

Development and Environment in Latin America

IR/GE 597 Spring 2012

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Overview

This course explores environmental policy and its relationship to development in Latin America. We will examine policies aimed at improving the quality of life for residents of the region, who bear the brunt of air pollution, toxins, and dirty water. We will also explore Latin America's role in global environmental issues such as biodiversity, ocean resources and climate change.

In a region that depends on its natural resources for economic growth, policies such as investment incentives in extractive industries, effluent inspections and urban transportation plans affect both the environment and human livelihoods. Yet longstanding class conflict in the region continues to undermine consensus about the appropriate balance between environmental protection and economic activity. We will explore the interplay of policies and outcomes from a social, economic, political and ecological perspective.

Readings:

Most readings will be posted on Blackboard. As assignments may change, please refer to the topical folders for updates.

There are two required books, available online and at the bookstore:

Javier Auyero and Debora A. Swistun, *Flammable*, Oxford University Press, 2009.

Joe Kane, *Savages*, Vintage Press, 1995.

For your presentations and paper, you will find many online resources at LANIC

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/environment/> and <http://www.tierramerica.info/>.

Please make frequent use of EcoAmericas, which the library has purchased for our use.

Course Requirements:

Students should be familiar with the region and have a good grasp of economic principles before beginning this course.

As a diverse region, Latin America is poorly suited to generalizations. Students will research and report on environmental issues in specific countries each week. These presentations will provide case material to complement the core readings.

Grading will be determined by:

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| - Class assignments/presentations | 15% |
| - Class participation | 10% |
| - Midterm | 25% |
| - Final | 25% |
| - Short policy paper (8 pages) | 25% |

A policy-oriented class like this provides opportunities to discuss conflicting paradigms, social values and empirical evidence. To succeed, you must be here and engaged. Absence from an exam will be excused only in extreme circumstances. The University's policy on academic honesty is posted at <http://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/programs/conductcode.html>. Please let me know promptly if you are ill or struggling to keep up.

Welcome to the class.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND ON SOCIAL INDICATORS IN LATIN AMERICA

- a. Overview of major environmental challenges
- b. Economic context: natural resource dependence, growth, poverty

UNEP, "Latin American and the Caribbean Atlas of Our Changing Environment," 2010, http://www.cathalac.org/lac_atlas/

UNEP, Environmental Outlook: Latin America, GEO 3, <http://www.pnuma.org/geo/geoalc3/ing/index.php>

2. ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND VOICES OF RESISTANCE

- a. Socioeconomic drivers of environmental change in recent decades
- b. Environmental consciousness and activism
- c. Exposure to toxins and community response

Javier Auyero and Debora A. Swistun, *Flammable*, Oxford University Press, 2009.

3. MINING AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES: EXPORTS, FDI AND SOCIAL TENSION

- a. Recent trends in mineral and oil extraction
- b. Who benefits? Who loses access to resources?
- c. Environmental degradation and impact on local livelihoods
- d. National negotiations with international investors

Anthony Bebbington, "The New Extraction: Rewriting the Political Ecology of the Andes," NACLA Report on the Americas, September/October 2009.

Keith Slack, "Digging Out from Neoliberalism Responses to the (Mis)governance of Mining in Latin America," Chapter 7 in J. Burdick, P. Oxhorn and K. Roberts, *Beyond Neoliberalism in Latin America*, 2009.

Shefa Siegel, "Threat of Mercury Poisoning Rises with Gold Mining Boom," Yale 360, http://e360.yale.edu/feature/threat_of_mercury_poisoning_rises_with_gold_mining_boom/2354/

Peace Bridges International: "Metal Mining and Human Rights in Guatemala: The Marlin Mine in San Marcos, 2006.

Oxfam America, "Metals Mining and Sustainable Development in Central America," 2008.

William Hogan and Federico Sturznegger, Chapter 1, *The Natural Resource Trap*, 2010.

ChristianAid, "Undermining the Poor: Mineral Taxation Reforms in Latin America," September 2009, <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/undermining-the-poor.pdf>

Lyuba Zarsky and Leonardo Stanley, "Searching for Gold in the Highlands of Guatemala: Economic Benefits and Environmental Risks of the Marlin Mine," GDAE, 2011.

