Description: This class will introduce students to the central concepts, theoretical positions, policy debates, and empirical issues in today’s global environmental politics. Focusing on interactions that occur in the international arena, we will interrogate how issues are defined as global environmental problems, then discuss the activities that have been undertaken to respond to them: the solutions proposed, their implementation, and the effectiveness of regulatory and governance efforts. We will identify a number of tensions in today’s international environmental politics and consider how these might be resolved. Throughout the class, we will consider the roles of numerous actors, including states, NGOs, and the private sector. In the course of these discussions, students will gain familiarity with a wide variety of environmental issues, including ozone depletion, climate change, marine pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, freshwater pollution, and transfers of hazardous waste.

Access to readings:
Book sections are in a polycopié, while articles are available online.

Expectations:
This is a seminar course. While I may lecture briefly, most of the course will consist of class discussions. You are expected to complete all of each week’s required readings prior to class, so you can participate fully. Participation will account for 25% of your grade.

Evaluation will also depend on your critical analysis skills. Over the course of the semester, each student will write three brief memos (2-3 pages, double spaced) reviewing the week’s readings. These memos are due at the beginning of the class in which we are discussing the reviewed readings. You have some flexibility in the weeks you choose, but your memos must be distributed across the class sections:

- One in the “Defining the Problem” weeks (3-4) = 10% of your grade
- One in the “Solving the Problem” weeks (5-9) = 12.5% of your grade
- One in the “Tensions in Environmental Politics” weeks (10-11) = 12.5% of your grade

Lastly, each student will write an “Expert Report” on a selected environmental problem that has been addressed at the international level (15-20 pages, double spaced). In this report, you will outline the scope of the problem, explain how it has been conceptualized in international politics, discuss efforts to respond to it, evaluate the effectiveness of those efforts, and identify possible policy changes for the future. In weeks 13-14 you will present a brief version of your report to the class. The presentation accounts for 10% of your grade; the report is 30%. A 1-2 page Expert Report Proposal is due any time before November 16. This short assignment is ungraded, but will give you the opportunity to get feedback on your topic.

The final report is due by 23:59 on December 21. Email to instructor in .doc format
Week 1: September 21

Introduction

Week 2: September 28

Is there a Problem?


Week 3: October 5

Defining the Problem: Concepts


Week 4: October 12

Defining the Problem: Science/Knowledge/Authority

Week 5: October 19

**Solving Environmental Problems: International Institutions**


Week 6: October 26

**Solving Environmental Problems: Effectiveness**


Week 7: November 2

**Solving Environmental Problems: States**

Week 8: November 9
Solving Environmental Problems: Civil Society

Week 9: November 16
Solving Environmental Problems: The Private Sector

Week 10: November 23
Tensions in Environmental Politics: Trade

Week 11: November 30
Tensions in Environmental Politics: Sustainable Development

Week 12: December 7
New Approaches?

Week 13: December 14
Presentations of Expert Reports

Week 14: December 21
Presentations of Expert Reports