

POL 323: Global Environmental Affairs

Fall 2009 - CSS 135

MW 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Professor: Dr. Mike Gunter
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REQUIRED TEXTS

The following required texts and materials are available at the Rollins College Bookstore or the reserve desk at Olin Library as well as online booksellers:

Friedman, Thomas L. *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution – and How It Can Renew America*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.

McNeill, J.R. *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2000.

Newman, Peter, Timothy Beatley, and Heather Boyer. *Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2009.

Speth, James Gustave and Peter M. Haas. *Global Environmental Governance*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2006.

Strunk, William Jr. and E.B. White. [*The Elements of Style*](#). (4th edition) Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING

In addition to the above texts, this class requires you to stay abreast of global environmental current events – both for the purpose of weekly discussions and your own required oral report. For reputable international reporting, I recommend the [*International Herald Tribune*](#) or international sections of national daily American newspapers such as [*The New York Times*](#), [*The Washington Post*](#), or [*The Wall Street Journal*](#). We will discuss major events as they relate to our course readings each week, thus making this part of your daily participation marks. This material will also be periodically incorporated into assignments and tests. In addition to the online versions noted above, the Olin Library and Cornell Campus Center hold daily paper copies of *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*, and Olin holds the Sunday edition of *The Washington Post*. A few other recommended national US papers you may wish to consult are [*The Christian Science Monitor*](#), [*The Boston Globe*](#), [*The Chicago Tribune*](#), [*The Miami Herald*](#), and [*The Los Angeles Times*](#). Outside the US, see the Trade Development Alliance of Seattle for a thorough list of English-language [international newspapers](#). And, as always, see me if you have questions about other potential sources.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Global environmental affairs encompass perhaps the most challenging political issues of our time. Never before has humanity had the power to determine its own planetary destiny as we do today. From climate change and biodiversity loss to drinking water contamination and desertification to overall poverty and pollution, events on one side of the globe now clearly influence those thousands of miles away. This course analyzes the political context of this complicated and diverse landscape, highlighting the impact of both globalization and interdependence on the environmental front.

Our studies will be divided into four main categories. In the first two weeks we look at the ecological theoretical context and international relations framework in which this debate is set. The next two weeks are spent looking at the specific actors involved in this debate, from states and international organizations to businesses and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Here there is also an introduction to the various legal apparatus worldwide.

Having established these critical foundations, the fifth week of the course begins examination of a number of specific issues world leaders struggle with (or ignore) today. These include: climate change, ozone depletion, infectious disease, biodiversity protection, global fisheries threats, trade, hazardous waste, desertification, deforestation, soil erosion and topsoil loss, whaling, and fossil fuel transport/usage. The course then concludes with a discussion of effectiveness of tactics to date, noting the role of civil society, institutions, and markets in both contributing problems and finding solutions. Questions to consider throughout the term include:

- What conditions help countries negotiate treaties to resolve problems?
- What types of rules work best to induce compliance?
- How do we evaluate whether a treaty has been effective or successful?
- How do nations improve treaty or regulatory effectiveness over time?

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The prerequisite for this course is POL 130. You should not be enrolled in this course if you have not taken that class. Participation in class is critical to your success this semester, especially since we have the luxury of a small seminar environment. Material discussed in class will appear on exams and other assignments. As outlined below, participation will play a key role in determining final grades, especially border-line cases.

Please be advised that the reading load is heavy at times and requires a substantial time commitment outside of class meetings. As your Rollins College Catalogue suggests, you should anticipate spending an average of three hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. I recommend that you carefully look over the course materials and decide how much time you are willing to invest before committing yourself to this class.

We have an interesting combination of readings to guide class discussions in this course. Diligently keeping on schedule with your assignments will allow you to take full advantage of our discussions. Be sure to come to class prepared and ready to actively participate as the course places a heavy burden on you, the students. Several exercises throughout the semester are intended to foster active learning and to provide structure to your participation grade. Please note that participation entails more than mere attendance. It requires active and meaningful engagement in the class.

There will also be several writing assignments as well as essay exams in this course. Of all that you learn in college, writing is one of the most important. Regardless of your career goal, you will need to develop the skill of writing well. Writing also helps us learn. It focuses our thoughts and forces us to organize and document them. For general guidance on writing style, we will read the age-old pamphlet by William Strunk and E.B. White, entitled *The Elements of Style*. It is also available online at: <http://www.bartleby.com/141/index.html>.

