

ENV322H
International Environmental Policy
Fall 2022
Tuesday 12PM-1PM (synchronous portion)

Instructor: Prof. Jessica Green
Jf.green@utoronto.ca
Office: Sidney Smith, 3031
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4
(*please sign up on Quercus*)

Teaching Assistant:
TBA

Welcome to university in the age of COVID

Below you will find all the standard details about the class, but before that, some important things to think about.

- 1) **This is a changing situation which will require flexibility, patience and kindness.**
- 2) **Communication will be essential to the success of the course. If you have concerns or issues, please let me know, and I will address any issues as quickly and as best I can.**

Course Description

The proliferation of global institutions and international actors and the absence of central enforcement mechanisms are hallmarks of addressing environmental problems. This course examines the law, politics and policy of global environmental issues including energy, climate and biodiversity. The course aims to provide a broad overview of the key concepts, actors, debates and issues in global environmental politics. It demonstrates the complexities both of the nature of the problems as well as the solutions.

The course has five parts. First, we examine the extent of environmental degradation and different lenses for understanding its causes and solutions. Second, we examine the actors and institutions of global environmental politics, to understand how environmental problems are created, law is made, and policy is implemented. In short, we ask, “who solves global environmental problems and how?” Third, we turn to understanding the conditions under which environmental lawmaking is successful. Fourth, we look at linkages between environmental issues and economic globalization. In the final section of the course, we consider critical approaches to environmental governance.

Course Format and Delivery

This course will be entirely online. It will have asynchronous and synchronous components, both are required.

Asynchronous

There will be two 20-minute (approximately) podcasts per week, available via downloadable .mp3. There will be accompanying slides that you can review before or after you listen to the podcast, but you needn't watch the slides as I speak. In other words, you don't have to sit at a computer to listen to the lectures.

Synchronous

Many of the synchronous classes will feature a speaker. This person will speak for 30-40 minutes, and then we will have time for questions and discussions. **Please come with questions!** The weeks that we do not have a speaker, the synchronous portion of the class will be devoted to discussing the readings, current events and answering questions. **The synchronous portion of the class will meet every week from 12-1:00 PM and attendance is required.** I will record these classes and make files available electronically, though they may be quite large.

Learning objectives

By the end of the semester, you should:

- Be able to identify the major actors in global environmental politics and their roles;
- Understand different types of legal, market and informal policy mechanisms for addressing environmental problems;
- Be able to explain the political challenges to international cooperation on transboundary environmental problems;
- Locate and use independent evidence to explain the nature of those challenges.

Readings

You are expected to complete *all* of the readings for *every* class, before the synchronous portion of the class.

Readings will be available online through the library, and on the class's Library Reading List Quercus website. These are denoted by "UofT-e" and "LRL" on the syllabus, respectively. Those denoted with **Quercus** can be found by going to the Readings Module in Quercus, where I have posted some .pdfs.

Assignments

For a full description of the assignments, see "Assignments" document in Quercus. These include rubrics for the response papers and the participation requirements.

There will be four assignments for the class.

- 1) **Bi-weekly quizzes** (30%) To be completed on Quercus **before** the synchronous portion of the class. These will be short, timed quizzes (20 minutes), which test whether you have listened to the lectures and completed the readings. **There will 6 of them throughout the semester.** Each one is worth 5% of your grade.
- 2) **Take home final** (30%). This will be an open-book, open-note test covering the entire semester. You will have 48 hours to complete it.
- 3) **Two speaker response papers** (30%). We will have a number of speakers over the course of the semester. In these 300-400 word response papers, you will relate the speaker's comments to at least one of the course readings (though they don't necessarily have to be the readings for that week).
- 4) **In the news memo** (10%). Global environmental politics is happening everywhere, all the time. As such, I would like you to write one brief paper which responds to a news article *in a major news outlet*. (This includes publications like *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial*

Times, The Global and Mail, The Washington Post, The Independent. If you have a question about whether your source is a major news outlet, please ask the TA).

Deadlines and late penalties

All deadlines are final. For each day an assignment is late, there will be a 3% reduction in your grade. I may make exceptions under extenuating circumstances, such as illness or family emergency. However, these will require documentation, which is to complete the ACORN self-declaration and send me a screen shot as confirmation.