On Common Ground Consultants Human Rights Assessment of Goldcorp's Marlin Mine. Vancouver, Commissioned by Goldcorp, 2010.

The Chevron- Ecuador case:

Joe Kane, *Savages*, Vintage Press, 1995. (The whole book – allow time.)

Patrick Radden Keefe, "Reversal of Fortune," *The New Yorker*, January 9, 2012.

BBC News, "Ecuador appeals court rules against Chevron in oil case" January 4, 2012, Financial Times "Chevron Case Takes a New Turn," January 5, 2012 and related stories.

Movie: *Crude: The Real Price of Oil*, 2009.

4. AGRICULTURE:

- a. How does agricultural liberalization affect production processes?
- b. Environmental implications of modern agriculture: deforestation, pesticides, GMOs
- c. Can small scale producers survive with traditional methods and niche markets?

UNEP, GEO 3, pp 63-67, 71-73

CEPAL, *The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas*, 2011.

Rhett Butler, "Biofuels Driving Destruction of Brazilian Cerrado," *Environmental News*, Monogay Bay, August 2007, <http://news.mongabay.com/2007/0821-cerrado.html>

"The Miracle of the Cerrado," *The Economist*, August 26, 2010.

Wendy Wolford, "Environmental Justice and Agricultural Development in the Brazilian Cerrado," in David Carruthers (ed.), *Environmental Justice in Latin America*, MIT Press, 2008,.

Peter Newell, "Bio-Hegemony: The Political Economy of Agricultural Biotechnology in Argentina," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 41, pp. 27-57, 2009.

Alexandra Ponette-Gonzales and Matthew Fry, "Pig Pandemic: Hog Farming in Eastern Mexico," *Land Use Policy*, Issue 7, 2010.

Martine Dirven, "Small farms in Latin America: Quo vadis? Position paper for a (dis)passionate discussion," CEPAL Working Paper, 2006.

Miguel Altieri, "Small Farms as a Planetary Ecological Asset: Five Reasons Why We Should Support the Revitalisation of Small Farms in the Global South," *Third World Network*, 2008

Daniele Guidi, "Sustainable Agriculture Enterprise: Framing Strategies to Support Smallholder Inclusive Value Chains for Rural Poverty Alleviation," Harvard CID Working Paper, 2011.

Nadal, Alejandro, and Timothy A. Wise (2004). "Free Trade, Corn, and the Environment: The Environmental Impacts of U.S.-Mexico Corn Trade Under NAFTA." Kevin P. Gallagher (ed), *Globalization and the Environment in the Americas*.

Charles Bergman, "A Rose is [Not] a Rose," *Audubon Magazine*, January-February 2008

5. FORESTS, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

- a. Pressures that lead to deforestation
- b. Ecosystem values of forests
- c. Local and international efforts in conservation

UNEP, GEO 3, pp 75-105 and 190-200

Maria Aguilar-Stoen," Back to the Forest: Exploring Forest Transitions in Candelaria Loxicha, Mexico, *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 46, No. 1, pp.194-216.

World Resources Institute (2006), *Human Pressure on the Brazilian Amazon Forests*. Washington, World Resources Institute., Chapters 1 and 2.

Anthony Hall, "Getting REDD-Y: Conservation and Climate Change in Latin America," *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 46, Special Issue, 2011.

Changing rules in Brazilian forest protection, various: BBC, Bloomberg, EcoAmericas, 2011.

Jared Hardner, "The Problem of Financing Protected Areas in the Andes-Amazon Region," Conference Paper: Economics and Conservation in the Tropics, Resources for the Future, 2008.

Kelly Hearn, "Deep in Ecuador's Rainforest, A Plan to Forego an Oil Bonanza," Sept 2010, Yale 360

6. FISH, SHRIMP AND COASTAL RESOURCES:

- a. Fish, shrimp and fishmeal exports in Chile, Ecuador, Honduras and Peru
- b. Must the development of aquaculture threaten coastal ecology?
- c. Can artisanal fishing coexist with commercial trawlers?

UNEP, GEO 3, pp 121-128, 200-210

John Soluri, "Something Fishy: Chile's Blue Revolution, Commodity Diseases, and the Problem of Sustainability," *Latin American Research Review*, Volume 46, special issue, 2011.