Finally you should be familiar with the term plagiarism. Remember, any work that borrows wording, ideas, or even organization from another source without appropriate acknowledgment is defined as plagiarism. A general rule of thumb is to cite any phrase that is not common knowledge and longer than four words. Severe penalties are in place for violations of this policy.

GRADING POLICY:

Feel free to consult me about any of your work and grades during the semester, i.e. papers, participation, quizzes, exams, etc. Due to privacy concerns, however, grades will not be discussed electronically at any time during *or* after the semester. Per the Rollins College Catalogue, the grade report is based on the following definitions:

A is reserved for work that is *exceptional in quality and shows keen insight, understanding, and initiative.*

B is given for work that is *consistently superior and shows interest, effort, or originality.*

C is a respectable grade required for graduation; it reflects *consistent daily preparation and satisfactory completion of all work* required.

D- is the *lowest passing grade*; it is below the average necessary to meet graduation requirements and ordinarily is not accepted for transfer by other institutions.

F is failing.

Grading is based upon percentages that equate to the standard +/- system below:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| A = 93 % and above | A- = 90-92 | B+ = 87-89 |
| B = 83-86 | B- = 80-82 | C+ = 77-79 |
| C = 73-76 | C- = 70-72 | D+ = 67-69 |
| D = 63-66 | D- = 60-62 | F < 60 |

You are responsible for turning in assignments on time, before class starts. This responsibility comes in two parts. For one, you must turn in a hard copy of your paper to me. For another, you must submit an electronic copy to www.turnitin.com. Our class ID is "1957646" and the class password is "honor." Let me know if you need any help with this but do be sure to complete this requirement if you wish to receive credit for your paper. Failure to complete both steps, the paper and electronic, by the assigned due date will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Please take this seriously as it would be a shame for you to not get credit simply for failing to follow directions on this requirement. After class begins, assignments will be considered late so do not skip class just to finish an assignment. Late assignments will be accepted until 4 p.m. that day with one letter grade penalty – including both the hard copy and electronic submissions. After 4 p.m. on the due date, late

papers will not be accepted. Make-up tests are not given, except under extenuating circumstances, i.e. illness, death in the family, religious holiday. In these cases the professor *must be informed prior to the exam or assignment due date*. Do this either by email or telephone.

GRADING DISTRIBUTION:

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 5% | Paper Proposal & Bibliography |
| 10% | Global Peace Film Festival Editorial |
| 20% | Final Case Study Paper |
| 20% | Daily Participation |
| 20% | Midterm |
| 25% | Final |

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part I - Theoretical Context & International Framework

Week 1: Aug. 24/26

Sustainable Development & The Limits to Growth

Aldo Leopold, Selections from "The Land Ethic," A Sand County Almanac:

<http://www.aldoleopold.org/about/LandEthic.pdf>

John Muir, "Chapter 16," *The Yosemite* (1912):

http://www.yosemite.ca.us/john_muir_writings/the_yosemite/chapter_16.html

Global Environmental Affairs: The Earth Summit and Its Aftermath

Speth & Haas: Chpt. III

Week 2: Aug. 31/Sept. 2

Tragedy of the Commons, Our Common Future?

Speth & Haas: Chpt. I

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

<http://dieoff.org/page95.htm>

Summary of Brundtland Report:

http://www.re-set.it/documenti/1000/1800/1850/1856/brundtland_reportpdf.pdf

Entire 318 page document for reference only (NOT assigned):

<http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>

States & Sovereignty (split first two readings)

Peter Sand, "Sovereignty Bounded: Public Trusteeship for Common Pool Resources?"

