

IR/GE 304 (Fall 2007)
Environmentally Sustainable Development
Meets T-TH 11-12:30
Sociology B59 96-100 Cummington Street

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Overview

This course will examine the relationship between environmental degradation and economic development, and review the current and proposed approaches toward sustainable development.

The course provides an overview of the basic issues surrounding sustainable development, and will be interdisciplinary and draw on economics, political science, the natural sciences, and public policy. Students will learn about the most salient environmental problems that are global in nature and explore issues that most affect developing nations.

Readings:

The following books are available at the university bookstore:

Speth, James Gustave (2004). *Red Sky Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Harris, Jonathan et al., (2001). *A Survey of Sustainable Development: Social and Economic Dimensions*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Clapp, Jennifer and Dauvergne, Peter (2005). *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Panayotou, Theodore (1998). *Instruments of Change: Motivating and Financing Sustainable Development*. London: Earthscan.

Rest of the readings are class-specific and are available on internet or online from BU library system.

Course Outline:

Week 1, September 4 and 6: Introduction and Context

Class 1: Introductions, overview of course

Class 2: What is the environment? What is development? What is *environmentally sustainable development*?

Readings

- 1) Harris et al., Volume Introduction
- 2) Speth: Preface and Prologue
- 3) Brundtland report (Chapter 2. Paragraphs 1-15)
<http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>
- 4) UNDP Human Development Report 1990 – chapter 1
http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/1990/en/pdf/hdr_1990_ch1.pdf

Week 2, September 11 and 13: The “State” of the Global/Local Environment

Class 3: History, context, perspectives

Class 4: Extent of growth, development, and environmental impacts

Readings

- 1) Clapp and Dauvergne, Chapter 1, Chapter 3 (pg 45-middle of 54)
- 2) Bjorn Lomborg, “Truth about the environment” August 2nd 2001, The Economist magazine (*available online on the BU library system*)
http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=E1_STRRGD
- 3) Scientific American, Lomborg page “Misleading Math about the Earth”
<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?articleID=000F3D47-C6D2-1CEB-93F6809EC5880000&sc=I100322>
- 4) Speth, Part I
- 5) GEO 3, “Synthesis” <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo3/english/pdfs/synthesis.pdf>

Week 3, September 18 and 20: Drivers of Environmental Degradation I

Class 5: IPAT

Class 6: Population and Demographics (Film: NOVA: World in the Balance)

Readings

- 1) Speth Chapter 6
- 2) Harris et al, Part IV
- 3) Marian Chertow, “IPAT Equation and its Variants” Journal of Industrial Ecology (2001)
http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/pdf/jiec_4_4_13_0.pdf

Week 4, September 25 and 27: Drivers of Environmental Degradation II

Class 7: Social dimensions

Class 8: Special Guest Lecture: Elizabeth Stanton

Readings

- 1) Harris et al., Part II

- 2) Clapp and Dauvergne, Chapter 4
- 3) James K. Boyce, "Inequality as a Cause of Environmental Degradation."
http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/published_study/PS1.pdf
- 4) GEO-3, Chapter 3
http://www.unep.org/GEO/geo3/english/pdfs/chapter3_vulnerability.pdf

Week 5, October 2 and 4: Instruments for Change (Economics/Technology)

Class 9: Market Failures and Tools to fix them

Class 10: Technology Innovation

Readings

- 1) Panayotou, Chapters 2, 3, and 4
- 2) Harris et al., Part I (except Serafy, Hamilton/Clemons, and Stern)
- 3) Fullerton and Stavins, "How Economists see the Environment"
Nature **395** Number 6701 pp. 433-34 (1998) (*BU library online*)
- 4) Arrow et al. "Economic Growth, Carrying Capacity, and the Environment"
Science, Vol. **268**, No. 5210. (1995), pp. 520-521. (*BU library online*)

Week 6, October 11: Topics: Land Use/Oceans/Biodiversity

Class 11: Land Use/Oceans/Biodiversity

Readings

- 1) Harris et al, Part V.
- 2) GEO-3 "Land," "Forests," "Coastal and Marine Areas," "Biodiversity," (62-180)

Week 7, October 16 and 18: Review and Mid-term

Class 12: Review

Class 13: Midterm

Week 8, October 23 and 25: Topics: Climate Change

Class 14: Science and Signs

Class 15: Dealing with Climate Change (UNFCC, Kyoto, Post-Kyoto)

