

GVPT 273
Introduction to Environmental Politics and Policy

Summer 2007

Instructor: Ying-Feng Chen

Meeting Time: 6:00 to 9:20 PM M, W

MCB 1207

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Course Description

Environmental issues have been a major concern in both developed and developing countries. While some people see environmental issues as scientific and technical problems, there are also social dimensions involved. This course reviews debates on the relationship between environment and politics and lays out major topics in this field. The purpose of this course is to help students:

- 1) Understand the social and political dimension of environmental outcome,
- 2) Be familiar with policy tools tackling environmental problems,
- 3) Be critical and creative toward the change of political institutions and attitudes responding to the degrading environment.

Requirements

-Class Participation (25%) and Reaction Papers(10%): You are required participating in the class actively and writing occasional reaction papers (200-400 words). The amount of reaction papers for each student will depend on the size of the class. Students who are responsible for writing reaction papers should send them to the entire class no later than 8AM in the morning of class meeting days. All students are expected to read all materials before coming to the class.

-Research Paper(25%): Each student should prepare for a research paper or policy memo related to the class material. The optimal length of this paper should be 8-10 pages long (Double-spaced with font 12). Papers are due on the Last Day in class. NO late paper will be accepted.

-Quizzes(10%): You will be given THREE quizzes without prior notice. I will only count the two highest scores; in other words, you will have one free pass.

-Final Exam(30%): Students are required taking a final exam on the last day of class. NO make-up exams except doctor's notes being provided.

Required Readings

- Switzer, Jacqueline. *Environmental Politics: Domestic and Global Dimensions* (Thomson and Wadsworth: 2004, fourth edition).
- Daly, Herman and Townsend. *Valuing the Earth* (MIT Press: 1996).

** Optional **

- Garner, Robert. *Environmental Politics: Britain, Europe and the Global Environment* (Macmillan: 2000, second edition).
- VanDeveer and Pierce, *Environmental Ethics and Policy Book*. (Wadsworth:1993)

Note: I will make most of the readings available to all students. I will either reserve them in the library or make them electronically accessible.

Important Notes

1. If you have special needs with your religious obligation which may conflict with class schedule, please inform the instructor within the first two weeks of the class.
2. Please inform the instructor within the first two weeks of the class if you have any physical or learning disability, so that we can accommodate your needs.
3. All students should follow University's honor code. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please take it seriously.

Class Schedule

June 4th. Introduction and Class Review

June 6th Environmental Crises and Their Impact on Politics

- Harding, Garrett, Tragedy of Commons, *Valuing the Earth*, page 127-151
- Ehrlich, Paul. "Why Isn't Everyone as Scared as We Are, *Valuing the Earth*," chap 1
- Hubbert, King. "Exponential Growth as Transient Phenomenon in Human History," *Valuing the Earth*, chapter 5
- Garner, chapter 1.

June 11th. Environmental Concerns and Political Theories

- Garner, Chapter 3.
- Vandeer and Pierce, pp211-238, 281-288.

June 13th. Environment and Democracy

- Ophuls, William. *Requiem for Modern Politics : the Tragedy of the Enlightenment and the Challenge of the New millennium*, Chapter 6.
- Paehke, Robert, Environmental Challenges to Democratic Practice, *Democracy and Environment*, chapter 2.
- Mathews and Mock, "More Democracy, Better Environment?" *World Resources 2002-2004 (Box 2.3, p.32-33)*
http://earthtrends.wri.org/pdf_library/feature/gov_fea_dem.pdf

June 18th. Environment and Equity

- Ringquist, Evan. Environmental Justice: Normative Concerns and Empirical Evidence, *Environmental Policy*, chapter 11. pp233-256.
- Barry, Brian. Intergenerational Justice in Energy Policy, Vandeer and Pierce, pp408-417.
- Vandeer and Pierce, 179-193

June 20th. Environmental Activism and Political Process

- Garner, Chapter 4, 7, 8.
- Switzer, chapter 2-3.
- Bosso, Christopher. Environmental Groups and the New Political Landscape, *Environmental Policy*, chapter 3. pp55-76

June 25th. Environment Problems and the Role of State

- Lyuba Zarsky, "Stuck in the Mud? Nation-States, Globalization, and

Environment,” in Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, *Globalization and Environment: Preliminary Perspectives* (Paris: OECD, 1997).

-Wapner, Paul. *Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics*, chapter 2 and 7. 1996

-Rabe, Barry. *Power to The States: The Promise and Pitfalls of Decentralization*, *Environmental Policy*, chapter 2. pp32-54.

June 27th. Environment and Economy

-Daly, chapter 14.

-Daly, Herman. *Boundless Bull*, Vandeer and Pierce, pp345-348

-Jagdish Bhagwati, “The Case for Free Trade” and Herman E. Daly, “The Perils of Free Trade,” both in Ken Conca and Geoffrey D. Dabelko, eds., *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Kyoto* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1998).

-Goodstein, Eban. *The Trade-Off Myth*, Island Express: 1999, Chapter 1 and 5.

July 2nd. Market-Based Environmental Policy and Property Rights

-Vandeer and Pierce, 307-324.

-Switzer, chapter 4

-Daly, chapter 18.

-Stavins, Robert. “Market-Based Environmental Policies,” *Public Policies for Environmental Protection*, chapter 3, pp31-76.

-Freeman, Myrick. *Economics. Incentives, and Environmental Regulation*, *Environmental Policy*, chapter 9. pp190-209.

July 9th. Regulatory Environment Policy

-Switzer, Chapter 7,8,11

-Rosenbaum, Walter. *Environmental Politics and Policy*, Chapter 6-7.

-John, Dewitt. *Civic Environmentalism* (Congress Quarterly Press: 1994), chapter 1

July 11th. Environment and Global Governance

-Switzer, chapter 10.

-Garner, chapter 6

-Final Exam (One Hour)

-Term Paper Due