GOV 94CP

Political Economy of the Environment

Spring Term 2020
Tuesdays, 3 - 5:45pm
CGIS Knafel Room 401

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OVERVIEW

This course will explore the political economy problems involved in protecting the environment while also sustaining material welfare and prosperity. We will explore a range of environmental issues such as industrial pollution, man-made environmental disasters, animal and ecosystem conservation, and climate change. We will discuss what the objectives of environmental policy should be, and explore the difficult tradeoffs involved in achieving those objectives. We will examine how these tradeoffs have been resolved more or less successfully in the past, and the prospects for resolving current and future issues. We will pay close attention to how policy is made, and who ends up bearing the burdens of resolving or not resolving environmental problems.

Respectful Discourse

This course will deal with issues that are relevant to current politics, and many of them are the subject of intense controversy. No particular set of views on environmental problems or the appropriate responses to them are required to take this course. All students are, however, expected to treat their fellow classmates and their views with respect, even if they disagree with them, and to participate in civil discussion. If you have concerns about your ability to do this, or about any of the material we are covering in the course, feel free to e-mail me so we can discuss it.

Accessibility

If you are registered with the Accessible Education Office, please send me your letter within the first two weeks of term so I can make the appropriate accommodations. For more information, see http://aeo.fas.harvard.edu/. If you have preferences about your name or pronouns that are not reflected in the University's databases, feel free to contact me so I can address you correctly.

Collaboration and Integrity

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in the discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts from peers or others), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

Attendance

Like any discussion-based course, attendance is crucial. Emergency absences must be accompanied by a formal note written by a doctor or your Resident Dean. If there is an anticipated scheduling conflict, the student will be able to write an extra response paper in lieu of attendance for one class only, if agreed in advance. Unexplained absences will result in late penalty equivalent to 1/3 of a letter grade for the final class participation grade (e.g., from an A to an A-).

Leading Discussions

Each student will be responsible for starting one class with a short presentation. This presentation should highlight a particular environmental case which was not discussed in that week's readings, but which you will relate to the readings in your presentation. You do not need to relate it to all of the readings, but it should ideally tie into more than one. Presentation week will be assigned based on students' preferences, but depending on the final class size you may not get the week you prefer most.

Assignments and Grades

Your grade consists of three components: participation, your coverage of your environmental beat, two short response papers, and one longer research paper.

1. **Class Participation (30%):** since this is a seminar, your participation in discussion is crucial to the success of the course. Everyone will be expected to contribute actively. Quantity of participation is less crucial than quality, and good questions are just as useful as good answers. Part of this grade will be based on a short presentation you will deliver at the beginning of one week's class. You will also be asked to make a short post each week on the Canvas site, posing a question for the rest of the class to discuss. You are not required to make this post on the week of your presentation.

2. **Short Papers (30%):** you will write two short papers of 3-4 pages each on the material in weeks of your choice. The paper will critically analyze the week's material, and potentially draw on other sources to complement or critique the assigned readings. I will discuss the structure of the short papers and provide a rubric for their grading in class. The papers will either count for 15% of your grade each, or 10% and 20%, depending on which is more favorable to you. Your first short paper is due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 20th. Your second short paper is due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 26th.

3. **Final Research Paper (40%):** You will write a final research paper of 12-15 pages that covers an original question in environmental politics in greater depth. As part of writing the final paper, you will prepare a 1-2 page outline that summarizes the argument you plan to make and a preliminary bibliography of the work you plan to incorporate. This will serve as the basis for a presentation to the group on the last day of class, where everyone can see what their classmates are working on and give and receive feedback. I will also meet individually with students to discuss their proposals before this presentation. The final paper can cover any area of climate politics, including empirical questions, normative questions, and policy questions. This will be due on the scheduled examination date for the course.

Preparation

The readings for this course are designed to be manageable. This is because we will be discussing each assigned text in detail during class. You are expected to carefully read all the assignments for each session.