Global Environmental Politics, vol. 4:1 (Feb. 2004):

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/global_environmental_politics/v004/4.1sand.pdf

Haas, Peter M. "Addressing the Global Governance Deficit," *Global Environmental Politics*, vol.4:4 (Nov. 2004):

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/global_environmental_politics/v004/4.4haas.pdf

Friedman: Part I

Part II – Actors & Organizations

Week 3: Sept. 7/9

Prisoner's Dilemma Simulation

The Role of International Organizations: UNDP & UNEP

David Brown, "[Teamwork Urged on Bird Flu](#)," *The Washington Post*, 8 Nov. 2005

Skim UNDP website: <http://www.undp.org/> (particularly "What We Do" section)

Skim UNEP website: <http://www.unep.org/> (particularly "About UNEP" section)

Speth & Haas: Chpt. V

Debt & International Aid: The WB, IMF, & GEF

Skim IMF website: <http://www.imf.org/>

Skim World Bank website: <http://www.worldbank.org>

Skim The Whirled Bank Group, "Debt & the World Bank"

<http://www.whirledbank.org/development/debt.html>

Muhammad Yunus, "[The Grameen Bank](#)," *Scientific American*, vol.281:5 (Nov. 1999), pp.114-119

Week 4: Sept. 14/16

Non-governmental Organizations

David Davenport, "The New Diplomacy," *Policy Review*, Dec. 2002:

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/3458466.html>

Joseph S. Nye, "The Rising Power of NGO's," Op-Ed for *The Daily Times* (Pakistan),

Aug. 31, 2004: http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_27-6-2004_pg3_7

Simulation: Debt-for-Nature Swaps

Jamie Resor, "[Debt-for-Nature Swaps: A Decade of Experience and New Directions for the Future](#)," *Unasylva*, Vol 48, No. 1, Issue 188:

Part III – Case Studies

Week 5: Sept. 21/23

Bill Moyer's Reports: [Earth on Edge](#)

Speth & Haas: Chpt. II

[Global Peace Film Festival](#) runs Sept. 22-27

Dear Mr. Gore, USA, 2008, 65 mins.; Director: Lisa Mills

- Sept. 23 at 8:45 pm at Bush Auditorium...Sept. 26 at 1:15 pm at Winter Park Public Library
 - o This personal narrative documentary uses the director's bicycle ride to work as a vehicle to explore fear and global warming. The film was shot over a period of two years in Sweden, Denmark and Orlando, Florida. It is a contemplative response to *An Inconvenient Truth* and provides a unique perspective on one person's attempt to reduce her carbon footprint and overcome fear. She wonders, Will Americans ever be able to give up personal freedom for the good of the planet. Her journey to the answer takes the viewer on a humorous bike ride. Along the way she meets Swedes, Danes and many young people who aren't afraid of giving up their cars. But she discovers that the reasons they ride may not be directly related to their concerns about global warming. The film features a bicycle ride with the Mayor of Orlando and music by Danish electric violin sensation Mads Tolling. (Filmmaker will attend)

The Burning Season, Australia, 2009, 90 mins.; Director: Cathy Henkel

- Sept. 25 at 7 pm at Cornell Fine Arts Museum...Sept. 26 at 6:15 at Winter Park Public Library

- The Burning Season is the story of a remarkable achievement by one young man not afraid to single-handedly confront the biggest challenge of our time. Dorjee Sun, a young entrepreneur, believes there's money to be made from protecting rainforests in Indonesia, saving the orangutan from extinction and making a real impact on climate change. Armed with a laptop and a backpack, he sets out across the globe to find investors in his carbon trading scheme. It is a battle against time, but Dorjee's determination to succeed and his award-winning achievement will uplift and entertain audiences and inspire hope in our future.

One Village Same Ocean, USA, 2009, 44 mins.; Director: Josh Hansbrough

- Sept. 26 at 3:45 pm at Winter Park Public Library
 - As a cruise ship threatens to move into Mayport Village, residents and supporters band together to show that community, livelihood, environment and health cannot be bargained for. Journey the seas with shrimpers, and unveil the area's astounding lost history. This is the story of a small fishing village fighting the powerful cruise ship industry. Will these ships continue polluting the very places they promote visiting? Or will one camera and a wealth of knowledge unite supporters in protecting the ocean and the fishermen left along its shores.

