

## Global Environmental Politics

This course covers a variety of issues in environmental politics, placing special emphasis on global problems, politics, and policy. Topics to be addressed will include population growth, resource degradation, the impacts of development, and the prospects for environmental democracy. We also will examine environmental governance, environmental justice movements, and efforts to control consumerism and consumption. Although the course examines environmental issues around the globe, we will focus in particular on certain regions in order to examine those issues in greater detail.

As a general introduction to global environmental politics, this course necessarily covers a range of complex topics in rapid succession. Therefore, it is essential that you keep up with the readings. Unless I notify you otherwise, readings should be finished by the **beginning** of the week in which they appear in the syllabus. *Please note that there are a **lot** of readings online or on electronic reserve. You should consider them to be just as important as readings in books you have purchased for the course.* I may on occasion slightly change the readings or change their order but I will not increase the amount of reading you have to do.

A number of other methods and media will be used to help familiarize you with the issues and debates in global environmental politics. Films and film clips will be used to supplement readings, lectures and discussions. In most cases, they will be shown in class; where you will need to view a film outside of class, I have indicated that in the syllabus. And finally, periodic in-class assignments will allow you to think creatively about the issues the course raises and help to test your knowledge and understanding of the material.

Grading will be based on a variety of requirements and assignments designed to help you understand and synthesize the material covered in the course. Specifically, your grades will be determined according to the following formula:

Take-home midterm exam	10-07	25%
Paper (8-10 DS pages)	11-07	30%
Take-home final	12-16	25%
Class participation and in-class assignments		20%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

Should you be unfamiliar with the College's policies on academic honesty, please take the time to review them. They can be found in the 2005-2006 *Course of Study*. Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses which can result in failing the course or worse. If you are in doubt about the rules of proper citation and attribution, please don't hesitate to ask. I strongly encourage you to discuss the readings and the issues they raise with your classmates, but all written work must be entirely your own.

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may affect your ability to carry out assigned course work, I strongly urge you to contact the Office of Disability Services at PBX5453. The Coordinator of Disability Services, Erin Salva ([salvae@kenyon.edu](mailto:salvae@kenyon.edu)) will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are appropriate. All information and documentation of disability will of course be kept entirely confidential.

My office is located at No. 21 Acland House, and my phone numbers are PBX 5638 (work) and 427-3807 (home -- please call between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. only!). I am always happy to discuss readings, papers, and issues we have raised in class. My office hours this term are: Mondays 2:30-3:30, Tuesdays 9:30-11:00, Wednesdays 2:30-3:30, Thursdays 9:30-11:00, and by appointment. Please don't hesitate to stop by.

**Books to buy for the Course (most are also on reserve):**

John Firor and Judith Jacobsen, *The Crowded Greenhouse*  
Laurie Mazur, ed., *Beyond the Numbers: A Reader on Population, Consumption, and the Environment*  
Thomas Princen, Michael Maniates, and Ken Conca, *Confronting Consumption*  
Aaron Sachs, *Eco-justice: Linking Human Rights and the Environment*  
James Gustave Speth, *Red Sky at Morning*  
Worldwatch Institute, *State of the World 2004*

## COURSE OUTLINE

### PART I: THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, GOOD, BAD, OR UGLY?

#### Week 1 (Aug 29- Sep 2) Introduction to Global Environmental Politics [55 pages]

- 8-29 Introduction to the course. No reading assigned
- 8-31 James Gustave Speth, *Red Sky at Morning*, pp. 11-22  
*AAS Atlas of Population and Environment*. Online at: <http://www.ourplanet.com> At the site, left click on AAAS Atlas and go to *Part 1: Overview*. Read the first section, “Scale of Our Presence.”
- 9-02 Garrett Hardin, *Tragedy of the Commons*. At: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/162/3859/1243>  
Julian Simon, “Resources, Population, Environment: An Oversupply of False Bad News.”  
*Science*, June 27, 1980, pp. 1431-1437. At: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0036-8075%2819800627%293%3A208%3A4451%3C1431%3ARPEAOO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-6>  
William Ophuls, “The Scarcity Society.” (handout)

