

**The Ohio State University**  
**Colleges of the Arts and Sciences New Course Request**

Political Science

Academic Unit  
 Political Science

Book 3 Listing (e.g., Portuguese)  
 559 International Environmental Politics

Number	Title	UG	05
Intntrl Envrtl Pol			
18-Character Title Abbreviation	Level	Credit Hours	

Summer      Autumn      Winter X      Spring      Year 2008

Proposed effective date, choose one quarter and put an "X" after it; and fill in the year. See the OAA curriculum manual for deadlines.

**A. Course Offerings Bulletin Information**

Follow the instructions in the OAA curriculum manual. If this is a course with decimal subdivisions, then use one New Course Request form for the generic information that will apply to all subdivisions; and use separate forms for each new decimal subdivision, including on each form the information that is unique to that subdivision. If the course offered is less than a quarter or a term, please complete the Flexibly Scheduled/Off Campus/Workshop Request form.

Description (not to exceed 25 words): Theories and debates over sustainable development, environment and security, and effectiveness of international regimes with a focus on international fisheries management and global climate change.

Quarter offered: AU, WI, SP      Distribution of class time/contact hours: 2, 2-HR CL

Quarter and contact/class time hours information should be omitted from Book 3 publication (yes or no):

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Exclusion or limiting clause: N/A

Repeatable to a maximum of \_\_\_\_ credit hours.

Cross-listed with:

Grade Option (Please check): Letter  S/U      Progress  What course is last in the series? \_\_\_\_

Honors Statement: Yes  No       GEC: Yes  No       Admission Condition  
 Off-Campus: Yes  No       EM: Yes  No       Course: Yes  No   
 Embedded Honors Statement: Yes  No

Other General Course Information:

(e.g. "Taught in English." "Credit does not count toward BSEA degree.")

**B. General Information**

Subject Code 451001      Subsidy Level (V, G, T, B, M, D, or P) D

If you have questions, please email Jed Dickhaut at [dickhaut.1@osu.edu](mailto:dickhaut.1@osu.edu).

1. Provide the rationale for proposing this course:

This course is in the research area of one of our faculty and is not currently offered.

2. Please list Majors/Minors affected by the creation of this new course. Attach revisions of all affected programs.

This course is (check one):  Required on major(s)/minor(s)       A choice on major(s)/minors(s)  
 An elective within major(s)/minor(s)       A general elective:

3. Indicate the nature of the program adjustments, new funding, and/or withdrawals that make possible the implementation of this new course.

This course will be offered in alternation with the instructor's current undergraduate courses.

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4. Is the approval of this request contingent upon the approval of other course requests or curricular requests?

Yes  No  List:

5. If this course is part of a sequence, list the number of the other course(s) in the sequence:


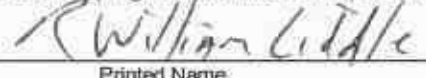

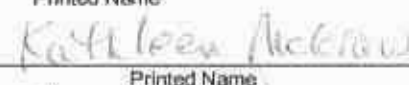
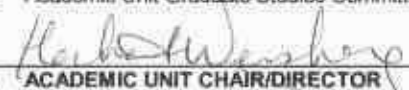

6. Expected section size: 75 Proposed number of sections per year: 2

7. Do you want prerequisites enforced electronically (see OAA manual for what can be enforced)? Yes  No

8. This course has been discussed with and has the concurrence of the following academic units needing this course or with academic units having directly related interests (List units and attach letters and/or forms):  
Not Applicable

9. Attach a course syllabus that includes a topical outline of the course, student learning outcomes and/or course objectives, off-campus field experience, methods of evaluation, and other items as stated in the OAA curriculum manual and e-mail to [asccurrofc@osu.edu](mailto:asccurrofc@osu.edu).

**Approval Process** The signatures on the lines in ALL CAPS (e.g. ACADEMIC UNIT) are required.

1.		Printed Name		Date	8-17-07
	Academic Unit Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair				
2.		Printed Name		Date	8-14-07
	Academic Unit Graduate Studies Committee Chair				
3.		Printed Name		Date	8-21-07
	ACADEMIC UNIT CHAIR/DIRECTOR				

4. After the Academic Unit Chair/Director signs the request, forward the form to the ASC Curriculum Office, 105 Brown Hall, 190 West 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. or fax it to 688-5678. Attach the syllabus and any supporting documentation in an e-mail to [asccurrofc@osu.edu](mailto:asccurrofc@osu.edu). The ASC Curriculum Office will forward the request to the appropriate committees.

