

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS
Colorado State University, Academic Sponsor

Fall, 2016
Political Science
POLS 362—Global Environmental Politics (Section 1)
Upper division
Sandra Hinchman
Semester Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Introduction to International Relations or Introduction to Comparative Politics or permission of the instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study and practice of global environmental politics, with particular attention to the contribution of international relations scholarship. We begin by exploring some of the key events, concepts, and theories at the foundation of the field before focusing on debates about how to govern the global environment. In particular, we consider multilateral governance approaches, which largely rely on the authority of nation-states, as well as alternative arrangements that increasingly are initiated and led by non-state actors such as NGOs, corporations, local governments and communities. Some of the issues to be addressed include the environmental impacts of different kinds of societies and regimes (developed vs. less developed, capitalist vs. socialist, authoritarian vs. democratic), the roots of political conflict in environmental degradation and resource distribution, and the collective human impact on ecosystems and other species. Above all, we focus on the two interrelated, overarching problems most likely to shape our collective future: climate change and energy. Throughout the course, we employ the countries we visit on our voyage as case studies.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that the Earth's ecological systems and processes limit the political choices and economic transactions that we can make;
2. To appreciate the transnational character of looming environmental crises and the difficulties of taking collective action to resolve them;
3. To recognize the demands that different kinds of societies and governments place on natural systems and the degree to which these are sustainable;
4. To identify the actors involved in environmental politics at the local, national, and international levels, and to learn what they are doing to address environmental problems, what obstacles they confront, and whether their efforts are succeeding.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Maude Barlow
Blue Future

ISBN#: 978-1-59558-947-7
hardcover, 2013

Lester Brown
Full Planet, Empty Plates
W.W. Norton
ISBN #: 987-0-393344158
paperback, 2012

Lester Brown
The Great Transition
W.W. Norton
ISBN #: 978-0-393350055
paperback, 2015

Thomas Friedman
Hot, Flat, and Crowded (Release 2.0)
Picador
ISBN #: 978-0-312428921
paperback, 2009

Jeffrey Sachs
The Age of Sustainable Development
Columbia University Press
ISBN #: 978-0-231173155
paperback, 2015

Colin Woodard
Ocean's End
Basic Books
ISBN #:978-0-465015719
paperback, 2000

MATERIALS ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE

Ugo Bardi
Extracted
Chelsea Green Publishing
ISBN# 978-1-603585415
paperback, 2013
ch. 5: "The Bell-Shaped Curve" (pp. 143-170)

Pamela Chasek *et al.*
Global Environmental Politics, 6th edition
Westview Press
ISBN# 978-0-813348964

paperback, 2013
ch. 2: "Actors in the International Arena" (pp. 49-100)

Jennifer Clapp & Peter Dauvergne
Paths to a Green World, 2nd edition
The M.I.T. Press
ISBN# 978-0-262515825
paperback, 2011
ch. 1: "Peril or Prosperity?" (pp. 1-18)

Richard Heinberg
The End of Growth
The Post-Carbon Institute
ISBN# 978-0-865716957
paperback, 2011
"Introduction: The New Normal" (pp. 1-22)

Richard Heinberg
Snake Oil, pp. 109-124
The Post-Carbon Institute
ISBN# 978-0-976751090
paperback, 2013
ch. 6: "Energy Reality" (pp. 109-124)

Eric Holthaus
"The Point of No Return"
Rolling Stone
August 13, 2015

Robert Kaplan
"The Coming Anarchy"
The Atlantic Monthly
February, 1994
www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1994/02/the-coming-anarchy/304670/

Charles Mann
"What If We Never Run Out of Oil?"
The Atlantic Monthly
May, 2013
www.theatlantic.com/.../2013/05/what-if-we-never-run-out-of-oil/

DOCUMENTARY FILMS. The following films will be shown on shipboard closed-circuit television on the dates indicated below. Please view them if you have time and interest.

"Blood Diamonds" (B6)
"The Cove" (B18)

“Flow” (B19)
“Gasland II” (B11)
“Planet in Peril” (B2)
”Six Degrees” (B7)
”Waste Land” (B12)
“Who Killed the Electric Car?” (B13)

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE (* indicates materials on electronic reserve)

[Depart Hamburg–September 10]

B1–September 13. Overview: An abnormal era.

B2–September 15. Growth, limits, and sustainability (I).

Sachs, *The Age of Sustainable Development*
ch. 6: “Planetary Boundaries” (pp. 181-217)
The documentary film, “Planet in Peril,” will air tonight on TV.

[No classes September 16]

B3–September 18. Growth, limits, and sustainability (II).

*Clapp & Dauvergne, *Paths to a Green World*
ch. 1: “Peril or Prosperity?” (pp. 1-18)
*Heinberg, *The End of Growth*
“Introduction: The New Normal” (pp. 1-22)

[Piraeus–September 19-23]

B4–September 25. The political environment (I).

