

Fall, 2020  
M, W 2:30-3:45  
ONLINE

Peter M. Haas  
516 Thompson Hall  
office hours: T, Th 11-12 (by zoom) and by appointment

**Political Science 253H**  
**International Environmental Politics and Policy**

“The earth is one, but the world is not”

Gro Harlem Brundtland, Chair, World Commission on Sustainable Development

Pollutants no longer respect national boundaries. Environmental problems are thus becoming international and even global in scope. Yet they continue to be addressed by national governments. As a class we will explore the management, or governance, of transboundary and global environmental threat. Why do these problems exist and persist, what can the international community do to address them, and how well such efforts are faring at improving international environmental quality? We will focus on the social, political and economic factors influencing their causes and potential for management, and analyze and evaluate different patterns of international response to transboundary pollution and threats to the quality of international commons.

In this course you will become acquainted you with the history and current discussions surrounding key global and transboundary environmental threats, as well as reviewing policy alternatives and the politics associated with the management of these problems. You will also be introduced to research skills in international environmental politics. As an integrative experience class, it allows you to bring your interdisciplinary knowledge from previous classes. We will work through this material together.

The following book has been ordered by the UMASS campus store. Copies are also on reserve at W.E.B. DuBois Library. I discourage using ebooks, as it is difficult to read the extensive supplementary materials offered by the text, including graphs and tables, and you cannot print out useful material. The online resources accompanying the book are really great, including interactive figures. [www.oup.com/he/morin1e](http://www.oup.com/he/morin1e)

- Morin, Orsini, and Jinnah [Global Environmental Politics](#)

This course has a MOODLE website for PowerPoint slides, other materials, and access to all readings other than the required books. To access it students must have a UMASS OIT user name. Five College students can get an ID from the OIT office in Lederle Center 112 (low rise).

Additional handouts will be distributed as needed, posted on the MOODLE website, and circulated by email. All messages will be sent to students' official university email address (name@student.umass.edu), so check them periodically or arrange for automatic forwarding.

Global Environmental Politics has a whole array of online resources: [https://oup-arc.com/access/morin1e-student-resources#tag\\_web-links](https://oup-arc.com/access/morin1e-student-resources#tag_web-links). Feel free to take the brief multiple choice exams from each chapter in order to make sure you understand the material, although this is not required.

### How the Course is Structured

As a fully online class, this will be a collective experiment. The class is a combination of lectures, discussion, and your own research. I will offer lectures at the beginning of each section, after which we will have time to discuss the material in greater detail, and how to apply it to your research. You will each have a specific research topic which you will return to repeatedly over the semester, applying the reading materials to your own work.

To get the most out of the class you must do the readings ahead of each session, review your notes before class, and be ready to discuss the material. You should submit a question about each week's readings at the beginning of each class, which will be posted via chat in the zoom class. I will circulate reading questions in advance on MOODLE, to help focus on the text materials and to guide discussion about it. We will start with your questions and then move to mine. We will also have sessions on how to conduct research in international environmental politics, and for politics more broadly.

This class will combine synchronous and asynchronous activities. In real time I will lecture (briefly) and we will have class discussions, including organized group discussions and small group discussions in breakout sessions, making use of prompts in zoom. Lectures will preview material and provide historical and theoretical context to the readings. You will break down the arguments, critique them, and consider their utility for understanding international environmental politics in general, and your own research in particular. Asynchronous activities will include various exercises intended to summarize and critique the course's readings. We will use zoom polls and GOOGLEDOS.

I will hold office hours regularly and by appointment. This is a time that I reserve for you. Meeting with me is an important part of supporting you throughout this course. It is an opportunity for you ask questions on a one-to-one basis. Even if you don't have specific questions, needs, or concerns, I would love to talk with you at least once during the semester. I will be in my virtual zoom office T, Th 11-12 am, and can set up individual meetings as you wish, to be scheduled by email. The zoom address for office hours is on MOODLE.

### Learning Outcomes

This is a research seminar. The emphasis will be on discussion and relating the readings to broader research questions about international environmental politics: what makes for effective cooperation, and how can collective efforts work?

This course is also an Integrative Experience. As such, this course seeks to help you:

- Connect skills and knowledge from multiple sources, including from your General Education courses and your major, by writing a reflective essay.
- Apply theory to practice in a variety of settings through classroom discussion of readings.
- Consider diverse points of view from the various class readings.
- Develop a complex understanding of issues and positions, through conducting research and discussing readings.
- Practice General Education learning objectives such as oral communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and perspective-taking throughout the semester.