In addition to the assigned readings, you are also expected to regularly read one mainstream regular news source, paying special attention to articles related to the environment. Good examples include (but are not limited to) the New York Times, the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, and the BBC. This is good practice for anyone studying politics (or for citizens in general), but it will also inform our discussion in class. Depending on each week's news, we may spend some time at the beginning of class reviewing recent developments.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

The materials for this class will be available either on Canvas, through Hollis, or be provided in class.

Note: The final list of readings and topics may change when the course begins.

Session 0: Overview (1/28)

No readings

Session 1: Problems and Perspectives (2/4)

- Clapp, Jennifer and Dauvergne (2011) "Peril or Prosperity? Mapping Worldviews of Global Environmental Change," in Paths to a Green World, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- F. Biermann et al. (2012). "Navigating the Anthropocene: Improving Earth System Governance". *Science* 335.6074, pp. 1306–1307. https://science.sciencemag.org/content/335/6074/1306.full.pdf.
- Herman E. Daly (2005). "Economics in a Full World". *Scientific American* 293 (1). https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/economics-in-a-full-world/.
- Klein, Naomi (2011). "Capitalism vs. the Climate". *The Nation*. https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/capitalism-vs-climate/.
- "Our Durable Planet". *The Economist* (1999).

Session 2: Inequality (2/11)

- Boyce, James K. (2007) 'Inequality and Environmental Protection,' in Jean-Marie Baland, Pranab Bardhan, and Samuel Bowles, eds., Inequality, Cooperation, and Environmental Sustainability. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 314-348.
- Cushing, Lara et al. (2014) "The Haves, the Nave-Nots, and the Health of Everyone: The Relationship Between Social Inequality and Environmental Quality," Annual Review of Public Health 36: 193-209.
- Princen, Thomas (1997) 'The Shading and Distancing of Commerce: When Internalization Is Not Enough,' Ecological Economics, 20, 235-253. Reprinted in T. Princen et al., eds., Confronting Consumption, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002, ch. 5.
- Dowie, Mark (2005). "Conservation Refugees: When Protecting Nature Means Kicking People Out." Orion Magazine.

Session 3: Valuation (2/18)

- Worster, Donald (1977). "The Value of a Varmint" in Nature's Economy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), Chapter 13, 258-290.
- Diamond, P.A. and Hausman, J.A. (1994). "Contingent Valuation: Is Some Number Better than No Number?" Journal of Economic Perspectives 8(4):45-64.
- Sen, Amartya (2000) "The Discipline of Cost-Benefit Analysis," Journal of Legal Studies 29: 931-952.

- K.A. Arrow et al. (1996). "Is there a Role for Benefit-Cost Analysis in Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulation," Science 272:221-222.
- Mike Hulme, "The Limits of the Stern Review for Climate Change Policy-Making," Bulletin of the British Ecological Society 38(1): 20-21.

Session 4: Collective Action (2/25)

- Hardin, Garrett (1968). "The Tragedy of the Commons," Science 162:3859.
- E. Ostrom et.al., "Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges," Science 284:278-282 (1999).
- Sugden, Fraser and Samantha Punch (2014) 'Capitalist Expansion and the Decline of Common Property Ecosystems in China, Vietnam and India,' Development and Change 45(4): 656-684.
- Chander, Anupam and Madhavi Sunder (2004) "The Romance of the Public Domain," California Law Review 92: 1331-1373.

Session 5: Growth (3/3)

- Clapp, Jennifer and Dauvergne (2011) "Economic Growth in a World of Wealth and Poverty," in Paths to a Green World, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Brown, Lester. 2003. "Planet Under Stress," in Plan B: Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble. New York and London: W.W. Norton and Co., pp. 3-19.
- Lomborg, Bjorn. 2001. "Part II: Human Welfare," in the Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge U. Pres, pp. 43-87
- Mol, Arthur P. 2002. Ecological Modernization and the Global Economy. Global Environmental Politics 2: 92-115.
- Pollin, Robert (2015) "Think We Can't Stabilize the Climate While Fostering Growth? Think Again," The Nation, October 27.

