

POL 323: Global Environmental Affairs

Fall 2007 - CSS 167

Tues./Thurs. 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Professor: Dr. Mike Gunter
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Office Hours: Mondays 3 - 4 pm
Tuesdays 10:45 -11:45 am (at Ward Hall Lobby)
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REQUIRED TEXTS

The following required texts and materials are available at the Rollins College Bookstore or the reserve desk at Olin Library:

1. Allen, John. (ed.) [*Annual Editions: Environment 07/08*](#). Dubuque, IA: McGraw Hill, 2008.
2. Conca, Ken and Geoffrey D. Dabelko. *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Johannesburg*. (3rd ed.) Boulder: Westview Press, 2004.
3. Gunter, Michael. *Building the Next Ark: How NGOs Work to Protect Biodiversity*. Hanover: Dartmouth, 2006.
4. Gunter Reserve Readings (RR in syllabus) online at Olin Library. [*POL 323: Global Environmental Affairs*](#). Fall 2007.
5. Maslin, Mark. *Global Warming: Causes, Effects, and the Future*. St. Paul, MN: Voyageur Press, 2007.
6. Revkin, Andrew. *The Burning Season: The Murder of Chico Mendes and the Fight for the Amazon Rain Forest*. Washington: Island Press, 1990.
7. Strunk, William Jr. and E.B. White. [*The Elements of Style*](#). (4th edition) Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING

In addition to the above texts, this class requires you to stay abreast of global current events. For reputable international reporting, I recommend the [*International Herald Tribune*](#) or international sections of national daily American newspapers such as [*The New York Times*](#), [*The Washington Post*](#), or [*The Wall Street Journal*](#). We will discuss major events as they relate to our course readings each week, thus making this part of your daily participation marks. This material will also be periodically incorporated into assignments and tests. In addition to the online versions noted above, the Olin Library and Cornell Campus Center hold daily paper copies of *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*, and Olin holds the Sunday edition of *The Washington Post*. A few other recommended national US papers you may wish to consult are [*The Christian Science Monitor*](#), [*The Boston Globe*](#), [*The Chicago Tribune*](#), [*The Miami Herald*](#), and [*The Los Angeles Times*](#). Outside the states, see the

Trade Development Alliance of Seattle for a thorough list of English-language [international newspapers](#). And, as always, see me if you have questions about other potential sources.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Global environmental affairs encompass, arguably, the most challenging political issues of our time. Never before has humanity had the power to determine its own planetary destiny as we do today. From climate change and biodiversity loss to drinking water and desertification to overall poverty and pollution, events on one side of the globe now clearly influence those thousands of miles away. This course analyzes the political context of this complicated and diverse landscape, highlighting the impact of both globalization and interdependence on the environmental front.

Our studies will be divided into four main categories. In the first two weeks we look at the ecological theoretical context and international relations framework in which this debate is set. The next two weeks are spent looking at the specific actors involved in this debate, from states and international organizations to businesses and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Here there is also an introduction to the various legal apparatus worldwide.

Having established these critical foundations, the fifth week of the course begins examination of a number of specific issues world leaders struggle with (or ignore) today. These include: climate change, ozone depletion, infectious disease, biodiversity protection, global fisheries threats, trade, hazardous waste, desertification, deforestation, soil erosion and topsoil loss, whaling, and fossil fuel transport/usage. The course then concludes with a discussion of effectiveness of tactics to date, noting the role of civil society, institutions, and markets in both contributing problems and finding solutions. Questions to consider throughout the term include:

- What conditions help countries negotiate treaties to resolve problems?
- What types of rules work best to induce compliance?
- How do we evaluate whether a treaty has been effective or successful?
- How do nations improve treaty effectiveness over time?

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Participation in class is expected and thus plays a key role in determining final grades. Material discussed in class will appear on exams as well as other assignments, and pop quizzes will be given weekly. A complete breakdown on my participation grading policy is attached.

Please be advised that, while the reading load is fairly consistent from week to week, there are a few exceptions. On average, as your Rollins College Catalogue warns, you should anticipate spending three hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. Also all college students should be familiar with the term plagiarism. Any work that borrows wording, ideas, or even organization from another source without appropriate acknowledgment is defined as plagiarism. A general rule of thumb is to cite any phrase that is not common knowledge and longer than four words. The penalty for violating this standard is severe.

