

## Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2018-2019

## Governance of Environment and Sustainability

MINT115 - Spring - 6 ECTS

### Course Description

This multi-disciplinary course introduces core concept related to cooperation on and governance of environmental issues. It situates different perspectives on governance in the context of issues such as stratospheric ozone depletion, climate change, biodiversity, land use, transboundary resources and sustainable development. Through lectures, case studies, policy debates and group exercises, students will be introduced to resource trends and politics, examining how they modify international affairs and development paths, and exploring the dynamics between natural, societal and economic systems. Lectures from Graduate Institute faculty will be combined with opportunities to engage with the policy world of International Geneva. The course provides the foundation for students to take advanced seminars in the Environment, Resources, and Sustainability track.

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## Syllabus

This multi-disciplinary course introduces core concepts related to cooperation on and governance of environmental issues. It situates different perspectives on governance in the context of issues such as climate change, biodiversity, land use, transboundary resources and sustainable development. Through lectures, case studies, policy debates and group exercises, students will be introduced to resource trends and politics, examining how they modify international affairs and development paths, and exploring the dynamics between natural, societal and economic systems. Lectures from Graduate Institute faculty will be combined to the extent possible with opportunities to engage with the policy world of International Geneva. The course provides the foundation for students to take advanced seminars in the Environment, Resources, and Sustainability track.

The pedagogical objectives of the course include: (1) sensitizing students to conceptual approaches for analyzing the challenges and pathways to more effective governance of environmental issues and sustainability, and (2) discussing the relevance of these conceptual approaches in specific cases studies and with respect to policy choices.

**TEXTS:** Available online via the Moodle page of the course managed by the Graduate Institute. The book *Pursuing Sustainability: A Guide to the Science and Practice* (Princeton University press) by K. Mattson, Clark and Andersson is a required text and will be placed on library reserve. *Students are expected to complete all required readings prior to class.*

A star (\*) indicates recommendations for further readings on a specific topic beyond what is required for the class.

Course evaluation consist of a i) class participation; ii) midterm take-home exam; iii) final in-class exam. Further details about the exams will be provided in class.

## **Class sessions and assigned readings:**

### *Part I: Theoretical Concepts and Perspectives*

#### **February 19, Introduction**

**Stokes, Leah. 2018** Climate Change in My Backyard, *The New York Times*, Jan11  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/11/opinion/california-floods-mudslides-climate.html>

#### **February 26, Problem Structure**

**Hardin, Garrett. 1968.** The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science*, 162, pp.1243-1248

**Tietenberg, Thomas. 2004.** *Environmental Economics and Policy*. Pearson. Ch. 4 Property rights, externalities, and environmental problems, pp. 55-68

**Will Steffen, et al. 2015.** Planetary Boundaries: Guiding Human Development on a Changing Planet. *Science*, 13, 347: 6223.

**Class exercise February 26:** *The class will be divided in 4/8 groups. Each group will come to class prepared to present visually in one slide (through an image, photo, film, etc.) one of the following concepts, respectively: tragedy of the commons, global public goods, externalities, planetary boundary. After the presentation of each concept, the rest of the class will then have 10min. to critique the concept and to ask follow-up questions. After this exercise, in the second half of the class, we would examine the implication of each “problem-structure” for environmental governance, and alternative ways to understand environmental and resource problems.*

#### **March 5, Sustainable Development**

**The World Commission on Sustainable Development. 1986.** Towards Sustainable Development. In Conca, K. and Dabelko, J., eds. *Green Planet Blues* (Westview), 2010, pp. 207-217.

**Matson, P., Clark, W., and Andersson, K. 2016.** *Pursuing Sustainability*. Ch. 2, Framework for Sustainability,” pp. 14-20 and 32-50

**Sachs, Jeffrey D. 2015.** Goal-based Development and the SDGs: Implications for Development Finance. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 31:3/4, 268–278.

**Vinuales, J. 2013.** The Rise and Fall of Sustainable Development. *RECIEL*, 22:2, 3-13.

\*Optional further reading: **Easterly, William. 2015.** The SDGs Should Stand for Senseless, Dreamy, Garbled. *Foreign Policy*, Sept. 28, 2015, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/09/28/the-sdgs-are-utopian-and-worthless-mdgs-development-rise-of-the-rest/>

**Policy debate:** *Are the SDGs an important policy innovation that would steer countries to advance sustainability at the domestic and international level? Or, are the SDGs vague, broad objectives, with limited prospects for implementation?*

To prepare each group should choose one of the 17 SDGs related to the Environment or Resources and will examine the question both with critical arguments and in the context of that specific SDG.

**March 12: Collective Action and International Regimes**

**Ostrom, Elinor. 1992.** *Governing the Commons. The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action.* (Cambridge UP). Ch. 2, pp 29-57 and Ch. 3, pp. 58-59, 88-102. \*Optional recommended: Ch 1.

**Haas, P., Keohane, R. and M. A. Levy. 1993.** *Institutions for the Earth: Sources of Effective International Environmental Protection* (MIT Press). Ch. 1, pp. 3-26.