Session 6: Trade and Globalization (3/10)

- Clapp, Jennifer and Dauvergne (2011) "Global Trade and the Environment," in Paths to a Green World, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Daniel C. Esty. 2001. "Bridging the Trade-Environment Divide." The Journal of Economic Perspectives 15 (Summer): 113-130.
- Guimaraes, Roberto P. 2004. "Waiting for Godot: sustainable development, international trade and governance in environmental policies." Contemporary Politics 10:34: 203-225.
- Vogel, David "International Trade and Environmental Regulation," 354-373.

Spring Recess

No class on 3/17

Session 7: Instrument Choice (3/24)

- Fullerton, Don (2011) "Six Distributional Effects of Environmental Policy," Risk Analysis 31 (6): 923-929.
- Goulder, Lawrence H. and Ian W.H. Parry (2008) "Instrument Choice in Environmental Policy," *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 2(2): 152–174.
- MacNeil, Robert (2016) "Death and Environmental Taxes: Why Market Environmentalism Fails in Liberal Market Economies," *Global Environmental Politics* 16(1): 21-37.

- Meckling, Jonas (2015) "Oppose, Support, or Hedge? Distributional Effects, Regulatory Pressure, and Business Strategy in Environmental Politics" *Global Environmental Politics* 15(2): 19-37.

Session 8: International Negotiation (3/31)

- Clapp, Jennifer and Peter Dauvergne (2011) "Economic Growth in a World of Wealth and Poverty," in Paths to a Green World, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Dimitrov, Radoslav (2016) "The Paris Agreement on Climate Change:Behind Closed Doors," *Global Environmental Politics* 16(3): 1-11.
- Susskind, Lawrence and Saleem Ali (2015) "The Advantages and Disadvantages of Issue Linkage," in Environmental Diplomacy, 2nd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Keohane, Robert O. and Michael Oppenheimer (2016) "Paris: Beyond the Climate Dead End through Pledge and Review?" *Politics and Governance* 4(3): 142-151.

Session 9: Regimes (4/7)

- Gilley, Bruce (2012). "Authoritarian Environmentalism and China's Response to Climate Change," *Environmental Politics*, 21(2): 287-307.
- Heilbroner, Robert L. (1975) "Second Thoughts on the Human Prospect," Challenge, 18(2): 21-28.
- Hvistendahl, Mara (2008) "China's Three Gorges Dam: An Environmental Catastrophe?" *Scientific America*n.
- Li, Quan and Rafael Reuveny (2006) "Democracy and Environmental Degradation," *International Studies Quarterly* 50: 935-956.
- Wong, James K (2016) "A Dilemma of Green Democracy," Political Studies 64(IS): 136-155.

Session 10: Knowledge and Risks (4/14)

- Foster, Kenneth R., Paolo Vecchia, and Michael Repacholi (2000) "Science and the precautionary principle" *Science* 288(5468): 979.
- Jasanoff, Sheila (1995) "Product, process, or programme: Three cultures and the regulation of biotechnology" in Martin Bauer, ed., *Resistance to New Technology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ostrom, Elinor (2000) "The Danger of Self-Evident Truths," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 33(1): 33-44.
- Scott, James C. (1988) "Nature and Space," in *Seeing Like a State*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Session 11: Looking to the Future (4/21)

- Clapp, Jennifer and Dauvergne (2011) "Paths to a Green World? Four Visions of a Healthy Global Environment," in Paths to a Green World, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- BBC (2019) "Extinction Rebellion: Climate Change Protestors at Natural History Museum."
- Chrisafis, Angelique (2019) "Millions for Notre Dame – but nothing for us, say gilets jaunes," The Guardian.
- Friedman, Lisa and Trip Gabriel (2019) "A Green New Deal Is Technologically Possible. Its Political Prospects Are Another Question." New York Times.