Law of the Sea

RR: Paul Wapner, "World Summit on Sustainable Development: Toward a Post-Johannesburg Environmentalism," *Global Environmental Politics*, vol.3:1 (2003), pp.1-10

Week 6: Sept. 28/30

Global Peace Film Festival Discussion

Global Peace Film Festival Editorial due

McNeill: Chpt. 1

Oil, Geography, and War

RR: Peter Maass, "The Breaking Point," *The New York Times Magazine*, 21 Aug. 2005

Newman et al: Chpt. 1 & 2

Week 7: Oct. 5/7

Midterm

Nova Film - [Dimming the Sun](#)

Nova & Frontline Film – [What's Up with the Weather?](#)

Newman et al: Chpt. 3

Week 8: Oct. 12/14

Fall Break

US Climate Change Policy

RR: Mike Gunter, "US Climate Change Policy," *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change*, Sage Publications, 2008

Newman et al: Chpt. 4

Week 9: Oct. 19/21

The Kyoto Protocol

Skim United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change website:
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Montreal Protocol: US Leadership on Ozone Depletion

Michael Gunter, "[U.S. is Behind the Curve](#)," *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, 28 Feb. 2005.

Skim United Nations Environment Programme Ozone Secretariat webpage:

<http://ozone.unep.org/Events/index.shtml>

UNEP Press Release, "Saving the Ozone Layer: An Unfinished Agenda," 26, Oct. 2006:

<http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/4830-e-18MOP.pdf>

Week 10: Oct. 26/28

Infectious Disease

RR: Gro Harlem Brundtland, "The Globalization of Health," *Seton Hall Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations*, vol. IV:2 (Summer/Fall 2003), pp.7-12.

RR: Anne Underwood and Jerry Adler, "Scary Strains," *Newsweek*, 1 Nov. 2004

Newman et al: Chpt. 5

Case study proposal and bibliography due

[The American Experience - Influenza 1918](#)

Nova Film - [Ebola : The Plague Fighters](#)

Newman et al: Chpt. 6

Week 11: Nov. 2/4

Deforestation & the Amazon

McNeill: Chpt. 8 (pp. 228-237)

Elizabeth Royte, "35 Who Made a Difference: An Ethnobotanist Takes Up the Cause of Rainforest Conservation," *Smithsonian*, Nov. 2005:

<http://www.amazonteam.org/images/news/smithsonianarticle-11-05.pdf>

The Basel Convention: Simulation on Hazardous Waste Trade

"From Rich to Poor: Ivory Coast Tragedy Highlights Hazardous Waste Trade on Rise," *International Herald Tribune*, 17 Oct. 2006:

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/10/17/africa/AF_GEN_Ivory_Coast_Toxic_Trade.php

Skim Basel Convention Secretariat webpage: <http://www.basel.int/>

Zada Lipman, "A Dirty Dilemma," *Harvard International Review* (Winter 2002):

<http://hir.harvard.edu/articles/958/>

Week 12: Nov. 9/11

Species Extinction: CITES & CBD

Gunter: pp.1-21 and 34-40

Skim CBD Secretariat web pages @ <http://www.biodiv.org/default.aspx>

Skim CITES web pages @: <http://www.cites.org/>

The Hydrosphere

McNeill: [Chpt. 6](#)

Week 13: Nov. 16/18

International Trade: US Marine Mammal Protection Act

WTO Disputes, Mexico etc. versus US: tuna-dolphin:

http://www.wto.org/English/tratop_e/envir_e/edis04_e.htm

Skim NOAA Fisheries Office of Protection Resources webpage:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/>

Whaling & the IWC (split first two readings)

RR: Peterson, M. J. 1992. "Whalers, cetologists, environmentalists and the international management of whaling," *International Organization*, vol. 46:1, pp.147-186.

RR: Walsh, Virginia. 1999. "Illegal Whaling for Humpbacks by the Soviet Union in the Antarctic, 1947-1972," *Journal of Environment and Development*, vol.8:3, pp.307-327.

McNeill: Chpt. 8 (pp. 237-252)

Week 14: Nov. 23/25

Activists: The Rainbow Warrior of Greenpeace

Greenpeace International, "20th anniversary of the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior":

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/about/ships/the-rainbow-warrior>

A Short History of the Rainbow Warrior:

<http://archive.greenpeace.org/comms/rw/pkhist.html>

Thanksgiving Holiday

Part IV – Conclusions

Week 15: Nov. 30/Dec. 2

The Globalization Debate

Speth & Haas: Chpt. VI

Moises Naim, "The Five Wars of Globalization," *Foreign Policy*, Jan./Feb. 2003

Case Study Papers due

Redefining Security?

Kofi Annan, "Nobel Lecture," December 10, 2001:

<http://www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html>

McNeill: Chpt. 12

Week 16: Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 7th at 5 pm location TBA

* Please note changes in this schedule may be necessary as we progress through the semester. Any such changes will be announced in class. Also check for periodic updates on the course website, particularly the online version of the syllabus.