Finally, and most importantly, I think of a course as being a contract between teacher and student. My job is to do my best to help you learn. Your side of the agreement is to do your best to learn. Coming to class prepared (doing the reading *before* class *and* taking notes on that reading) goes a long way in this regard. You are also encouraged to not only ask questions in class but to take advantage of my office hours. To facilitate this every student will schedule a time to meet with me

at least once over the course of the semester.

GRADING POLICY:

Feel free to consult me about any of your work and grades during the semester, i.e. papers, participation, quizzes, exams, etc. Due to privacy concerns, however, grades will not be discussed electronically at any time during *or* after the semester. Per the Rollins College Catalogue, the grade report is based on the following definitions:

A is reserved for work that is *exceptional in quality and shows keen insight, understanding, and initiative.*

B is given for work that is *consistently superior and shows interest, effort, or originality.*

C is a respectable grade required for graduation; it reflects *consistent daily preparation and satisfactory completion of all work* required.

D- is the *lowest passing grade*; it is below the average necessary to meet graduation requirements and ordinarily is not accepted for transfer by other institutions.

F is failing.

Grading is based upon percentages that equate to the standard +/- system below:

A = 93 % and above	A- = 90-92	B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86	B- = 80-82	C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76	C- = 70-72	D+ = 67-69
D = 63-66	D- = 60-62	F < 60

Unless another due date is announced in class, you are responsible for turning in assignments on time, before class starts. This responsibility comes in two parts. For one, you must turn in a hard copy of your paper to me. For another, you must submit an electronic copy to www.turnitin.com. Our class ID is "1957646" and the class password is "honor." Let me know if you need any help with this but do be sure to complete this requirement if you wish to receive credit for your paper. Failure to complete both steps, the paper and electronic, by the assigned due date will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. After class begins, assignments will be considered late so do not skip class just to finish an assignment. Late assignments will be accepted until 5 p.m. that day with one letter grade penalty – including both the hard copy and electronic submissions. After 5 p.m. on the due date, late papers will not be accepted. Make-up tests are not given, except under extenuating circumstances, i.e. illness, death in the family, religious holiday. In these cases the professor *must be informed prior to the exam or assignment due date*. Do this either by email or telephone.

GRADING DISTRIBUTION:

5%	Global Peace Film Festival Editorial	5%	Paper Proposal & Bibliography
15%	Final Case Study Paper	15%	Weekly Quizzes
15%	Daily Participation	20%	Midterm
25%	Final		

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part I - Theoretical Context & International Framework

Week 1: Aug. 28/30

Global Environmental Affairs: The Earth Summit and Its Aftermath

Conca and Dabelko: Introduction

Sustainable Development & The Limits to Growth

Conca and Dabelko: Chpt.1

Aldo Leopold, Selections from “The Land Ethic,” A Sand County Almanac:

<http://www.worldpolicy.org/globalrights/environment/leopold.html>

John Muir, “Chapter 16,” *The Yosemite* (1912):

http://www.yosemite.ca.us/john_muir_writings/the_yosemite/chapter_16.html

Week 2: Sept. 4/6

Tragedy of the Commons, Our Common Future?

Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” *Science*, 162 (1968), pp.1243-1248:

<http://dieoff.org/page95.htm>

Summary of Brundtland Report:

http://www.re-set.it/documenti/1000/1800/1850/1856/brundtland_reportpdf.pdf

Entire 318 page document for reference only (NOT assigned):

<http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>

States & Sovereignty

Peter Sand, “Sovereignty Bounded: Public Trusteeship for Common Pool Resources?”

Global Environmental Politics, vol. 4:1 (Feb. 2004):

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/global_environmental_politics/v004/4.1sand.pdf

Conca and Dabelko: Chpt.6

Haas, Peter M. “Addressing the Global Governance Deficit,” *Global Environmental Politics*, vol.4:4 (Nov. 2004):

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/global_environmental_politics/v004/4.4haas.pdf

Part II – Actors & Organizations

Week 3: Sept. 11/13

The Role of International Organizations: UNDP & UNEP

David Brown, “[Teamwork Urged on Bird Flu](#),” *The Washington Post*, 8 Nov. 2005

Skim UNDP website: <http://www.undp.org/> (particularly “What We Do” section)

Skim UNEP website: <http://www.unep.org/> (particularly “About UNEP” section)

