

## **Comparative Environmental Politics**

**PSCI 4700**

**University of North Texas • Spring 2013**

12:30-1:50 TR—230 Sage Hall

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Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 2-3:30 pm in 136 WH or by appointment

### **Course Description**

The environment is one of the most salient issues in politics today. In this course, we'll take a comparative politics to approach to looking at the dynamics of environmental politics in different states and the actors that are involved: citizens, civil society, political parties, politicians and policy makers, state institutions, and international organizations.

### **Course Materials**

The following book is required reading. It is available at the university bookstore and on-line.

Paul F. Steinberg and Stacy D. VanDeveer. 2012. *Comparative Environmental Politics: Theory, Practice, and Prospects*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. [Denoted as CEP]

You will also be required to read articles and other book chapters throughout the semester, which are all available on Blackboard Learn. [Denoted as BB]

### **Current Events**

Please keep up with relevant current events throughout the semester. We will discuss these in class and they may be covered on the exams. Read one of the following on a weekly basis—*New York Times*, *The Economist*, or [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk). See handout on publication access.

### **Evaluation**

You are required to come to class prepared and to participate in discussions. You will not do well in the course if you attend class, but do not complete the readings. Likewise, if you complete the readings, but do not come to class, you are also not likely to do well. Lectures and discussions are designed to supplement the readings and will not just review them.

Your grade in this course will be comprised of the following. Grades will be calculated on a scale of A-F (89.5-100=A; 79.5-89.4=B; 69.5-79.4=C; 59.5-69.4=D; below 59.5=F).

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Paper	25%
Presentation	10%
Participation	10%

\*\*All work will be weighed according to the break-down above. Your final grade will thus be out of 100 possible points.

### Details

1) **Exams.** There will be 2 exams. The midterm will cover all of the material to that point in the semester. The final exam will be cumulative, but will concentrate on material covered during the second half of the semester. Exams will consist of short answer and essay. The midterm will be on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> and the final will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

2) **Paper & Presentation.** You will write a 10-12 page paper on a current or historical environmental issue/event/problem in a country of your choice (not the US). You will discuss the background of the issue, the actors involved, and the outcome (where relevant). Papers will be due April 18<sup>th</sup>. You will then present your research to the class over the last two weeks of the semester. More information will be forthcoming.

3) **Participation.** In-class participation will include both oral and written evaluations. Just coming to class does not equal participation! You must actively participate.

### Class Policies

**Attendance.** I will take attendance. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences. After this, 2 points will be deducted from your final grade for each additional unexcused absence. Remember that your final grade is out of 100 points. If you know you will be missing class beyond the 3 allowed, please provide me with documentation as soon as you can. Should you miss class for a medical emergency, you will need to provide documentation from your medical provider.

**Email.** Please make sure you check your UNT email regularly. I will send email messages to the class periodically and will use your official UNT email address. If you want to contact me, please use my UNT address above and do not email me through BB.

**Blackboard Learn.** All materials handed out in lecture will be posted here (syllabus, in-class worksheets, assignments, etc.)

**Extensions and Alternate Dates.** In general, I will not allow extensions on assignments or alternate exam dates. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time or be present for an exam, please advise me of this as soon as you can, and not the day the assignment is due or the day of the exam or afterwards. We will work together to come up with a solution.

**Late policy.** A late assignment will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day it is late. After 1 week, I will no longer accept it.

**Grade Appeals.** Should you want to appeal a grade you've received, it must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a grade that is different than the one you received.

**Other.** Should you need any special accommodations, please let me know ASAP.

## **Syllabus**

### **Week 1. Introduction and Preliminaries: What is Comparative Environmental Politics? (Jan. 15 & 17)**

CEP, chaps. 1-2

Watch in class--*E<sup>2</sup>-Transport: Seoul: The Stream of Consciousness* (2009)

### **Week 2. Environmentalism as Ideology: Green Political Thought (Jan. 22 & 24)**

Neil Carter. 2007. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2-3. [BB]

### **Week 3. Collective Action and Collective Goods (Jan. 29 & 31)**

Garrett Hardin. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science*. 162. 3859: 1243-1248. [BB]