*Chasek *et al.*, *Global Environmental Politics*
ch. 2: “Actors in the International Arena” (pp. 49-100)

[Civitavecchia/Livorno–September 26-30]

B5–October 2. The political environment (II).

*Kaplan, “The Coming Anarchy”

[Barcelona–October 3-7]

B6–October 9. Minerals and mining: Morocco as a case study.

*Bardi, *Extracted*
ch. 5: “The Bell-Shaped Curve” (pp. 143-170)
The documentary film “Blood Diamonds” will air tonight on TV.

[Casablanca—October 10-14]

B7—October 16. Climate change (I).

Friedman, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*

ch. 4: “Today’s Date: 1 E.C.E....” (pp. 63-84)

ch. 5: “Our Carbon Copies” (pp. 85-109)

ch. 7: “Global Weirding” (pp. 146-179)

The documentary film “Six Degrees” will air tonight on TV.

B8—October 18. Climate change (II).

Sachs, *The Age of Sustainable Development*

ch. 12: “Climate Change” (pp. 393-445)

*Holthaus, “The Point of No Return”

B9—October 20. Poverty and overpopulation: Senegal as a case study.

Sachs, *The Age of Sustainable Development*

ch. 4: “Why Some Countries Developed” (middle p. 107-p. 137 *only*)

ch. 5: “Ending Extreme Poverty” (pp. 149-159 *only*)

[Dakar—October 21-24]

B10—October 26. Energy (I): Conventional fossil fuels.

Friedman, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*

ch. 2: “Dumb As We Wanna Be” (bottom p. 41-p. 59 *only*)

ch. 6: “Fill ‘Er Up with Dictators” (pp. 110-145)

Brown, *The Great Transition*

ch. 2: “The Rise and Fall of Oil” (pp. 19-33)

ch. 3: “Closing Coal Plants” (pp. 34-52)

[No classes October 28]

B11—October 29: Energy (II): Unconventional fossil fuels, nuclear fission, and hydropower.

Brown, *The Great Transition*

ch. 4: “Nuclear Power in Decline” (pp. 53-66)

ch. 8: “Hydropower, Past and Future” (pp. 114-132)

*Mann, “What If We Never Run Out of Oil?”

*Heinberg, *Snake Oil*

ch. 6: “Energy Reality” (pp. 109-124)

The documentary film “Gasland II” will air tonight on TV.

B12—October 31. Tropical forests: Brazil as a case study.

Friedman, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*

ch. 9: “Energy Poverty” (pp. 194-209)

ch. 10: “Green is the New Red...” (pp. 210-246)

ch. 13: “The Stone Age Didn’t End...” (pp. 288-319)

The documentary film "Waste Land" will air tonight on TV.

[Salvador—November 1-6; *Field class : Tuesday, November 1*]

B13—November 8. Energy (III): Conservation, efficiency, and renewables.

Brown, *The Great Transition*

- ch. 1: "Changing Direction" (pp. 3-18)
- ch. 5: "The Solar Revolution" (pp. 67-83)
- ch. 6: "The Age of Wind" (pp. 84-99)
- ch. 7: "Tapping the Earth's Heat" (pp.100-113)
- ch. 9: "Accelerating Transition" (pp. 133-151)

The documentary film "Who Killed the Electric Car?" will air tonight on TV.

B14—November 10. MIDTERM EXAM.

Format: 5 of 7 IDs (50%) and 1 of 2 essays (50%)

B15—November 12. Agriculture (I).

Brown, *Full Planet, Empty Plates*

- ch. 1: "Food: The Weakest Link" (pp. 3-14)
- ch. 2: "The Ecology of Population Growth" (pp. 15-23)
- ch. 3: "Moving Up the Food Chain" (pp. 24-35)
- ch. 4: "Food or Fuel?" (pp. 36-44)
- ch. 5: "Eroding Soils Darkening Our Future" (pp. 37-56)
- ch. 6: "Peak Water and Food Scarcity" (pp. 57-71)

[Port of Spain—November 13-14]

B16—November 16. Infectious disease: Panama as a case study.

Sachs, *The Age of Sustainable Development*

- ch. 9: "Health for All" (pp. 275-316)

[No classes November 18]

B19—November 19. Agriculture (II).

Brown, *Full Planet, Empty Plates*

- ch. 7: "Grain Yields Starting to Plateau" (pp. 72-82)
- ch. 8: "Rising Temperatures, Rising Food Prices" (pp. 83-92)
- ch. 9: "China and the Soybean Challenge" (pp. 84-100)
- ch. 10: "The Global Land Rush" (pp. 101-113)
- ch. 11: "Can We Prevent a Food Breakdown?" (pp. 114-123)

Barlow, *Blue Future*

- ch. 10: "Corporate Control of Farming..." (pp. 155-171)
- ch. 15: "Protecting Land, Protecting Water" (middle p. 247-middle p. 259 *only*)

B18—November 21. Fisheries: Peru as a case study.