#### Week 2 (Sep 5-9) The State of the Planet: Cause for Optimism or Alarm? [130]

- 9-05 Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld, “The Tragedy of the Commons 30 Years Later”, *Environment* Dec ‘98, Vol. 40 Issue 10, p4. At: <http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?an=1351532&db=aph>  
Speth, *Red Sky at Morning*, pp. 23-55
- 9-07 World Resources Institute, *World Resources 2000-2001*, Chapter 1  
All chapters are available online at: [http://biodiv.wri.org/pubs\\_pdf.cfm?PubID=3027](http://biodiv.wri.org/pubs_pdf.cfm?PubID=3027)  
Scroll down the page to find the chapter or reading that you need.
- 9-09 Bjorn Lomborg, *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, Chapter 1.  
At: <http://www.lomborg.com/skeptenvironChap1.pdf>  
“Challenge to the Environmental Movement.” Debate between Lomborg and Tom Burke.  
At: <http://www.lomborg.com/Prospect.htm>  
“The State of Nature.” Debate between Lomborg and Sierra Club Executive Director, Carl Pope.  
At: [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=3084&print=1](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3084&print=1)

## PART II: THE POPULATION QUESTION

### Week 3 (Sep 12-16) Population Growth and its Consequences [125]

- 9-12 Firor and Jacobsen, *The Crowded Greenhouse*, pp. 23-51  
Mazur, *Beyond the Numbers*, pp. 1-20  
*AAS Atlas of Population and Environment. Part I: Overview.* Read: “Theory of Population-Environment Links; “Population and Consumption Trends.”
- 9-14 Mazur, *Beyond the Numbers*, pp. 33-39, 48-70
- 9-16 Mazur, *Beyond the Numbers*, pp. 95-108, 111-121, 150-157

### Week 4 (Sep 19-23) Dilemmas of Population Control [140]

- 9-19 Mazur, *Beyond the Numbers*, pp. 177-184, 209-241  
Theodore Goldfarb, *Notable Selections in Environmental Studies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 235-241 (e-res)
- 9-21 Mazur, *Beyond the Numbers*, pp. 257-280  
Firor and Jacobsen, *The Crowded Greenhouse*, pp. 52-79
- 9-23 Firor and Jacobsen, *The Crowded Greenhouse*, pp. 80-101  
J. Kenneth Smail, “Remembering Malthus: I, II and III”, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 2002, 2003 (e-res)

## PART III: RESOURCES

### Week 5 (Sep 26-30) Resource Degradation: Land and Forests [125]

- 9-26 **Overview.** *AAAS Atlas of Population and Environment. Part I: Overview.* Read: “Waste”, “Status.” *Part II: Atlas.* In “Natural Resources” section, read: “Introduction”, “Forest Products.” In “Land Use” section, read: “Introduction”, “Migration”, “Urbanization.”  
Steve Van Holde, “Consuming China.” At: P/Class/Psci/Psci 363 2005  
Additional reading may be assigned
- 9-28 **Forests.** Film: “Halting the Fires.”  
WRI 2000-01, “Forest Ecosystems.” At: [http://pdf.wri.org/wr2000\\_forest\\_wholesection.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/wr2000_forest_wholesection.pdf)  
Roger D. Stone and Claudia D’Andrea, *Tropical Forests and the Human Spirit*, pp. 35-56 (e-res)  
Larry Lohmann, “Against the Myths”, from Marcus Colchester and Larry Lohmann, eds., *The Struggle for Land and the Fate of the Forests*, pp. 16-34 (e-res)  
WRI, WRI 2000-01, “Up from the Roots: Regenerating Dhani Forest Through Community Action.” At: [http://pdf.wri.org/wr2000\\_chapter3\\_full.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/wr2000_chapter3_full.pdf) **NB:** scroll to p.35 of document; **read pp. 35-46 only**
- 9-30 **Land conversion and sprawl.** Kai Benfield et. al., *Once There Were Greenfields*, selections (e-res)  
Additional readings on sprawl in the USA and abroad to be assigned

