

Political Science 641: Global Security Threats
Fall 2010

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Office Hours:
Wed 9-12 (WA)
Or by Appointment

Time and Location:
T, Th. 1:05-2:20
CW 143

Course Description:

The effects of environmental degradation and resource scarcity rarely have just a local impact. Pollution from an upstream source has an effect on those who utilize the water at the downstream end. Countries that overfish affect the amount the next country can take. One country's program of mining previously occupied land may cause migration, stressing the capabilities of neighboring countries to handle the flow. Within countries, the same can occur. Pollution from the western United States causes acid rain in the east. Overgrazing and overfarming can reduce the quality of topsoil, harming the food supply and uprooting people dependent on agriculture. In other areas, the presence of natural resources harms the creation of good government and provides the preconditions for rebellion and civil war. And lastly, natural resources can provide financing for rebel groups that allow them to challenge the authority of a central government.

Despite all this, the environment can also lead to cooperation. National governments have created agreements that limit pollution, curbing environmental problems such as erosion, runoff, and acid rain. Internationally, countries have partnered to use resources efficiently, have created institutions to monitor the use of natural resources, and ways to solve disagreements over resource use. Much has been done, but many challenges remain so that the environment and its resources are used efficiently and equitably.

This course focuses on identifying the role that the environment plays in the politics between nations. We will begin by identifying the major actors in environmental politics. We will also discuss some of the challenges found in creating these actors: affects on development, disagreements between the developed and developing world, and the issue of sovereignty. Second, we will discuss current political problems that have an environmental component: the creation of energy policy, "blood diamonds", the resource curse, and potential fault-lines where the environment may lead to conflict. Lastly, we will discuss how cooperation can occur. We will identify which components contribute to success and identify new ideas that may shape future environmental cooperation.

Readings:

Chasek, Pamela, David Downie, and Janet Welsh Browne. 2010. Global Environmental Politics. Boulder: Westview Press. (CDB)

Heinberg, Richard. 2003. *The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies*. Gabriola Island: New Society Publishers.

Klare, Michael. 2001. *Resource Wars: The New Landscape of Global Conflict*. New York: Henry Holt and Co.

I have also assigned a few article readings. They are available on JSTOR and on k-state online. I reserve the right to add/drop readings if warranted.

Course Requirements/Grading:

Test 1: 20% - The test will be taken in class and consist of 20-25 multiple choice questions and a short essay.

Test 2: 30% - The final exam will be taken in class and is cumulative. It will also consist of 20-25 questions, a short essay about a topic covered after midterm, and another short essay integrating everything we have learned.

Quizzes: 15% - I will randomly assign 5 quizzes throughout the semester. These will be given in class and will concern the reading that is due for that day. The format will be multiple choice. These are not meant to be mean, instead they are meant to ensure that you do the reading. If you do, these should be relatively simple. I will assign them based on participation and feedback. The four highest quiz scores will be used to calculate your grade.

Research Paper 20% - Students will be required to write a research paper (10 pages) that applies the concepts and theories addressed in the course to any form of conflict between two states. In particular, students will select a war, identify the resources under contention, discuss the mechanisms by which the resources contribute to the war, and discuss why the mechanism you selected is valid. A short discussion of your topic and mechanism (2 pages double spaced) will be due on October 26th. Also, PLEASE see me if you have any questions regarding the paper.

I will provide more information about format and requirements in a handout during class and on k-state online.

Attendance and Participation 15% - Students are expected to participate actively in class and contribute to class discussion. In addition, attendance is obviously important. Late arrivals will be noted and repeated instances of being late will negatively affect your grade. In regards to absences, please contact me before class if you are unable to attend.

Note:

Please feel free to see me if you have any questions or concerns. Concerns about grades are much easier to rectify early in the semester than late.

University Policies:

Academic Honesty

The following is taken verbatim from <http://www.k-state.edu/honor/faculty/syllabusstate.htm>:

"Kansas State University has an Honor & Integrity System based on personal integrity which is presumed to be sufficient assurance in academic matters one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor & Integrity System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning.

A component vital to the Honor & Integrity System is the inclusion of the [Honor Pledge](#) which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work."