Roland Wiefels, "A Study on the Impact of International Trade in Fisheries Products on Food Security in Latin America," FAO, 2003.

Milagros Salazar, "Legal Shortcuts Trap the Peruvian Anchovy," *Tierramerica*, 2010

Diego Cevallos, "Shrimp Industry Devastating Mangrove Forests," *Tierramerica*.2005

7. WATER AND SANITATION

- a. Geographic distribution of water scarcity
- b. Water rights and use in rural areas
- c. Efforts to improve access to water through privatization
- d. Governance challenges in municipal sewage systems

UNEP, GEO 3, pp 106-119, 153-157

Madeleine Baer, "The Global Water Crisis, Privatization, and the Bolivian Water War," in Whitely, Ingram and Perry, *Water, Place and Equity*, 2008.

Maria Carmen Lemos, "Whose Water is It Anyway? Water Management, Knowledge and Equity in Northeast Brazil," Whitely, Ingram and Perry, *Water, Place and Equity*, 2008.

Southgate and Wunder, "Paying for Watershed Services in Latin America," USAID working paper, 2007.

8. THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN URBAN AREAS:

- a. Slums and the reproduction of social stratification
- b. Environmental and social implications of infrastructure development
- c. Solid waste management and the political role of garbage pickers

UNEP, GEO 3, pp. 158-160

Janice Perlman, *Favela*, excerpts, 2010.

Clara Irazábal, "Revisiting Urban Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean," Unhabitat, 2009, <http://www.unhabitat.org/grhs/2009>

Bruce Ferguson and Jesus Navarrete, "A financial framework for reducing slums: lessons from experience in Latin America," *Environment and Urbanization*; Vol. 15, p 201 -216, 2003.

Ananya Roy, "Urban Informality: Toward an Epistemology of Planning," *Journal of the American Planning Association*; Spring 2005.

9. URBAN AIR QUALITY:

- a. Industrial pollution
- b. Urban transportation planning

UNEP, GEO 3, pp 134-148 and 149-162

"Mexico City Aims to Jump-Start Air Program," EcoAmericas, November 2011.

Cases about bus rapid transit from www.gobrt.org

Vera Lucia Vicentini, "Lessons from Urban Transport in Latin America and the Caribbean," InterAmerican Development Bank, 2010.

Luis A. Cifuentes, Alan J. Krupnick,. Raúl O’Ryan. and Michael A. Toman. (2005), *Urban Air Quality and Human Health* in. *Latin America and the Caribbean*. Washington, Inter-American Development Bank.

A. Blackman and W. Harrington, Part I of “The Use of Economic Incentives in Developing Countries: Lessons from International Experiences with Industrial Air Pollution,” *Journal of Environment and Development*, March 2000..

10. ENERGY USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

- a. The impact of climate change on a natural resource dependent region
- b. L.A.’s contribution to climate change through fossil fuel production
- c. Opportunities for mitigation through alternative energy

Ramon Espinasa, slides on Energy Outlook for Latin America, available on Blackboard.

“Spill Puts Brazil’s Offshore Oil Program on the Spot,” *EcoAmericas*, November 2011

Lee Schipper, Elizabeth Deakin, and Carolyn McAndrews, “Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Road Transport in Latin America” in d. Sperling, *Transport and Climate Solutions*, 2010.

Conflicts over hydroelectric dams and wind farms in Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, various news sources and [www. internationalrivers.org](http://www.internationalrivers.org)

CEPAL, *The Economics of Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2010.

Class schedule:

January 23	Introduction
January 30	Environmental. Awareness: Flammable
February 6	Mining and Extractive Industries
February 13	Mining and Extractive Industries
February 21	Ecuador/Chevron Case
February 28	Agriculture
March 5	Exam
March 19	Agriculture
March 26	Forests
April 2	Fish, Shrimp and Coastal Resources
April 9	Urban Quality of Life: Water and Sanitation, Trash
April 18	Urban Quality of Life: Air Pollution, Transportation Planning
April 23	Energy and Climate change
April 30	Student Presentations

The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar’s Office. Check online in late January.