Simulation: The Prisoner’s Dilemma

Debt & International Aid: The WB, IMF, & GEF

Skim IMF website: <http://www.imf.org/>

Skim World Bank website: <http://www.worldbank.org>

Skim The Whirled Bank Group, “Debt & the World Bank”

<http://www.whirledbank.org/development/debt.html>

Muhammad Yunus, “[The Grameen Bank](#),” *Scientific American*, vol.281:5 (Nov. 1999), pp.114-119

Week 4: Sept. 18/20

Non-governmental Organizations

David Davenport, "The New Diplomacy," *Policy Review*, Dec. 2002:

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/3458466.html>

Joseph S. Nye, "The Rising Power of NGO's," Op-Ed for *The Daily Times* (Pakistan),

Aug. 31, 2004: http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_27-6-2004_pg3_7

Michael Gunter, Intro and NGO section of Chpt.1, *Building the Next Ark* (also pp.21-33, 178-187, 52-65, 95-116)

Simulation: Debt-for-Nature Swaps

Jamie Resor, "[Debt-for-Nature Swaps: A Decade of Experience and New Directions for the Future](#)," *Unasylya*, Vol 48, No. 1, Issue 188:

Part III – Case Studies

Week 5: Sept. 25/27

Bill Moyer's Reports: [Earth on Edge](#)

Paul Wapner, "World Summit on Sustainable Development: Toward a Post-Johannesburg Environmentalism," *Global Environmental Politics*, vol.3:1 (2003), pp.1-10

Revkin: Chpts.1-3

2007 [Global Peace Film Festival](#), Sept.26-30th -- Choose one of following films (synopses [here](#)):

Hurricanes on the Brink, Wed. 9/26 and Fri. 9/28, 11am, Orlando Science Center

Monumental, Fri. 9/28, 6pm, Orlando Science Center

The Shape of Water, Sat. 9/29, 5pm, Orlando Science Center

Law of the Sea

Revkin: Chpts.4-5

Week 6: Oct. 2/4

Global Peace Film Festival Discussion

Revkin: Chpts.6-7

Global Peace Film Festival Editorial due

Oil, Geography, and War

RR: Peter Maass, "The Breaking Point," *The New York Times Magazine*, 21 Aug. 2005

RR: Ian Rutledge, *Addicted to Oil*, (2005) pp.37-50

Week 7: Oct. 9/11

Midterm

Nova Film - [Dimming the Sun](#)

Nova & Frontline Film – [What's Up with the Weather?](#)

Maslin: pp.7-38

Week 8: Oct. 16/18

Fall Break

US Climate Change Policy

RR: Mike Gunter, "US Climate Change Policy," *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change*, Sage Publications, 2008: hyperlink coming soon

Maslin: pp.39-72

Week 9: Oct. 23/25

The Kyoto Protocol

Skim United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change website:
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Jonathan Leake, "Britain Faces Big Chill as Ocean Current Slows," *The Sunday Times*, 8 May 2005

Montreal Protocol: US Leadership on Ozone Depletion

Michael Gunter, "[U.S. is Behind the Curve](#)," *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, 28 Feb. 2005.

Skim United Nations Environment Programme Ozone Secretariat webpage:

<http://ozone.unep.org/Events/index.shtml>

UNEP Press Release, "Saving the Ozone Layer: An Unfinished Agenda," 26, Oct. 2006:

<http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/4830-e-18MOP.pdf>

Week 10: Oct. 30/Nov. 1

Infectious Disease

RR: Gro Harlem Brundtland, "The Globalization of Health," *Seton Hall Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations*, vol. IV:2 (Summer/Fall 2003), pp.7-12.

RR: Anne Underwood and Jerry Adler, "Scary Strains," *Newsweek*, 1 Nov. 2004

Revkin: Chpts.8-10

[The American Experience - Influenza 1918](#)

Nova Film - [Ebola : The Plague Fighters](#)

Conca and Dabelko: Chpt.8

AE #22: Eirivelthon Lima et al, "Searching for Sustainability: Forest Policies, Smallholders, and the Trans-Amazon Highway," *Environment*, Jan./Feb. 2006

Revkin: Chpts.11-12

Week 11: Nov. 6/8

Deforestation & the Amazon

RR: Earthwatch Expedition Briefing: Macaws of the Peruvian Amazon

Elizabeth Royte, "35 Who Made a Difference: An Ethnobotanist Takes Up the Cause of Rainforest Conservation," *Smithsonian*, Nov. 2005:

<http://www.amazonteam.org/images/news/smithsonianarticle-11-05.pdf>

Revkin: Chpts.13 & Epilogue

The Basel Convention: Simulation on Hazardous Waste Trade

"From Rich to Poor: Ivory Coast Tragedy Highlights Hazardous Waste Trade on Rise," *International Herald Tribune*, 17 Oct. 2006:

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/10/17/africa/AF_GEN_Ivory_Coast_Toxic_Trade.php

Skim Basel Convention Secretariat webpage: <http://www.basel.int/>

Zada Lipman, "A Dirty Dilemma," *Harvard International Review* (Winter 2002):

<http://hir.harvard.edu/articles/958/>

Week 12: Nov. 13/15

Species Extinction: CITES & CBD

RR: Earthwatch Expedition Briefing: Cassowaries of the Australian Rainforest

Gunter: pp.1-21 and 34-40

Skim CBD Secretariat web pages @ <http://www.biodiv.org/default.aspx>

Skim CITES web pages @: <http://www.cites.org/>

Free Trade and the Environment

Conca and Dabelko: Chpt. 17 & 18

Week 13: Nov. 20/22

International Trade: US Marine Mammal Protection Act

WTO Disputes, Mexico etc. versus US: tuna-dolphin:

http://www.wto.org/English/tratop_e/envir_e/edis04_e.htm

Skim NOAA Fisheries Office of Protection Resources webpage:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/>

Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14: Nov. 27/29

Whaling & the IWC

RR: Peterson, M. J. 1992. "Whalers, cetologists, environmentalists and the international management of whaling," *International Organization*, vol. 46:1, pp.147-186.

RR: Walsh, Virginia. 1999. "Illegal Whaling for Humpbacks by the Soviet Union in the Antarctic, 1947-1972," *Journal of Environment and Development*, vol.8:3, pp.307-327.

Activists: The Rainbow Warrior of Greenpeace

Greenpeace International, "20th anniversary of the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior":

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/about/ships/the-rainbow-warrior>

A Short History of the Rainbow Warrior:

<http://archive.greenpeace.org/comms/rw/pkhist.html>

Part IV – Conclusions

Week 15: Dec. 4/6

The Globalization Debate

Conca and Dabelko: Chpt.7

Moises Naim, "The Five Wars of Globalization," *Foreign Policy*, Jan./Feb. 2003

Franklin Foer, "Soccer vs. McWorld," *Foreign Policy*, Jan./Feb. 2004

Graham, Carol. "Stemming the Backlash Against Globalization, January 2003, The Brookings Institution: <http://www.brookings.edu/comm/policybriefs/pb78.htm>

Redefining Security?

Kofi Annan, "Nobel Lecture," December 10, 2001:

<http://www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html>

Case Study Papers due

Week 16:

Final: Friday, Dec. 14th at 2 p.m.

* Please note changes in this schedule may be necessary as we progress through the semester. Any such changes will be announced in class. Also check for periodic updates on the course website, particularly the online version of the syllabus.

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

The Political Science Department of Rollins College is committed to the principle of active learning. For us, this means that learning cannot take place without students' active involvement in, commitment to, and responsibility for, their own education. Hence it is important that students conduct themselves in ways that indicate respect for the learning community and the learning process. While it is difficult to specify precisely what this means in all cases, at the very least it entails coming to class on time and being prepared to remain in one's seat for the duration of the class period. Respect for the learning community and the learning process would normally exclude persistent lateness, leaving the classroom during class time, and/or falling asleep in class. We also ask that you turn off all mobile phones while in the classroom. Finally, we consider being habitually unprepared for class to be a violation of the learning community and a form of academic dishonesty.

DOCUMENTATION

Here are a few simple rules about quotations, paraphrases, and plagiarism. Learn them and practice them.

1. "When you copy the words of another, put those words inside quotation marks, and acknowledge the source with a footnote."
2. "When you paraphrase another's words, use your own words and your own sentence structure, and be sure to use a footnote giving the source of the idea."
3. "A plagiarist often merely changes a few words or simply rearranges the words in the source."

Source: *Harbrace College Handbook*, p. 407

Plagiarized work will result at the very least in a grade of "0" on the paper assignment, and such an event will be reported to the Dean of the College, as per our college policies.