#### How you will be graded

Grading will be based on a total of 100 points, based on the following components.

- Attendance and participation: 30 points
- Reflective Essay: 15 points
- Research Question: 5 points
- Bibliography: 5 points
- Outline: 5 points
- Research Paper: 40 points
  
- Attendance and participation (30 points) Attendance and preparation are essential for mastering the material. Be sure to have completed all the readings before class, and review your notes so that you are prepared to discuss the readings. Attendance is 10 points, and active participation is 20 points. Please make every effort to attend the synchronous classes. If you are unable for any reason to attend a class, please let me know ahead of time. Class materials will be available on MOODLE. If you miss more than 2 classes, we can arrange a brief essay on the material to satisfy your attendance for those classes.
  
- Due on **September 11** is a reflective essay (15 points) to be submitted by 5 pm via email. The essay should have two parts: In the first part of the essay, you will identify an important concept or theme related to "global environmental governance" and explain how your General Education courses and training informed your understanding of this idea before taking this class. In the second part of the essay you will explain whether and how your understanding of this idea changed as a result of the knowledge you have gained in this class. You will

be asked to reflect on how your knowledge has evolved over the course of the semester, and to think about how this relates to your development as a student and citizen. This assignment will provide a structured, credited context for you to reflect on and to integrate your learning and experience from the broad exposure in your General Education courses and the focus in your major. It should be 5 pages, double spaced, with 1.25" margins, and 12-point font. Provide citations as warranted.

- The culminating task for you is to write 20-25-page research papers on particular international environmental efforts. I want this to be a meaningful experience for you, so you may choose your own topics. A suggestive list, and initial research sites, is at the bottom of this section. I will also be happy to work with you in developing and conducting high quality research.
  1. Due on **December 10** is a 20 -25-page research paper (45points on the effectiveness of international efforts made in response to a transnational or global environmental problem of your choice. Consider the cases described in Global Environmental Politics pp 18-24 but you may choose whatever you want in consultation with me.
  2. Due on **September 9** is a 1 paragraph statement identifying and describing your research topic (5 points), by email by 5 pm. The question or puzzle should take the form of one sentence, ending in a question mark, which guides your research. You should also be able to provide a few sentences about why the question is ask is important (either analytically or in terms of the extent and effects of the issue in question). If you wish, I will be happy to work with you to help refine your topic into a researchable project. I will circulate exemplary questions to the class, with the permission of the author.
  3. Due on **September 23** is a bibliography with 10-15 articles/books from the library as well as 5 additional web site links. (5 points) The purpose of the bibliography is for you to have a core (but not entire) list of research materials for you to start your reading and research in a timely manner, as well as to lead you to further fruitful citations through their references. You will then have time to get further useful materials as the semester progresses. All articles must be from peer-reviewed academic journals! For website links you must provide a one or two sentence justification for the reason you trust the information on that website, or why it was chosen. It is vital that you prepare the bibliography early to give you time to collect the materials through interlibrary loan and the use of the UMASS library online databases.
  4. Due on November 30 is a detailed *outline* of your paper (5% of grade) to be submitted by email by 5 pm. This is not the paper, but a standard outline of the paper's structure.
  5. Research papers are due by email by 5 pm on **December 10**.

Your research paper should cover the following elements:

- What is the technical nature of the environmental threat?
- what negotiated responses have been put into place (treaties, regimes)
- Who have been the salient political actors involved in these negotiations, and what did each do? Which are the major international institutions?
- How effective have these responses been in addressing the environmental problem? Consider the criteria in Global Environmental Politics pp 263-265 for judging effectiveness. Is the environment better as a consequence of the treaty(ies) and countries'/actors' changes of behavior?
- To what extent do key actors (i.e. states, and which ones; companies) comply with their commitments? To what extent have the major countries ratified the treaties, and changed national practices? Have private sector actors changed their practices?
- Have you any suggestions about how to improve effectiveness?

All papers are to be typed (or printed), double spaced, with 1.25" margins, with 12-point font, and with page numbers. Footnote any quotes, theoretical claims, and factual statements. Citations should appear as footnotes, with author (s), dates of publication (and issues for journals), title, and publisher (either book publisher or journal title) Guidance for citation style is on MOODLE.

#### What will help you in this course

You must stay abreast of the readings. Good sources of information include the *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Economist*, as well as WFCR 88.5 FM.