5.	COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE	Printed Name	Date
6.	ARTS AND SCIENCES EXECUTIVE DEAN	Printed Name	Date
7.	Graduate School (if appropriate)	Printed Name	Date
8.	University Honors Center (if appropriate)	Printed Name	Date
9.	Office of International Education (if appropriate)	Printed Name	Date
10.	ACADEMIC AFFAIRS	Printed Name	Date

**Political Science 559**  
**International Environmental Politics**  
**Course Syllabus**

Professor Alexander Thompson  
Department of Political Science  
2139 Derby Hall  
thompson.1191@osu.edu

*PROPOSED NEW COURSE*

Course Description

Many of today's environment and resources problems are transnational in nature and cannot be solved by governments acting in isolation of each other. International solutions are required. And yet we find again and again that politics get in the way of successful action at the international level. The goal of this course is to explore the political underpinnings of global environmental problems and to both summarize and evaluate existing efforts to solve them. In sum, this course offers a history and analysis of environmental politics from the perspective of international relations.

The first part of the course establishes basic theoretical tools and concepts for understanding international environmental politics. We begin by discussing theories of collective action and commons management at the local level, and then turn to international theories of cooperation and regimes. We then outline the various actors and institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, involved in international environmental politics. The second part of the course takes up three themes of importance to policy and to the academic literature: sustainable development, the environment and security, and the compliance and effectiveness of international regimes. The third and final part of the course applies concepts from the course to case studies of two of the most important and controversial areas of environmental politics: international fisheries management and global climate change.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend every class session and to keep themselves updated on current events involving global environmental politics (we will begin every Wednesday session with a discussion of current events). I will circulate a handout listing relevant websites and periodicals. Graded assignments include: a midterm exam and a final exam, two 7-page papers (details outlined on the next page). The exams will test course readings as well as information covered during class sessions, including our discussions of current events. Note that class lectures and discussion will often cover material that is not covered in the course texts, so receiving a good grade in this course requires that you attend class *and* do the readings.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm exam (Oct. 24)	30%
Final exam (Dec. 3)	30%
Paper 1 (due Oct. 15)	20%
Paper 2 (due Nov. 26)	20%

## Required Books

The following required books are available at SBX:

- Pamela Chasek, David Downie and Janet Welsh Brown. 2006. *Global Environmental Politics*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Westview Press. (hereafter: Chasek et al.)
- Ken Conca and Geoffrey Dabelko. 2004. *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Johannesburg*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Westview Press. (hereafter: Conca & Dabelko)

Readings that are not from these books are either in the course packet or are available online, as noted below.

### **Paper Assignment #1 (due in class on October 15)**

The paper should be no more than seven double-spaced pages.

Choose an international environmental organization to analyze, either an inter-governmental organization or a non-governmental organization. Describe its mission, its structure, and its major activities. Then offer an answer to the two following questions. First, what are the most important accomplishments of this organization? Second, what are its major weaknesses? Third, what are the main obstacles to its success? Please talk to me once you have selected an organization to get the subject approved.

### **Paper Assignment #2 (due in class November 26)**

The paper should be no more than seven double-spaced pages.

You are writing a memo to the President recommending an international climate change policy. Explain what goals need to be achieved and what problems exist with existing policy in light of these goals. Then propose a new approach and describe why it will achieve the stated goals more effectively than the existing approach. You should also alert the President to the likely political opponents, both domestic and international, to your proposed plan. Feel free to be creative. You may choose to offer a comprehensive policy or you may focus on a particular aspect of climate policy. Every student must meet with me to have their topic approved.

### **Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)).

### **Disability Services**

**Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.**

## COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

### WEEK 1

September 19. Introduction. *Why international and why politics?*

### WEEK 2: Collective Action and the Commons

September 24. The Tragedy of the Commons

Readings:

- Meadows, Meadows, Randers & Behrens, "The Limits to Growth," in Conca & Dabelko
- Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," in Conca & Dabelko

September 26. Responses to the Tragedy

Readings:

- Susan Buck, "No Tragedy of the Commons," in Conca & Dabelko
- Thomas Dietz, Elinor Ostrom & Paul Stern, "The Struggle to Govern the Commons," *Science* (December 2003): pp. 1907-12
- Elinor Ostrom, "Understanding Collective Action," 2020 Focus No. 11 (February 2004), [http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus11/focus11\\_02.pdf](http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus11/focus11_02.pdf)

### WEEK 3: The International Context

October 1. Anarchy and International Cooperation

Readings:

- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, Chapter 5
- Kenneth Oye, "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions," in - Oye, ed., *Cooperation under Anarchy*, pp. 1-24.