### Week 6 (Oct 3-7) Water and Energy [120]

- 10-03 **Water.** Film: “Cadillac Desert: An American Nile” (clip)  
 World Resources Institute, *WRI 2000-01*, “Freshwater Ecosystems.”  
 At: [http://pdf.wri.org/wr2000\\_freshwater\\_wholesection.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/wr2000_freshwater_wholesection.pdf)  
 Jasper Becker, “The Death of China’s Rivers.” *Asia Times*, 8-25-2003  
 At: <http://www.threegorgesprobe.org/tgp/print.cfm?ContentID=8218>  
 Jasper Becker, “Peasants bear the brunt of China’s energy plans.” *Asia Times*, 8-26-03.  
 At: <http://www.threegorgesprobe.org/tgp/print.cfm?ContentID=8220>  
 World Commission on Dams, *Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-making.*  
 At: [http://www.dams.org/docs/overview/wcd\\_overview\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.dams.org/docs/overview/wcd_overview_booklet.pdf)
- 10-05 Jasper Becker, “China in an energy quandary.” *Asia Times*, 8-27-03.  
 At: <http://www.threegorgesprobe.org/tgp/print.cfm?ContentID=8224>  
 Jasper Becker, “China awakes to a devastated environment.” *Asia Times*, 8-28-03.  
 At: <http://www.threegorgesprobe.org/tgp/print.cfm?ContentID=8230>  
 Lawrence R. Sullivan, “Debating the Dam: Is China’s Three Gorges Project Sustainable?” in Axelrod, Downie, and Vig, *Global Environment: Institutions, Law and Policy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 244-255 (e-res)  
 Peter Gleick, “Global Freshwater Resources: Soft-Path Solutions for the 21st Century”, *Science* 2003 302: 1524-1528 (e-res)  
**Take-home midterm due in class**
- 10-07 **Energy.** *AAAS Atlas of Pop and Environment, Part II.* In “Natural Resources” section: “Energy.”  
 Michael Klare, “The New Geography of Conflict.” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2001.  
 At: <http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&an=4332066>  
 Peter Maass, “The Breaking Point.” *NY Times Magazine*, August 21, 2005.  
 At: P/Class/Psci/Psci 363 2005  
 Amory Lovins and Hunter Lovins, “Mobilizing Energy Solutions.” *American Prospect*, Jan 28, 2002.  
 At: <http://www.prospect.org/print-friendly/print/V13/2/lovins-a.html>  
 Lovins and Lovins, “Energy Forever.” *American Prospect*, February 11, 2002.  
 At: <http://www.prospect.org/print-friendly/print/V13/3/lovins-a.html>  
 Robert Ayres, “The Energy We Overlook.” *Worldwatch*, Nov 2001. At: P/Class/Psci/Psci 363 2005

**10-08 Fall Break. Read ahead in Speth, *Red Sky at Morning***

**Week 7 (Oct 12-14) Anatomy of Failure: Why Environmental Degradation Persists [105+]**

- 10-12 Speth, *Red Sky at Morning*, pp. 75-116  
 Ken Conca and Geoffrey Dabelko, *Green Planet Blues*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., pp. 234-244 (e-res)  
 Sharachandra M. Lele, “Sustainable Development: A Critical Review.” *World Development*, Vol. 19, No. 6. pp. 607-621 (e-res)
- 10-13 **Class Rescheduled -- Thursday Common Hour**  
 Speth, *Red Sky at Morning*, pp. 111-147  
 Keith Bradsher, “China’s Boom Adds to Global Warming Problem.” *NY Times*, Oct. 22, 2003.  
 At: <http://www.commondreams.org/cgi-bin/print.cgi?file=/headlines03/1022-05.htm>  
 Additional reading may be assigned

**Week 8 (Oct 17-21) Hot Science or Hot Air? Atmosphere and Climate [120]**

- 10-17 **No class. View film, “What’s Up With the Weather?”**, 7:30-9:30 p.m., location TBA.
- 10-19 **Atmosphere.** Read: AAAS *Atlas of Population and Environment. Part II, Atlas*.  
In “Atmosphere” section, read: “Introduction”, “Climate Change”, “Air pollution.”  
Firor and Jacobsen, *The Crowded Greenhouse*, pp. 102-164
- 10-21 **Global Warming.** Bjorn Lomborg, “Global warming – are we doing the right thing?” *The Guardian*.  
At: [image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Guardian/documents/2001/08/14/warming.pdf](http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Guardian/documents/2001/08/14/warming.pdf)  
Stephen H. Schneider, “Hostile Climate: Bjorn Lomborg and Climate Change”, *Grist*, Dec 12, 2001.  
At: <http://www.gristmagazine.com/books/schneider121201.asp>  
Firor and Jacobsen, *Crowded Greenhouse*, pp. 165-186  
Speth, *Red Sky at Morning*, pp. 55-73  
(Recommended: Lomborg, *Skeptical Environmentalist*, chap 24, esp. 258-259, 265-266, 271-273, 278-280, 297-302, and 317-324. **On library reserve**)

#### PART IV: CONSUMPTION

##### Week 9 (Oct 24-28) Consuming Desires: Causes and Consequences of Consumption [135]

- 10-24 Film: “Affluenza”  
Mazur, *Beyond the Numbers*, pp. 40-47  
Princen, Maniates and Conca, *Confronting Consumption*, chaps 1-2  
Worldwatch, *State of the World 2004*, pp. 3-23
- 10-26 Worldwatch, *State of the World 2004*, pp. 24-67
- 10-28 Princen, Maniates and Conca, *Confronting Consumption*, chap 3