**Matson, P., Clark, W., and Andersson, K. 2016.** *Pursuing Sustainability.* Case study of Montreal Protocol pp. 179-186

\*Optional Further Reading: **Barrett, S. 2003.** *Environment and Statecraft. The Strategy of Environmental Treaty-Making* (OUP). Ch. 8, The Montreal Protocol, pp. 221-253.

**March 19: Climate Cooperation**

**Keohane, R.O. and M. Oppenheimer. 2016.** Paris: Beyond the Climate Dead End through Pledge and Review? *Politics and Governance*, 4:3, 142-151

**Bernstein, Steven and Matthew Hoffmann. 2018.** The Politics of Decarbonization and the Catalytic Impact of Subnational Climate Experiments. *Policy Sciences*, 51:2, 189–211.

**Andonova, Liliana B., Michele M. Betsill, and Harriet Bulkeley. 2009.** Transnational Climate Governance. *Global Environmental Politics* 9: 2, 52–73.

**Debate:** *Can the Paris Agreement survive the withdrawal of the US? Under what conditions (if any) is the agreement likely to be effective?*

**March 26: International Markets and Climate-Mitigation Technology**

Guest talk by Prof. Joelle Noailly

**A. Dechezleprêtre, M. Glachant, I. Hascic, N. Johnstone, Y. Meniere. 2011.** Invention and transfer of climate change--mitigation technologies: a global analysis, *Rev. Environ. Econ. Policy*, 5 (1), pp. 109-130

**Noailly, J. and D. Ryfisch. 2015.** Multinational firms and the internationalization of green R&D: A review of the evidence and policy implications, *Energy Policy*, 83(C), pp. 218-228

**April 2: Midterm exam due at 5pm, no class.**

**April 9: Environmental Advocacy**

Guest talk by Julia Marton-Lefèvre, former Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

**Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998.** *Activists Beyond Borders. Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Cornell University Press: NY), Chapters 1 and 4, pp.121-163.

**Mendes, Chico.** "Fight for the Forest (pp. 94-98) and **Coica.** Two Agendas on Amazon Development (pp. 339-345) In K. Conca and G. Dabelko, eds. 2014. *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Johannesburg.* Westview Press.

\*Optional further reading: **Cooley, A. and J. Ron. 2002.** The NGO Scramble: Organizational Insecurity and the Political Economy of Transnational Action. *International Security*, 27:1, 5-39.

**April 16: Multi-level Governance of Biodiversity**

Guest lecture and discussion with Prof. Marc Hufty

**Jóhannsdóttir, A., Cresswell, I. and Bridgewater, P. 2010.** The Current Framework for International Governance of Biodiversity: Is It Doing More Harm Than Good? *RECIEL*, 19: 139–149.

**Arjumend, H., Koutouki, K. and Alam, S. 2016.** Evolution of international governance of

biodiversity. *Journal of Global Resources*: 1-15.

**Cardinale, B. et al. 2012.** Biodiversity loss and its impact on humanity. *Nature* 486: 59-68.

### **April 30: Science, Technology and Sustainability**

**Matson, P., Clark, W., and Andersson, K. 2016.** *Pursuing Sustainability*. Ch. 5 Linking Knowledge with Action.

**Case study:** Yaqui Valley, Mexico: international collaboration, agriculture and productivity. See case in *Pursuing Sustainability*, pp. 172-186

**Shiva, V. 1991.** *The Violence of the Green Revolution* (Third World Network). Ch. 2 ('Miracle Seeds' and the Destruction of Genetic Diversity) and Ch. 5 (Political and Cultural Costs of the Green Revolution).

\*optional further reading: **Clark, W. C. 2011.** Boundary work for sustainable development: Natural resource management at the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). *PNAS*, 113:17, 4621

### **May 7: Sustainable Agriculture and Development**

*Guest Lecture by Prof. Shaila Seshia Galvin*

**Mansfield, B. 2004.** "Organic Views of Nature: The Debate over Organic Certification for Aquatic Animals." *Sociologia Ruralis* 44 (2):216-32.

**Raynolds, Laura T. 2017.** "Fairtrade Labour Certification: The Contested Incorporation of Plantations and Workers " *Third World Quarterly* 38 (7):1473-92.

**Seshia Galvin, Shaila. 2018.** "The Farming of Trust: Organic Certification and the Limits of Transparency in Uttarakhand, India." *American Ethnologist* 45 (4):495-507.

### **May 14: Transnational Private Governance**

**Cezar, R. F. 2019.** Food Certification, Domestic Politics and International Trade: the US Compliance Response in Three WTO Disputes, *Environmental Politics*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2019.1565462>

**Cashore, B. et al. 2004.** *Governing through Markets*. Ch. 1. Yale University Press.

**Andonova, L. 2017.** *Governance Entrepreneurs. International Organizations and the Rise of Global Public-Private Partnerships*. Ch. 4 (UNEP and the World Bank Extending Sustainability via Partnerships)

### **May 21: Contributing to Sustainability**

**Matson, P., Clark, W., and Andersson, K. 2016.** *Pursuing Sustainability*. Ch. 6

**Poster exhibit by students:** *Commitments and Collective action for sustainability*

Q&A session on final exam

**May 28: Final take-home exam due 5pm**