The default in this class is that ALL work will be accomplished individually, UNLESS my permission is given in advance of an assignment/quiz/exam/take-home exam/final. If you are in doubt, please ask

A grade of [XF](#) can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

For more information, visit the Honor & Integrity System home web page at:

<http://www.ksu.edu/honor>"

Classroom Conduct

The following is taken verbatim from <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/policies/course.htm>:

"All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the Student Judicial Conduct Code as outlined in the Student Governing Association By Laws, Article VI, Section 3, number 2. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class."

Disability Services

The following is taken verbatim from <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/policies/course.htm>:

"Any student with a disability who needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other academic assistance in this course should contact Disability Support Services (dss@k-state.edu) and/or the instructor."

Course Outline

August 24: Review Syllabus

August 26: Understanding Global Environmental Politics – Ideas I

Reading: CDB, Chapter 1

August 31: Understanding Global Environmental Politics – Ideas II

Reading:

- Heinberg, Chapter 3
- Simon, Julian. 1980. Resources, Population, Environment: An Oversupply of False Bad News. *Science* 208(4451):1431-1437

September 2: APSA Meeting - No Class

September 7: Self-Interest vs. Collective Responsibility – The Environment

Reading:

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

September 9: Understanding Global Environmental Politics – Actors

Reading: CDB, Chapter 2

September 14: The Geopolitical Importance of Resources I

Reading: Klare, Chapter 1

September 16: The Geopolitical Importance of Resources II

Reading: Klare, Chapter 2

September 21: The Economic Importance of Resources

Reading: Heinberg, Chapter 2, 5

September 23: Why Fight Over Resources? History and Evidence

Readings:

- Le Billon, Phillippe. 2001. The Political Ecology of War: Natural Resources and Armed Conflict. *Political Geography* 20(5): 561-584.

September 28: Case Studies – Energy Resources I

Reading: Klare, Chapter 4

September 30: Case Studies – Energy Resources II

Reading: Klare, Chapter 5

October 5: Case Studies – Water

Reading: Klare, Chapter 6, 7

October 7: Review

October 12: Test #1

October 14: Looking Inward – The Resource Curse

Reading: None

October 19: Resources and Civil War

Reading:

- Ross, Michael. 2004. What Do We Know about Natural Resources and Civil War? *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 337-356

October 21: Resources and Civil War – Mechanisms I

Reading:

- Ross, Michael L. 2004. How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases. *International Organization* 58: 35-67.

October 26: Resources and Civil War – Diamonds I

TOPICS DUE at beginning of class!

Reading:

- Lujala, Paiva, Nils Petter Gleditsch, and Elisabeth Gilmore. 2005. A Diamond Curse? Civil War and a Lootable Resource. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(4): 538-562

October 28: Case Studies – Diamonds II

Reading:

- Malaquias, Assis. 2001. Diamonds are a Guerrilla's Best Friend: The Impact of Illicit Wealth on Insurgency Strategy. *Third World Quarterly* 22(3): 311-325

November 2: Case Studies – Oil

- Oyefusi, Aderoju. 2008. Oil and the Probability of Rebel Participation Among Youths in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. *Journal of Peace Research* 45(4): 539-555.

November 4: Case Studies – Minerals and Timber I

Reading: Klare, Chapter 8

November 9: Film

November 11: Film

November 16: How to Solve Environmental Problems: Challenges

Reading: CDB, Chapter 7

November 18: Creating Solutions

Reading: CDB, Chapter 6

November 23: Thanksgiving Break – No Class

November 25: Thanksgiving Break – No Class

November 30: Creating Solutions at the Domestic Level

Reading: None

December 2: Epistemic Communities

Reading:

- Haas, Peter. 1989. Do Regimes Matter? Epistemic Communities and Mediterranean Pollution Control. *International Organization* 43(3): 377-403

December 7: Future Challenges

Reading:

- Rowlands, Ian. 1991. The Security Challenges of Global Environmental Change. *The Washington Quarterly* 14(1): 99–114.
- CDB, Chapter 4

December 9: Papers Due and Review

December 13: FINAL 9:40-11:35