

INTL 4610: Environmental Politics

University of Georgia

Fall 2016, TR 2-3:15pm

Instructor:	Micah Gell-Redman
Website:	http://www.micahgellredman.com/
Email:	mgredman@uga.edu
Office:	Candler 318
Phone:	(706) 542-6354
Office hours:	Thursdays, 12-2pm
Seminar room:	Park Hall 0250

Environmental quality (the state of the oceans, air, freshwater, soil, etc.) is perhaps the quintessential example of what social scientists call a public good. In this course, we will examine contemporary and historical cases that demonstrate the profound challenges inherent in governing the environmental commons.

Assignments, Grading and Expectations

Midterm - 25%, Final exam - 25%

The midterm will cover material taught in the first half of the course (see course schedule below for details). The final exam will be comprehensive, covering all of the material presented during the semester. Rather than emphasizing memorization of facts or details, both the final and midterm exams will stress conceptual aspects of the material.

Participation - 15%

You will be expected to participate actively in our collective effort to extract systematic knowledge from these complicated examples of public action. At various times throughout the semester, you or your working group will be asked to

present material to the rest of the class. I expect that you will prepare adequately for these informal presentations.

Case study - 35%

Working in teams of four, students will conduct a detailed descriptive analysis of an environmental problem with (potentially) global significance. This case study will draw on secondary and primary sources that the students will gather over the course of the semester. While the primary goal of the case study will be descriptive, students will also draw on the concepts presented in class to suggest arguments relating the environment and politics that could be tested empirically. The case study assignment will be completed in three stages, an annotated bibliography, first draft, and final draft.

Data analysis - no grade

During in-class labs, students will be exposed to basic principles of data analysis using the open source software package R. Students will be required to bring a laptop computer to class to participate in these labs. Those students who do not have private access to a laptop should arrange to check one out.

Course Policies

Attendance

Much of the content of this course will consist of my lectures and the accompanying in-class discussion. In order for you to learn the material, it is essential that you attend class and participate in the discussion. I will occasionally take attendance during class meetings. Your attendance record, your contribution to class discussions, and the quality of your in-class presentations will be used to determine the participation portion of your grade. If you are absent from class, you must provide sufficient information for the absence to be excused. Absences can be excused for officially documented college-sanctioned event, a documented medical excuse, or a family emergency. In the event that an excused absence keeps you from attending class on the day a test is given, the test will be made up at the nearest possible time to the test date. Unexcused absences on test days will result in the receipt of a zero for the test.

Cell Phones, Pagers, and Other Devices

All cell phones, pagers, and other devices that make noise must be turned off or put on silent/vibrate upon entering the classroom. Please be respectful of your

fellow students and avoid unnecessary disruptions.

Academic Honesty

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Class Discussion

In order to cultivate a scholarly and reasoned discourse, it is essential to maintain a respectful environment during class discussions. While the discussion of political issues can often become heated, intelligent debate must avoid any form of personal attack. All students are expected to be courteous and considerate of their classmates. Disrespectful language of any kind will not be tolerated.

Communicating with the Instructor

From time to time, I will communicate with you via email, using the email address assigned to you by the university. The content of these emails may include changes to assignments, important dates, and other information pertinent to the course. Please check your email regularly. I will hold office hours in Candler Hall from noon to 2 PM on Thursdays. If you are unable to meet during this time, please email me to set up an appointment.

Changes to the Syllabus

As the semester progresses, I may make changes to the syllabus. A current version will be posted at my website.

Course Schedule

Week 0-2: Foundations

August 11 - No class

August 16 - On social science

Required reading:

Selection from Krugman (1995)

August 18 - Scientific knowledge and uncertainty

August 23, 25 - Public Goods and Collective Action

Determine working groups. Assign IPCC working document to each group for presentation the following week.

Week 3-6: Climate change

August 30 - Climate change basics

Participation assignment: Working groups present an IPCC document

September 1 - No class

September 6 - The politics of climate science

Required reading:

Oreskes (2004)

Participation assignment: Finish presentations of IPCC documents

September 8 - The politics of climate science

Participation assignment: Working groups present a piece that questions climate change

September 13 - Social science of climate change

Required reading for the following three weeks:

Barrett and Stavins (2003)

LeVeck et al. (2003)

Sunstein (2007)

September 15 - Data lab 1

September 20 - Is collective action on climate change possible?

Assignment: Meet with me to discuss annotated bibliography of case study

September 22 - Data lab 2

September 27, 29 - Climate politics

Participation assignment: Working groups, present an example of climate politics

Week 8: Midterm

October 4 - Review session

I will answer your questions about the material discussed in class thus far.

October 6 - Midterm exam

Exam will be held in class during normal class time and at the normal location.

Weeks 9-10: Environment and Health

October 11 - October 20

Assignment, October 20: Submit first draft of case study

Weeks 11-13: Climate and conflict

October 25 - November 10

Weeks 14-15: Working group presentations

November 15 - December 1

Thanksgiving break, Nov. 21-25

Assignment, December 2: Submit final draft of case study

Final exam date and time?

References

- Barrett, Scott and Robert Stavins. 2003. "Increasing Participation and Compliance in International Climate Change Agreements." *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 3:349–376.
- Krugman, Paul. 1995. *Development, Geography, and Economic Theory*. MIT Press chapter The Fall and Rise of Development Economics.
- LeVeck, Brad L., D. Alex Hughes, James H. Fowler, Emilie Hafner-Burton and David G. Victor. 2003. "The role of self-interest in elite bargaining." *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science* 111(52):18536–18541.
- Oreskes, Naomi. 2004. "The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change." *Science* 306(5702):1686.
- Sunstein, Cass R. 2007. "Of Montreal and Kyoto: A Tale of Two Protocols." *Harvard Environmental Law Review* 1-66(1):179–207.