Some useful websites for conducting research and identifying interesting research topics include:

Issues	websites
Acid rain	<a href="http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/">http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/</a>
Ozone depletion	<a href="http://www.unep.org/themes/ozone/">http://www.unep.org/themes/ozone/</a> <a href="http://ozone.unep.org/new_site_en/index.php">http://ozone.unep.org/new_site_en/index.php</a> <a href="http://www.multilateralfund.org/default.aspx">http://www.multilateralfund.org/default.aspx</a> <a href="http://montreal-protocol.org/new_site/index.php">http://montreal-protocol.org/new_site/index.php</a>
Climate change	<a href="http://www.ipcc.ch">http://www.ipcc.ch</a> <a href="http://www.unfccc.int">http://www.unfccc.int</a>
Deforestation	<a href="http://www.Mongabay.com">http://www.Mongabay.com</a> <a href="http://www.iisd.ca/vol13">http://www.iisd.ca/vol13</a>

Desertification	<a href="http://www.unccd.int">http://www.unccd.int</a>
Freshwater	<a href="http://www.worldwater.org/">http://www.worldwater.org/</a> <a href="http://www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/index.html">http://www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/index.html</a> <a href="http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/">http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/</a> <a href="http://www.un.org/law/ilc/">http://www.un.org/law/ilc/</a>
Marine fisheries	<a href="Http://www.fao.org/fi/default.asp">Http://www.fao.org/fi/default.asp</a> <a href="http://www.un.org/depts/los/index.htm">http://www.un.org/depts/los/index.htm</a> <a href="http://www.fao.org/fi/body/rfb/index.htm">http://www.fao.org/fi/body/rfb/index.htm</a>
Toxic pollution	<a href="http://www.detox.panda.org/quiz/index.cfm">http://www.detox.panda.org/quiz/index.cfm</a> <a href="http://www.basel.int">http://www.basel.int</a> <a href="http://www.pops.int">http://www.pops.int</a> <a href="http://www.pic.int">http://www.pic.int</a> Kate O'Neill <u>Waste</u> 2019 Oxford University Press.
Biodiversity	<a href="http://www.biodiv.org">http://www.biodiv.org</a>
Nitrogen	<a href="http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap">http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap</a>
Emergent problems	On MOODLE
General data and indicators of sustainability trends	<a href="http://geodata.grid.unep.ch">http://geodata.grid.unep.ch</a> (requires a little sophistication in manipulating data)

See also reports of the Environmental Negotiation Bulletin [www.iisd.org](http://www.iisd.org), Global Environmental Politics Annex, and the web directory at [https://oup-arc.com/access/content/morin1e-student-resources/morin1e-web-directory?previousFilter=tag\\_web-links](https://oup-arc.com/access/content/morin1e-student-resources/morin1e-web-directory?previousFilter=tag_web-links)

### What you need to know about plagiarism and academic honesty

The papers and thoughts are to be your own. When you refer to someone else's work for inspiration be sure to acknowledge your sources. Otherwise it is theft, and you will be penalized severely. Exact quotations must have quotation marks and the appropriate citation. Paraphrasing, *even if not exact quotations* must have appropriate citations. If you have any doubts, give credit to the source. If you have any questions, see me. Anyone identified as plagiarizing will face severe penalties.

### Inclusive Learning and Disability Accommodations

Your success in this class is important to me. We all learn differently and bring different strengths and needs to the class. If there are aspects of the course that prevent you from

learning or make you feel excluded, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the class.

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will have to register with Disability Services (161 Whitmore Administration Bldg., ph. 413 545 0892) Informational on services and materials for registering are also available on their website [www.umass.edu/disability](http://www.umass.edu/disability).

There is also a range of resources on campus, including:

- Writing Center <http://www.umass.edu/writingcenter>
- Learning Resource Center <http://www.umass.edu/lrc>
- Student Success <https://www.umass.edu/students/success/>
- Center for Counseling and Psychological Health (CCPH) <http://www.umass.edu/counseling>
- English as a second Language (ESL) Program <http://www.umass.edu/esl>

## Class Schedule

**August 24** Introduction to Class and Introductions

**August 26** Why is it hard to govern Global Environmental Issues?

- Global Environmental Politics ch 5

Key concepts: complexity, sovereignty, commons, collective action problems, tragedy of the commons, anarchy, the state, uncertainty, public opinion, scientific capabilities.

