Political Economy of the Global Environment
POLS 390B, Spring 2014

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DePauw University
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Course Meetings: MW, 2:20 – 3:50, East College 020
Office Location: 103 Asbury
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00; Friday 1:00 – 2:00; and by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed as an upper-level seminar. It focuses on the ways in which international economic processes shape global environmental governance. Course meetings will follow a seminar format. I will begin each section on the syllabus by providing context for the scheduled readings. Typically, more than half of each course meeting will be reserved for discussion. The first half of the course is a survey of global political economy, with a specific focus on the environment. Topics will include (1) the environmental consequences of current patterns of consumption, (2) the effect of international trade on global environmental issues, (3) the influence of foreign direct investment on environmental regulation (is there a “race to the bottom” in environmental regulation?), (4) the compatibility of environmental protection and economic growth, (5) whether current understandings of sustainable development are tenable, and (6) the effect of development finance on the environment.

After the midterm exam, we will examine a number of specific topics in greater detail. We will begin by taking an extensive look at the political economy of development assistance, making use of the recently-published AidData resource to test claims regarding financing of environmental public goods. We will spend roughly the final third of the semester asking whether or to what extent environmental sustainability can be achieved in a capitalist global economy. Some of the specific issues that we will address include the effectiveness of corporate self-governance (e.g., corporate social responsibility) and the effectiveness of market mechanisms to promote environmentally-beneficial behavior (e.g., eco-labelling). We will conclude by attempting to identify more precisely the conditions under which corporate interests can or cannot be harnessed to promote environmentally-beneficial outcomes.
**Required Texts**


Additional readings will be posted directly to Moodle.

**Course Requirements**

Final letter grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.5 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89.5-92.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.5-89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.5-87.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.5-82.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.5-79.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.5-69.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.5-67.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>59.5-62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Final grade calculations will reflect the following assignments & weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc. lead presentations</td>
<td>10% (2 x 5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussant Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Question</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline and Sources</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional information about course assignments:

Discussion: I expect everyone to complete all readings prior to the date listed on the syllabus. You will be responsible for leading class discussion on two occasions. Your discussion/participation grade will reflect your contribution to discussions on days that you do not lead.

Additionally, when not serving as discussion lead, all students will be responsible for making 8 posts to weekly Moodle discussion boards. These posts should reflect engagement with the assigned readings. There is no set format, though they can be as simple as “the three most important points from the readings,” or “two-three reasons why I disagree with argument x.”

Failure to submit moodle posts will result in a one-point deduction from discussion grade for each missing post (up to 8 of 15 points).

Exam: The midterm exam will be conducted in-class and will cover the material from the initial “global political economy of the environment” survey.

Paper
# Course Schedule

## Week 1
- **M 1/27**: Introduction to Course
- **W 1/29**: Perspectives on Global Environmental Politics  
  *Read:* *Paths, Chapter 1*

## Week 2
- **M 2/3**: A Brief History of Global Environmental Governance  
  *Read:* *Paths, Chapter 2*  
  *note:* *last day to change schedule/registration*
- **W 2/5**: Globalization and the Environment  
  *Read:* *Paths, Chapter 3*

## Week 3
- **M 2/10**: Poverty, Economic Growth, and the Environment  
  *Read:* *Paths, Chapter 4*
- **W 2/12**: Global Trade and the Environment I  
  *Read:* *Paths, Chapter 5*

## Week 4
- **M 2/17**: Global Trade and the Environment II
- **W 2/19**: Global Investment and the Environment  
  *Read:* *Paths, Chapter 6*

## Week 5
- **M 2/24**: Global Finance for the Environment I  
  *Read:* *Paths, Chapter 7*  
  *Due:* *Paper Topic*
- **W 2/26**: Global Finance for the Environment II

## Week 6
- **M 3/3**: Midterm Exam #1
- **W 3/5**: Intro to Special Topic: Environment and Development Assistance
Week 7
M 3/10   Banking on the Environment I
Due: Research Question
W 3/12   Banking on the Environment II

Week 8
M 3/17   Greening Aid I
W 3/19   Greening Aid II

Mon 3/24  Spring Break
Wed 3/26  Spring Break
Fri 3/28  Spring Break

Week 9
M 3/31   The Shadows of Consumption I
W 4/2    The Shadows of Consumption II

Week 10
M 4/7    The Shadows of Consumption III
W 4/9    Climate Capitalism I

Week 11
M 4/14   Climate Capitalism II
W 4/16   Climate Capitalism III

Week 12
M 4/21   Good Derivatives I
Due: Preliminary Outline
W 4/23   Good Derivatives II

Week 13
M 4/28   Good Derivatives III
W 4/30   Open Date / Catch-up
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 14</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 5/5</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 5/7</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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