

International Environmental Policy

IAFF 6151-10

Duques 362, M 5:10-7 pm

Spring 2017

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5pm or by appointment

Course Description and Goals:

This seminar course examines environmental policy and politics from an international perspective. The course will introduce students to the fundamentals of international environmental policymaking processes, such as key policy paradigms, actors, and institutions; familiarize students with critical issue areas including climate change, ozone depletion, international resource conservation, and others; and examine environmental policymaking as it relates to other issue areas such as science and technology and international development.

The goal is to prepare students to think critically and analyze environmental policy and politics in the context of the global political system. Students should come away from the course with a clearer understanding of what environmental policy entails, in terms of both practice and of outcomes; what the range of relevant policy options and key issue areas are; and a generally broader knowledge of international environmental issues and the factors, drivers, and constraints that affect them. Students will also practice critically analyzing international environmental policy and politics; clearly, cogently, and persuasively writing about them; and presenting their thinking publicly.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will become familiar with current issues and controversies in international environmental politics and policy.
- Students will explore and analyze a variety of contemporary environmental issue areas that are subject to international policymaking.
- Students will practice applying critical thinking to a variety of environmental policy issues.
- Students will practice extrapolation, analysis, and theory-building in the context of a critical global issue area.
- Through writing assignments, students will practice building analytical and persuasive arguments.
- Through class discussion, students will practice relevant skills such as clear explanation and public speaking.

What You Should Bring to the Table:

- **Make sure you complete the readings.** This is a fundamental requirement. If you keep up with the readings and put in the work to absorb them, you'll be prepared to engage in class discussion when we meet.