**August 31** guest visit by Librarian Lisa Di Valentino on using the library for research. (30 minutes)

**August 31, September 3** Welcome to the Anthropocene: New Challenges for Environmental Governance

- Global Environmental Politics pp 5-7, 10
- Steffan et al “The Trajectory of the Anthropocene” (MOODLE)
- “Planetary Boundaries” (MOODLE)
- UNEP “Drivers of Environmental Change” (MOODLE)

Key concepts: Anthropocene, natural systems, social systems, complexity, uncertainty, governance, institutions, political actors, planetary boundaries, IPAT, the great transformation, planetary boundaries, large scale technical systems.

**September 7, 9** Emerging Environmental Awareness & Governance

- Global Environmental Politics pp 12-13 ch 6, pp 61-91
- Gandhi reading (MOODLE).
- Haas “Epistemic Communities” from Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law forthcoming (MOODLE)

Key concepts: regimes, UNCHE, Rio Earth Summit, J 'Burg, Rio Plus 20, SDGs, additionality, LTG, resource scarcity, sustainable development, sustainability, ecosystems, precautionary principle, Cornucopians, Malthusians,

**September 14, 16** Analyzing Environmental Governance

- Global Environmental Politics pp 263-265
- Ron Mitchell (1998) “Discourse and Sovereignty” *Global Governance* 4 pp 275-293. (MOODLE)



- David Collier “Understanding Process Tracing” (MOODLE)

Key Concepts: independent variable, dependent variable, hypothesis, argument, casual mechanism, process tracing, confirmation, falsification, effectiveness.

### **September 21** State Leadership

- Global Environmental Politics ch 3
- Falkner 2005 “American Hegemony and the Global Environment” *International Studies Review* 7:4 (MOODLE)

Key concepts Leadership, leadership material capabilities, soft power, hegemony, domestic politics

**September 23:** Class discussion on applying state leadership to your research topics.

### **September 29** Science and Governance

- Global Environmental Politics ch 1

Key concepts: epistemic communities, science panels, IPCC, IPBES, Ozone regime.

### **October 1:** Stratospheric Ozone Protection

- Haas “Robust Ozone Governance” (MOODLE)
- Global Environmental Politics p 36

**October 5:** Class discussion on applying Science and Governance to your research topics.

### **October 7** International Institutions

- Global Environmental Politics ch 7
- Bauer “Bureaucracy” (MOODLE)
- Ivanova “UNEP” (MOODLE)

Key concepts: international institutions, international organizations, functional agencies, UN system, UNEP, secretariat.

### **October 12** Institutional Reform

- Nyekwere “Global Environmental Governance Reform” (MOODLE)
- Kotze and French “A Critique of the Global Pact for the Environment” (MOODLE)

**October 14:** Class discussion on applying International Institutions to your research topics.

key concepts: secretariat, agency, secretariat independence, institutional resources.

**October 19:** NGO Approaches to Global Environmental Governance

- Global Environmental Politics ch 4
- Nasiritousi “NGOs” (MOODLE)

Key concepts: NGOs, norms, transnational campaigns.

**October 21:** Brent Spar and Whaling

- Brent spar material (MOODLE)
- Bailey 2008 “Arrested Development: The Fight to End Commercial Whaling as a Case of Failed Norm Change” *European Journal of International Relations* 14:2 (MOODLE)
  - Look back at Mitchell (September 14, 16)

**October 26:** Class discussion on applying NGOs to your research topics.

**October 28** MNCS, markets, private governance and the green economy

- Meckling 2015 “Oppose, Support, or Hedge” (MOODLE)
- Auld and Gulbrandsen “Private Regulation in Global Environmental Governance” (MOODLE)
- *Vision 2050* (MOODLE)

Key concepts: creative destruction, green technology, innovation, r&d, corporate social responsibility, market driven governance, private governance, certification schemes, partnerships, consumer boycotts, adversarial relationships.

**November 2:** Class discussion on applying MNCs to your research.

**November 4, 9** Climate Change Governance

- AAAS “What we know” (MOODLE)
- Betsill and Fiske “International Climate Policy” (MOODLE)
- Falkner “The Paris Agreement” (MOODLE)
- Keohane and Victor 2016 “Cooperation and Discord in Global Climate Policy”  
*Nature Climate Change* (MOODLE)

Key concepts: climate change, mitigation, adaptation, GHG, Paris Agreement, UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, IPCC.

**November 11:** Environment and Security

- Global Environmental Politics ch 9
- *The Global Resource Nexus* (MOODLE)

Key concepts: environmental security, threat multiplier, environmental refugee.

**November 16:** Trade and Environment & Course Wrap Up

- Global Environmental Politics Ch 10

Key concepts: WTO, bilateral trade agreement, free trade,