Woodard, *Ocean's End*

- ch. 3: "Run on the Banks" (pp. 57-95)

The documentary film "The Cove" will air tonight on TV.

[Callao—November 27-30]

B19—November 28. Water.

Barlow, *Blue Future*

- ch. 1: "The Case for the Right to Water" (pp. 9-19)
- ch. 2: "The Fight for the Right to Water" (pp. 20-32)
- ch. 3: "Implementing the Right to Water" (p. 33-middle p. 42 *only*)
- ch. 4: "Paying for Water for All" (pp. 50-middle p. 63 *only*)
- ch. 5: "Water—Commons or Commodity?" (pp. 67-87)

The documentary film "Flow" will air tonight on TV.

B20—November 30. Wilderness and biodiversity: Ecuador as a case study.

Sachs, *The Age of Sustainable Development*

- ch. 13: "Saving Biodiversity..." (pp. 447-479)

Friedman, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*

- ch. 8: "The Age of Noah" (pp. 180-193)
- ch. 15: "A Million Noahs, A Million Arks" (pp. 353-372)

[Guayaquil—December 1-4]

B21—December 6. The oceans.

Woodard, *Ocean's End*

- ch. 1: "Dead Seas" (pp. 1-28)
- ch. 2: "Ocean Blues" (pp. 29-55)
- ch. 8: "Sea Change" (pp. 225-244)

B22—December 8. Sustainability: Costa Rica as a case study.

Sachs, *The Age of Sustainable Development*

- ch. 14: "Sustainable Development Goals" (pp. 481-bottom 508 *only*)

[Puntarenas—December 9-13]

B23—December 15. Exponential growth.

Barlow, *Blue Future*

- ch. 6: "Targeting Public Services" (pp. 88-101)
- ch. 7: "The Loss of the Water Commons..." (middle p. 107-middle p. 111 *only*)
- ch. 9: "The Trouble with 'Modern Water'" (pp. 137-middle 142 & top 148-149 *only*)
- ch. 12: "Putting Water at the Centre..." (top p. 199-bottom p. 203 *only*)
- ch. 16: "A Road Map to Conflict...?" (middle p. 276-bottom 280)

B24—December 17. Environmental justice.

Barlow, *Blue Future*

- ch. 13: "Confronting the Tyranny..." (pp. 209-226)
- ch. 14: "Creating a Just Economy" (pp. 227-245)

[No Classes—December 18]

B25—December 20: FINAL EXAM.

Format: 5 of 7 IDs (50%) and 1 of 2 essays (50%)

[San Diego—December 22]

FIELD WORK

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on Tuesday, November 1 (our first day in Salvador, Brazil). Field Classes constitute 20% of the contact hours for this course. You will be required to submit a 3 to 5 page report on the field experience, which will be worth 10% of your final grade. Another 10% will be allocated to special Field Assignments, as explained below.

FIELD CLASS (Tuesday, November 1)

Sustainable Tourism and Habitat Preservation in Brazil.

In this field class, we will visit the Praia de Forte region on along the coast north of Salvador. Our first stop is a visit to the offices of the Garcia D'Avila Foundation, an environmental NGO whose mission includes promoting sustainable tourism, preserving endangered species, and monitoring sensitive habitats. After meeting with staff members to discuss the organization's work, we will visit the Marine Turtle Research and Preservation Project (which is funded by Greenpeace). Finally, we will tour two mangrove and Atlantic forest ecosystems in the company of a knowledgeable guide.

Objectives:

1. To learn about the opportunities and challenges of environmental NGOs.
2. To visit a local conservation project and two vital forest ecosystems.

INDEPENDENT FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

You are required to obtain and read English-language newspapers in two of our host countries, excluding Brazil, with the goal of identifying and analyzing pressing environmental problems and how well these are being addressed. For each of the two countries that you choose, you will submit a one to two page essay describing your findings. Relevant newspaper clippings *must* be attached to your report. The analyses, due three days after leaving port, are worth 5% each.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

15% attendance, preparation, and short essay assignments

30% midterm exam

35% final exam

20% field class and assignments in port

GRADING SCALE

The following scale is utilized for grading. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned, in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Adequate/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-90%: B+	77-80%: C+	Under 60% F
93-97%: A	83-87%: B	70-77%: C	
90-93%: A-	80-83%: B-	60-70%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes is mandatory. You must inform me prior to any unanticipated absence and make up missed work in a timely fashion.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. If you need such an accommodation for this course, you must contact the Institute for Shipboard Education no later than July 19, 2016, at the following web address: academic@isevoyages.org.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."