THE ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. Because academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge and truth and is the heart of the academic life of Rollins College, it is the responsibility of all members of the College community to practice it and to report apparent violations.

The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to all papers, quizzes, tests, lab reports, etc., the following handwritten abbreviated pledge followed by their signature:

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

DOCUMENTATION

Here are a few simple rules about quotations, paraphrases, and plagiarism. Learn them and practice them.

1. "When you copy the words of another, put those words inside quotation marks, and acknowledge the source with a footnote."
2. "When you paraphrase another's words, use your own words and your own sentence structure, and be sure to use a footnote giving the source of the idea."
3. "A plagiarist often merely changes a few words or simply rearranges the words in the source."

Source: Harbrace College Handbook, p. 407

Plagiarized work will result at the very least in a grade of "0" on the paper assignment, and such an event will be reported to the Dean of the College, as per our college policies.

Participation Grades

Strong daily participation is critical to the success of this course. This is the reason participation counts as such a significant percentage of your final grade. Emphasizing participation in this course also demonstrates the extent to which classroom time should build on our readings. And it reflects my belief that you will learn from one another in this class, just as you will learn from me.

To receive a good participation grade one must come to class well prepared, completing all readings and assignments before our meeting time. You may find it helpful to make a rough outline of the day's readings and/or jot down an intriguing question or two that arose from the readings.

Each day I will assign a possible 10 points for your participation. Be aware that quality counts more than quantity in this calculation. You do not need to dominate the conversation. In fact doing so will detract from your grade (don't worry I will let you know before this happens). Students earn points in the following manner:

- 5 points for attending class
- 1 more point for being on time
- And 1-4 more points for quality of participation
 - A level participation gets 3 or 4 points
 - B level gets 2 points
 - C level gets 1 point

Finally, let me outline the absence policy for this course. If you must miss class for some reason, i.e. illness, athletic competition, job interview, please let me know in advance. That means *before* class starts. As long as you meet this requirement you are allowed two such excused absences.

Global Environmental Affairs
Editorial Response
to Global Peace Film Festival

This is an editorial assignment of 500 to 600 words -- and no more. Your task is to construct an argument around some aspect of one of the three films noted in our syllabus. This should not be a summary, although there will be some material from the film that you reference. It might be that you also incorporate additional readings from our course or other courses at Rollins in your piece. However, this is not required. The important point is that you are to construct a political argument about a global environmental issue using ample supporting evidence and examples. This is not an opinion piece, then; it is a well-reasoned argument.

Grades will be based upon content, structure, and creativity. The A review meets all four criteria below, the B review three, etc. These criteria are:

1. Highlights an effective thesis statement.
2. Supports critical contentions with adequate evidence and specific examples.
3. Shows imagination and creativity in individual insights.
4. Is well-organized, stylistically effective, and mechanically sound (see Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*).

Finally, extra credit is available to students who publish their editorial in the *Orlando Sentinel*, specifically in their Young Voices section on Saturday morning. See me for further details here.

Global Environmental Affairs Case Study Paper

In consultation with your professor and utilizing particularly the J.R. McNeill book, identify a global environmental issue you would like to study in greater depth than class readings and discussions have allowed to date. Think through the different aspects of this issue. What explains the origins of the problem? How is the problem exacerbated? What is being done to address it? Is this sufficient? What would you suggest differently? In other words, your task is to outline a theoretical argument on a specific global environmental issue, highlighting the political realities and suggesting concrete policy recommendations.

In terms of the technical components, your paper should be 8 to 10-pages in length (in 12-point font) and is due in class as noted in our syllabus. A 300-word project description, including thesis statement and explanation of why you chose this topic is due the month before the final paper, again as noted in our syllabus. A preliminary bibliography of at a least a dozen sources is also due at this time. Please use MLA style for both assignments.

As usual, grades will be based upon content, structure, and creativity. The A review meets all four criteria below, the B review three, etc. These criteria are:

1. Highlights an effective thesis statement.
2. Supports critical contentions with adequate evidence and specific examples.
3. Shows imagination and creativity in individual insights.
4. Is well-organized, stylistically effective, and mechanically sound (see Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*).