

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

Political Science 239/IR 239/SUS 239

Room: Harkness 115

Professor Milena Novy-Marx

Department of Political Science

Spring 2024

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:05 12:20

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 am, Harkness 307 or by appointment

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of international environmental law and policy with a special focus on efforts to address climate change, including the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This course serves as a companion to PSC 246, but PSC 246 is not a prerequisite. The goal of this course is to provide a foundational understanding of this rapidly developing field. Topics include consideration of the scientific, political, and economic drivers of international environmental law; the principles of international environmental law; the variety of tools (e.g., litigation, treaty-based approaches); and examples of how some international environmental issues have been addressed to date, including efforts on climate change. The course will be taught through lectures, discussion, a group project and three tests.

CREDIT HOURS: 4 credit hours. This course follows the College credit hour policy for 4-credit courses. This course meets twice weekly for 150 minutes per week. The course also includes independent out of class assignments and group work for 1 hour per week, including using assigned readings and other class materials (as noted in the syllabus assignments). These activities include preparation to lead or participate in group discussion, work on group discussion questions, worksheets (posted on Blackboard), reflections, and a team-based group project. Students are expected to spend at least 8 hours per week on assigned reading and assignments as discussed below. Length of reading assignments will vary given the complexity of the material assigned.



IEL Principles Reading Handout on Blackboard under Learning Modules, Week 1

Homework Due Tuesday Jan 23 before class: *IEL principles worksheet*. We will also discuss this in class in groups. Please submit Homework on Blackboard.

II. The Hole in the Stratospheric Ozone Layer & the Montreal Protocol: Mobilizing an Effective International Response

Jan. 25 (Thur

Reading: Coral Davenport,

In class presentations on country conservation NGOs and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP)

IV. Hazardous Waste, Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste, “Toxic Colonialism,” and The Basel Convention

March 5 (Tues) Hazardous Colonialism and the Strategy & Structure of the Basel Convention: What is waste? What

notice and consent regime (PIC), not a ban. How does the Basel Convention work? Why it and what role is the U.S. playing? Economics, politics and ethics of *exporting* hazardous waste. Recovery and recycling industry. Economic, political and ethical challenge.

Reading: *The Global Environment*, Ch. 11; Ch. 6 pp. 175 notice and c

Mar. 21 (Thurs) **TEST #2: Biodiversity, Transboundary Hazardous Waste & N/S issues**

V. Forests: Forest Group Projects, Absence of Global Forest Regime, EU's FLEGT & International Market Based Approaches

Mar. 26 (Tues) _____
Sustainability, International Forest Principles: Ecosystem services provided by forests.
Thorny issues of forest protection, logging, illegal logging, conversion of forests, desertification and climate change

Reading: [Online executive summary.](#)

[Dead Forests and Living Memories](#)” (*New York Times Magazine*, Sept. 17, 2015).

Mar. 28 (Thurs) _____ Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. What is FLEGT? How is sustainable forest management through trade and regulation working in the Absence of a Global Forest Protocol?

_____ 7 min.

Reading: [Ch. 4-7](#)

[About FLEGT](#) Online information (FLEGT.org)

You will select Group Presentation topics and times for audience participation – these presentations will be on April 4 (Thurs) and April 9 (Thurs) – by Zoom

Apr. 2 (Tues) Amazonas case study: The Amazonas Lodge in Peru, a study of ecotourism and community-based conservation strategies.

Reading: Amazonas case study handout (To be found on Blackboard in Learning Modules)

Prepare for role play in class. We will divide into three groups, representing the three main stakeholder groups in this case: the Indigenous community members, the Amazonas Lodge company, and the international foundations.

Apr. 4 (Thurs) Presentations if you are assigned for this day as presenter or audience

Apr. 9 (Tues) Presentations if you are assigned for this day as presenter or audience

April 23 (Tues) Paris Agreement (COP 21): How does the Paris Agreement work? Why is it structured the way it is? Significance of goal &

climate finance.

Reading: [Inside the Paris Climate Deal](#)

[Climate Accord is a Healing Step if Not a Cure](#)
12, 2015)

(December 12, 2015)

Monthly Dec 16, 2015)

[Key Aspects of the Paris Agreement](#) United Nations, Climate Change.

April 25 (Thurs) Paris Agreement ~ Future Prospects? Test 3 Review: What did Trump Administration withdrawal from Paris Agreement mean in a global context? What about Current status and COP 28.

[The Paris Climate Agreement Survived Trump. Can It Survive](#)
_____ (Forbes, Oct 24, 2018).

[China, in Nudge to U.S., Makes a New Promise to Tackle Global Warming](#) *New York Times*, Dec. 12, 2020).

[Why It Matters that the U.S. Rejoined the Paris Agreement](#)
(Fortune, Feb. 16, 2021).

[Key to Global Climate Action](#) *Forbes*, Feb. 19, 2021).

[Six Signs of Progress Since the Adoption of the Paris Agreement](#) (Eco-Business, Dec. 10, 2020).

The future for environmental treaties? Constant Meheut and Catherine Porter,
[Danone sued over its plastic use under a landmark law](#) *New York Times*,
January 10, 2023.

April 30 (Tues) - **Test #3 -- Climate Change (this test may also be held during Finals Week – TBD)**

The Final Exam period scheduled for this course is Tuesday, May 7 at 7:15pm – until confirmed do not schedule any travel during this time. We may use this date for Test #3 depending on progress during the semester