
- Langman, Jimmy. 2002. Letter from Chile. *The Nation* (December 16):20-21.
- La Viña, Antonio GM, Gretchen Hoff, and Anne Marie DeRose. 2003. The outcomes of Johannesburg: assessing the World Summit on Sustainable Development. *SAIS Review* 23 (1):53-70.

- Lechner, Frank, and John Boli, eds. 2004. *The Globalization Reader*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- McGinn, Anne Fiat. 1998. Promoting sustainable fisheries. In *State of the World*, edited by L. Starke. New York: W.W. Norton and Co, pp. 59-211.
- Mintz, Sidney W. 1985. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. New York: Penguin.
- Mitchell, Timothy. 2002. *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Myers, Norman, Russell A. Mittermeier, Cristina G Mittermeier, Gustavo AB da Fonseca, and Jennifer Kent. 2000. Biodiversity hotspots for conservation priorities. *Nature* 403:853-858.
- Neumann, Roderick P. 2000. Land, justice, and the politics of conservation in Tanzania. In *People, Plants, and Justice: The Politics of Nature Conservation*, edited by C. Zerner, 117-133. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Porter, Philip W, and Eric S Sheppard. 1998. *A World of Difference: Society, Nature, Development*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Primavera, Jurgene H. 2005. Mangroves, fishponds, and the quest for sustainability. *Science* 310:57-59.
- Schapiro, Mark. 2002. Sowing disaster? How genetically engineered American corn has altered the global landscape. *The Nation* (October 28):11-19.
- Soroos, Marvin S. 1999. Global institutions and the environment: an evolutionary perspective. In *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy*, edited by N. Vig and R. Axelrod. Washington DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, pp. 27-51.
- Speth, James Gustave. 2003. Two perspectives on globalization and the environment. In *Worlds Apart: Globalization and the Environment*, edited by J. G. Speth, 1-18. Washington DC: Island Press.
- Speth, James Gustave. 2005. *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*. New Haven: Yale Nota Bene.
- Starr, Amory. 2000. *Naming the Enemy: Anti-corporate movements confront globalization*. London: Zed Books.
- Tamiotti, Ludvine, and Matthias Finger. 2001. Environmental organizations: changing roles and functions in global politics. *Global Environmental Politics* 1 (1):56-76.
- Volpe, John. 2005. Dollars without sense: the bait for big-money tuna ranching around the world. *BioScience* 55 (4):301-302.
- Wapner, Paul. 2003. World Summit on Sustainable Development: toward a post-Jo'burg environmentalism. *Global Environmental Politics* 3 (1):1-10
- WBSCD. 2003. *Business Card* and List of Member companies and Council Members. Conches-Geneva: World Business Council on Sustainable Development
- World Trade Organization. (Accessed December 2003). "10 benefits of the WTO trading system" and "10 common misunderstandings about the WTO" available from <http://www.wto.org/>