"Tragedy of the Commons: An Uphill Walk." *The Economist*. Sept. 29, 2012. [BB]

CEP, chap. 12

#### **Week 4. Public Opinion and Support for the Environment (Feb. 5 & 7)**

Ronald Inglehart. 1995. "Public Support for Environmental Protection: Objective Problems and Subjective Values in 43 Societies." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 28.1: 57-72. [BB]

Ronald Inglehart. 2008. "Changing Values among Western Publics from 1970 to 2006." *West European Politics*. 31.1-2: 130-146. [BB]

#### **Week 5. Challenging Post-Materialism: Environmental Activism in Developing Countries (Feb. 12 & 14)**

CEP, ch. 4

Ramachandra Guha and J. Martinez-Alier. 1997. *Varieties of Environmentalism: Essays North and South*. London: Earthscan. Chap. 1. [BB]

Marc Becker. 2012. "Ecuador: The New Upsurge" *Against the Current*. 159:9-10. [BB]

Watch in class: *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai*

**\*\*PAPER PROPOSALS DUE FEB. 12<sup>TH</sup>\*\***

#### **Week 6. Environmental Groups: Tactics and Networks (Feb. 19 & 21)**

CEP, ch. 5

Russell Dalton, Steve Reccia, and Robert Rohrschneider. 2003. "The Environmental Movement and Modes of Political Action." *Comparative Political Studies*. 36.7: 743-771. [BB]

#### **Week 7. Review and Midterm (Feb. 26 & 28)**

Feb. 26—Catch-Up & Review

Feb. 28—Midterm

#### **Week 8. Green Parties: Realignments, Reactions, and Strategies (Mar. 5 & 7)**

CEP, ch. 7

Jae-Jae Spoon. 2011. *Political Survival of Small Parties in Europe*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapters 2-4. [BB]

### **Spring Break—Mar. 12 & 14**

### **Week 9. Green States (Mar. 19 & 21)**

CEP, chap. 3

Miranda Schreurs. 2002. *Environmental Politics in Japan, Germany, and the United States*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chaps. 2-3. [BB]

### **Week 10. Greening Governments (Mar. 26 & 28)**

CEP, chaps. 11 & 13

Lori Poloni-Staudinger. 2008. "Are Consensus Democracies More Environmentally Effective?" *Environmental Politics*. 17.3: 410-30. [BB]

### **Week 11. Environment in Democratizing and Authoritarian Countries (Apr. 2 & 4)**

CEP, ch. 8

Timothy Doyle and Adam Simpson. 2006. "Traversing More than Speed Bumps: Green Politics under Authoritarian Regimes in Burma and Iran." *Environmental Politics*. 15.5: 750-767. [BB]

Watch in class: *Great Wall across the Yangtze* (2000)

### **Week 12. International Environmental Cooperation and Regimes (Apr. 9 & 11)**

Neil Carter. 2007. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chap. 9. [BB]

Christian B. Jensen and Jae-Jae Spoon. 2010. "Testing the 'Party Matters' Thesis: Explaining Progress towards Kyoto Protocol Targets." *Political Studies*. 59.1: 99-115. [BB]

Earth Negotiations Bulletin. *Report on the 2012 Doha Climate Change Conference*. [BB]

### **Week 13. Environmental Security (Apr. 16 & 18)**

Jon Barnett. 2003. "Security and Climate Change." *Global Environmental Change*. 13: 7-17. [BB]

Cullen Hendrix and Idean Salehyan. 2012. "Climate Change, Rainfall, and Social Conflict in Africa." *Journal of Peace Research*. 49.1: 35-50. [BB]

Watch in class: *Sun Come Up* (2011)

**\*\*PAPERS DUE ON APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>\*\***

### **Week 14. Student Presentations (Apr. 23 & 25)**

### **Week 15. Student Presentations + Wrap up and Review (Apr. 30 & May 2)**

CEP, ch. 14

**\*\*FINAL EXAM—TUES. MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> from 10:30am-12:30pm.\*\***

### **Additional Important Information**

The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which is located at [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student\\_Affairs-Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf).

Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy.

The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Further information can be found at [www.unt.edu/oda/index.html](http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.html). Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning of the second week of classes).