October 3. Theories of International Regimes

Readings:

- Chasek et al., pp. 16-26.
- Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony*, Chapter 1

### WEEK 4: Actors and Levels of Analysis

October 8. Governments and International Organizations

Readings:

- Chasek et al., pp. 41-73
- UN Environment Program, "Multilateral Environmental Agreements: A Summary," in Conca & Dabelko

October 10. NGOs and Corporations

Readings:

- Paul Wapner, "Politics beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics," in Conca & Dabelko
- Chasek et al., pp. 73-94

**WEEK 5: Sustainable Development**

October 15. Alternative Views on Growth: Stockholm to Rio

\*paper #1 due\*

Readings:

- World Commission on Environment and Development, "Towards Sustainable Development," in Conca & Dabelko
- Chasek et al., pp. 1-11, 27-37, 261-71

October 17. Free Trade and the Environment

Readings:

- Chasek et al., pp. 243-61
- Tony Juniper, "Presentation to the World Trade Organization Symposium," in Conca & Dabelko
- Daniel Esty, "Environment and the Trading System: Picking Up the Post-Seattle Pieces," in Conca & Dabelko

**WEEK 6: Environment and Security**

October 22. Conflict and Human Security

Readings:

- Thomas Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases," in Conca & Dabelko
- Adil Najam, "The Human Dimensions of Environmental Insecurity," in Conca & Dabelko

October 24. Midterm Exam

**WEEK 7: Environmental Regimes: Compliance and Effectiveness**

October 29. Compliance with International Rules

Readings:

- Chasek et al., pp. 197-31

October 31. What Makes International Regimes Effective?

Readings:



-Ronald Mitchell, "Compliance Theory: Compliance, Effectiveness, and Behavior Change in International Environmental Law," in *Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law* (2007)

### **WEEK 8: International Fisheries Cooperation**

November 5. The History of the Law of the Sea

Readings:

-Chasek et al., pp. 167-75

November 7. Migratory and Straddling Stocks

Readings:

-Alexander Thompson, "Canadian Foreign Policy and Straddling Stocks: Sustainability in an Interdependent World," *Policy Studies Journal* 28(2000).

### **WEEK 9: Climate Change I**

November 12. Veterans' Day—No class

November 14. History and Institutions

Readings:

-Chasek et al., pp. 115-28

-Climate Change Secretariat, "Caring for Climate 2003: A Guide to the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,"

[http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/caring\\_en.pdf](http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/caring_en.pdf)

### **WEEK 10: Climate Change II**

November 19. Climate and International Cooperation

Readings:

-Ronald Mitchell, "Flexibility, Compliance and Norm Development in the Climate Regime," in Schram et al., eds., *Implementing the Climate Regime*.

-Alexander Thompson, "Management under Anarchy: The International Politics of Climate Change," *Climatic Change* 78 (2006)

November 21. The Evolution of U.S. Climate Policy

Readings:

-Daniel Bodansky, "U.S. Climate Policy after Kyoto: Elements for Success," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Policy Brief #15 (2002)

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/Policybrief15.pdf>

### **WEEK 11: Looking Ahead**

November 26. Beyond (and Below) Kyoto: Regional and Local Action



\*paper #2 due\*

Readings:

- Eileen Claussen and Elliot Diringer, "A New Climate Treaty: U.S. Leadership After Kyoto," *Harvard International Review* 29(1). <http://hir.harvard.edu/articles/1594/>
- Pew Center on Global Climate Change, "Climate Change 101: State Action" and "Climate Change 101: Local Action." [http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-basics/climate\\_change\\_101](http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-basics/climate_change_101)

November 28. Should There Be a Global Environmental Organization?

Reading:

Daniel Esty and Maria Ivanova, "Making Environmental Efforts Work: The Case for a Global Environmental Organization," Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy. [http://www.environmentalgovernance.com/docs/riopaper1\\_esty\\_ivanova.doc](http://www.environmentalgovernance.com/docs/riopaper1_esty_ivanova.doc).

**Final Exam: December 3, 9:00 a.m.**