Readings

- 1) IPCC TAR Synthesis Report
- 2) IPCC: 4th Assessment Report (Summary for Policymakers of WG1)
http://ipcc-wg1.ucar.edu/wg1/Report/AR4WG1_Print_SPM.pdf
- 3) Harris et al., Part VI: Overview, Summaries of Repetto/Austin, and Lind/Schuler
- 4) S. Pacala and R. Socolow, "Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies" *Science* **305** 968-972 (2004) (*BU library online*)

Week 9, October 30 and November 1: Topics: Climate Change/Equity

Class 16: Policy approaches for climate change (Taxes, tradable permits, transportation)

Class 17: Equity and North/South imbalances

Readings

- 1) Speth, Afterword
- 2) Sagar, Oliver and Chikkatur, “Climate Change, Energy, and Developing Countries”
<http://www.vjel.org/journal/VJEL10041.html>
- 3) Harris et al., Part III

Week 10, November 6 and 8: Topics: Climate Change and Rise of China/India

Class 18: Rise of China/India (Movie – China revs up)

Class 19: Guest Lecture: Hongyan Oliver (Climate Change and China)

Readings

- 1) “Balancing China’s Energy, Economic and Environmental Goals” Byrne et al.
http://www.nrel.gov/international/china/pdfs/challenge_of_sustainability.pdf
- 2) Business Week: China and India page (A New World Economy & Crouching Tigers, Hidden Dragons). http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/toc/05_34/B3948chinaindia.htm
- 3) “China, India Superpower? Not so Fast!” by Pranab Bardhan
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=6407>

Week 11, November 13 and 15: Topics: Environmental Justice and Global Institutions

Class 20: Guest Lecture: Sunita Dubey (EJ in India/South Africa)

Class 21: Globalization Governance and International institutions.

Readings

- 4) “Environmental Justice in the 21st Century”, Robert D. Bullard.
<http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/ejinthe21century.htm>
- 5) Krista Harper and Ravi Rajan, “International Environmental Justice: Building the Natural Assets of the World’s Poor.”
http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/working_papers/working_papers_51-100/WP87.pdf
- 6) Harris et al., Part X

Week 12, November 20: Globalization and Environment

Class 22: Guest Lecture: Kevin Gallagher

Readings

- 1) Speth, Chapter 7
- 2) Harris et al., Part VII

Week 13/14, November 27, 29, and December 4: Globalization of Environmentalism and Transitions to Sustainable Development:

Class 23: Globalization of environmentalism

Class 24: Transitions – What needs to be done

Class 25: Transitions—Scenarios and Policy

Readings

- 1) Clapp and Dauvergne, pg. 54-80 and Chapter 8
- 2) Speth, Chapter 8,9,10

Week 14/15, December 6 and 11

Class 26: Review

Class 27: Exam

Attendance

Great importance will be placed on attendance and timely submission of assignments. There will be a penalty for late submissions of assignments and for irregular attendance. However, individual emergencies will be accommodated as far as possible. In such cases, students should make every effort to communicate with the instructor in advance. Student participation will be an important part of the class and students should come prepared to be called upon.

Any of the following will adversely affect student grades:

- Being irregular in attendance (including arriving late or leaving early).
- Failing to have read all assigned readings **before** the class for which they are listed.
- Late submission of assignments
- Lack of participation in class discussions.

Grading and Assignments:

Course Grades will comprise of the following:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Class Presentations	20%
Mid-term	35%
Second Exam	35%

Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance will be taken and students will be expected to contribute to general discussions during class periods.

Class Presentations: As a group the class will be tracking ongoing environmental issues at the global level. In the beginning of each class, students will give short 3-minute presentations on the issue and politics of these issues. Students will also hand in a one-page briefing that corresponds to their oral presentations.

Exams: **All students MUST take the exam at the same time, in class. No make-up exams will be allowed, except for medical reasons with a doctor's note.**

Prerequisites:

None.

Academic Honesty

The *American College Dictionary* defines plagiarism as “Copying or imitating the language, ideas, or thoughts of another author and passing off the same as one’s original work.” Plagiarism is intellectual theft and violates the student honor code. Exact quotations must have quotation marks and the appropriate citation. Paraphrases, *even if not exact quotes*, must nonetheless have the appropriate citation. Submitting a paper written by someone else, whether ‘borrowed’ from a friend or purchased from a ‘service’, even if updated, constitutes plagiarism. Using the Internet for research is encouraged but plagiarizing its resources is not allowed. Cheating of any sort, submitting the same work for more than one course, deliberately impeding the academic performance of others, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious offenses. As a general rule, if you have *any* doubts, give credit to the source; if you have any questions, talk to the instructor.

Refer to the Academic Conduct Code for further information. The university rules and the academic code will be followed in every case.