

INTS 341: Comparative Ecopolitics

Spring 2012

T/R 2:00-3:15pm
Buckman 325 – CRN 22405

Prerequisites: IS200, IS241,
or instructor's permission

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Sciubba

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Office hours: T/R 11-12; 3:30-4:15 and by appointment through
<http://tungle.me/jennifersciubba>

Course description: How do different countries and communities end up with different approaches to the same environmental and population problems? Using a comparative lens we will look for the answer in the different roles of social movements and advocacy; regime type; political culture and institutions; the policymaking process; and economic development.

Learning objectives:

- (1) Gain factual knowledge of environmental challenges and controversies
- (2) Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories common to comparative politics as a subfield of political science
- (3) Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and different points of view about environmental and population issues

If you have a documented disability or other issue that requires assistance, please let me know by the end of the second week of classes and I will be happy to help or refer you to Student Disability Services (SDS).

Texts:

We will be using:

Teitelbaum, Michael S., and Jay Winter. *A Question of Numbers: High Migration, Low Fertility, and the Politics of National Identity*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1998.

Steinberg, Paul F., and Stacy D. VanDeveer, eds. *Comparative Environmental Politics*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2012. (will be available late February)

Other readings are posted on Moodle.

Resources:

- (1) Web resources: I highly recommend the New Security Beat blog (<http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com>) for broad coverage of environmental security issues. There are many other fine environmental blogs, websites, and listservs that you should explore and should feel free to share with the class, including <http://www.grist.org>, <http://www.enn.com>, and <http://www.scidev.net>. And, if you want an opposing viewpoint, see the Planet Gore blog by *The National Review* at <http://planetgore.nationalreview.com>.

(2) Me: During office hours, my door is open. I welcome you to come by and discuss your thoughts or concerns about our course or assignments, your career plans, graduate school opportunities, or environmental news that has sparked your interest. If my office hours conflict with your class or work schedule, you may make an appointment with me or join me for lunch in the Rat.

Class policies:

- We will take the Honor Code very seriously. You can read the policy at www.rhodes.edu/campuslife/1478.asp.
- This syllabus is subject to change.
- I strongly encourage you to consult the Writing Center for help with your writing assignments.
- We will all attend class and arrive on time. Any illnesses should be documented by a medical professional. Only if you provide documentation will you be allowed to make up missed work.
- Make-up policy: If you miss a deadline for a documented illness or college-sponsored event you may submit your assignment *before* the scheduled due date when possible, or soon after in rare, documented instances.
- If you are a student athlete or involved in other school-sanctioned activities, please inform me if there will be conflicts and prepare to complete assignments early.
- The best way to get in touch with me is via email. However, so that I may spend time with my family I often do not check or answer email after 5pm each day or on the weekends. If you have an emergency you may call me on my cell phone: 240.338.0363.

Requirements:

Participation – 10%

Interaction with one another, with me, and with the community will provoke new ideas and encourage you to make new discoveries. This class is conducted as a seminar. The discussions provide a forum for dealing with questions raised by the readings and lectures. Participation is essential both to demonstrate your journey towards understanding the readings, and to aid you in synthesizing the information. We will all benefit if you are an active and respectful participant in the class, do the readings before class, and keep up with the news daily.

Presentation of readings/leading discussion – 10%

Working in pairs, you should spend 10 minutes or so describing the main points of the reading and then lead discussion for the remainder of the class, reserving the last 15-20 minutes for me to wrap. Each student will present once.

Free response quizzes and homework assignments – 25%

Periodically, there will be homework assignments or in-class quizzes where I will ask you to respond in essay format to a question I pose. The quizzes will require that you keep up with the reading for the course and practice writing on your own. To encourage your progress in the course I will drop the lowest quiz grade. *If you are*

absent and miss a quiz, I will drop that grade—therefore you should not miss more than one quiz. The quizzes are lieu of a longer exam.

Research paper and presentation (55%)

Each student will have the opportunity to write a 12-15 page (double spaced) research paper on a subject to be chosen in consultation with me. The paper can either be a deep analysis of an environmental or population issue within one country or can compare cross-national responses to a particular environmental or population issue.

Grades for the paper are broken down into several components:

- Research plan due by class time, 2/23 (5%)
- First draft by class time, 3/22 (15%)
- Final draft by class time, 4/17 (20%)
- Final 10-minute presentation of research (15%)

A grading rubric is available on Moodle.

Course calendar:

The course calendar is posted on Moodle and reading assignments are listed at least a week ahead of time. *Readings are listed on the day they are DUE.*

Important dates:

Friday, 1/27, 3pm, Blount auditorium – discussion of documentaries *New Frontier* and *River Planet*

Tuesday, 2/21, 7pm, location TBA – viewing of film *Shark Loves the Amazon* and talk by Mark London

Thursday, 3/1, 7:30pm, Hardie – lecture by Sir Peter Crane, “The Future of Plants”