##### Week 10 (Oct 31-Nov 4) Controlling Consumption [150]

- 10-31 Princen, Maniates and Conca, *Confronting Consumption*, chaps 5-6  
Worldwatch, *State of the World 2004*, chaps 5 OR 6 (plus “behind the scenes” blurbs)
- 11-02 Princen, Maniates and Conca, *Confronting Consumption*, chap 7
- 11-04 Princen, Maniates and Conca, *Confronting Consumption*, chap 9  
Additional reading may be assigned

#### PART V: ENVIRONMENT, JUSTICE, AND DEMOCRACY

##### Week 11 (Nov 7-11) Environmental Security and Environmental Justice [140]

- 11-07 Film: “Toxic Racism” (clip)  
Jane Kay, “California’s Endangered Communities of Color” (e-res)  
Vicky Been, “Market Forces, Not Racist Practices, May Affect... Siting” (e-res)  
**Paper Due in Class**

##### Week 11 (Nov 7-11) Environmental Security and Environmental Justice, cont. [140]

- 11-09 Mazur, *Beyond the Numbers*, pp. 391-406

Adil Najam, "The Human Dimensions of Environmental Security, Parts I and II." *Environmental Change and Security Report No. 9*, pp. 59-66, and pp. 67-73. At:  
<http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/wwi03/wwi03h.pdf> AND  
<http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/wwi03/wwi03i.pdf>

- 11-11 Aaron Sachs, *Eco-justice*  
COICA, "Two Agendas on Amazon Development." *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 13/9, 1989.  
At: <http://209.200.101.189/publications/csq/csq-article.cfm?id=833>

### **Week 12 (Nov 14-18) Human Rights and the Global Environment [120]**

- 11-14 *Human Rights Dialogue*, Spring 2004: "Environmental Rights." Read entire issue. At:  
<http://www.cceia.org/viewMedia.php/prmID/4437?PHPSESSID=36db61875c51ff9588a21add5c35b9cb> (Press on the download button at the top to read/print the issue)
- 11-16 Ken Conca and Geoffrey Dabelko, *Green Planet Blues*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., pp. 346-367 (e-reserve)  
Jane Goodall, "Bridging the Chasm: Helping People and Environment Across Africa."  
*Environmental Change and Security Report No. 9*, pp. 1-5. At:  
<http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/wwi03/wwi03b.pdf>  
Mary L. Barker and Dietrich Soyuz, "Think Locally, Act Globally." *Environment*, June 1994.  
At: <http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&an=9406287730> (use PDF version)
- 11-18 Readings to be assigned

### **11-19 Thanksgiving Break**

### **Week 13 (Nov 28-Dec 2) Development, Democratization, and the Environment [125]**

- 11-28 David L. Downie, "Global Environmental Policy: Governance Through Regimes." In Axelrod, Downie, and Vig, *Global Environment: Institutions, Law and Policy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 64-82 (e-res)  
Worldwatch, *State of the World 2004*, pp. 144-163  
Paul Wapner, "Politics Beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics."  
*World Politics*, Vol. 47, No. 3. (Apr 1995), pp. 311-340. At: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0043-8871%28199504%2947%3A3%3C311%3APBTSEA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O>
- 11-30 Daniel C. Esty, "Economic Integration and Environmental Protection", in Vig and Axelrod, *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law and Policy*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., pp. 190-205 (e-res)  
Additional reading to be assigned
- 12-02 WRI, "A Guide to World Resources, 2002-2004: Decisions for the Earth: Balance, Voice, and Power." Online at: [http://pdf.wri.org/wr2002\\_execsumm.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/wr2002_execsumm.pdf)  
Additional reading may be assigned

## PART VI: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

### Week 14 (Dec 5-9) Seeking Sustainability [135]

- 12-05 Speth, *Red Sky at Morning*, pp. 151-201  
United Nations, “United Nations Millennium Declaration”, August 2002. Online at:  
<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>  
Also see: Millennium Development Goals, online at: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- 12-07 Princen, Maniates and Conca, *Confronting Consumption*, chap 10, plus 11 OR 13  
Worldwatch, *State of the World 2004*, pp. 164-179
- 12-09 Reading to be assigned

### Week 15 (Dec 12) The Global Environment: Future Perfect? [50]

- 12-12 Princen, Maniates and Conca, *Confronting Consumption*, chap 14  
“How Many Planets? A Survey of the Global Environment” *The Economist*, July 6, 2002. (e-res)  
Andrew C. Revkin, “Forget Nature. Even Eden is Engineering.” *The New York Times*, August 20,  
2002 At: <http://climateark.org/articles/reader.asp?linkid=14537>  
Additional reading to be assigned
- 12-16 Final Take-home exam due in my office by midnight**