If there are other issues that you think may affect your ability to turn in assignments on time, I suggest you contact me *as early as possible*. I am **not** inclined to give extensions to those who ask the night before.

Accessibility

Students who require special arrangements should contact the Student Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060. Their email is accessibility.services@utoronto.ca. Some students find that they must wait to contact and secure approval from Accessibility Services: in these cases, **you should still contact me in advance**, to let me know you might require accommodations for assignments.

Email and communication

I will hold weekly electronic office hours on Wednesdays from 2-4PM, and I will be very glad to meet with you at those times to discuss readings, lectures, assignments, essays, and more. **You must sign up for office hours using the course calendar on Quercus.** There will be a link in Quercus to zoom for the meeting.

I have also listed my email address in the contact information at the start of the syllabus; however, please consider several things when reaching out to me by email:

- **Please check (and double-check) that the answer to your query is not in the syllabus before you contact me with questions.**
- You are expected to write from your University of Toronto email account. If you write from another email account (Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo, etc.), I might not answer;
- I generally use email to address simple yes/no questions and to make arrangements about logistics; if you have any substantive concerns, please come to my office hours;
- I will do my best to respond to your messages, but please don't expect a rapid response. I will not be responding daily to emails about the class and will not check my email on evenings and weekends. As such, please plan ahead if you need to reach out to me.
- If you write to request an extension or accommodation the night before an assignment is due, I am unlikely to accommodate your needs or offer assistance.

Legal

Please read the policy on [academic integrity](#). Academic dishonesty is a serious offense that can result in loss of credit, suspension, and possibly expulsion from the university. *All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department.*

If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult [this page](#) from the Writing center. You can also make an appointment with me to discuss.

Plagiarism includes:

- copying sentences or fragments from any source without quotes and references
- not citing a source used in your papers
- citing internet information without proper citation
- presenting someone else's work as your own
- *inadvertently* copying verbatim from any source.

Schedule of Classes for synchronous portion 12-1 on Tuesdays

WEEK 1. 13 Sept: Why are international environmental problems so hard to manage?

- Stockholm Resilience Centre. N.d. [The Nine Planetary Boundaries](#).
- Ostrom, Elinor. 1992. *Governing the Commons*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chap. 1 (pp. 1-28) and Chap 2, pp. 29-45 (not the whole chapter). **UofT-e / LRL**
- Hardin, Garrett. 1968. [The Tragedy of the Commons](#). *Science* 162: 1243–1248. **UofT-e / LRL**
- Mildenerger, Matto. 2019. [The Tragedy of the Tragedy of the Commons](#). *Scientific American*. 23 April.
- Clapp, Jennifer and Peter Dauvergne. 2011. *Paths to a Green World*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Second Edition. Chap 1 (pp. 1-18). **UofT-e / LRL**

Synchronous portion: Overview of class content and mechanics

WEEK 2. 20 Sept: What is international environmental law?

Questions: How does sovereignty help or hinder cooperation? What forms does IEL take? How does domestic politics influence the content of IEL?

- [Charter of the United Nations](#), Chapters 1&2. Peruse others as you wish.
- Bodansky, Daniel. 2010. *The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapter 1. **UofT-e / LRL**
- O’Neill, Kate. 2017. *The Environment and International Relations*. Chapter 4. **LRL**
[Please note that only the 2009 edition is available as an e-book through the library, as such, I will upload the chapters from the most recent edition that are assigned.].

Synchronous portion: Current events, questions and discussion.

WEEK 3. 27 Sept: Developing countries and the changing landscape of IEL.

Questions: What role do developing countries play in IEL? How has it changed over time?

- [The Rio Declaration](#) on Environment and Development
- Najam, Adil. 2005. Developing Countries and Global Environmental Governance: From Contestation to Participation to Engagement. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 5 (3): 303–321. **UofT-e / LRL**
- John Helveston and Jonas Nahm. 2019. “[China’s key role in scaling low-carbon energy technologies](#).” *Science* 366 (6467): 794-796.
- Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2018. *Renewables: The Politics of a Global Energy Transition*, pp. 199-208. **UofT-e / LRL**

Synchronous portion: Prof. [Michaël Aklin](#), , Political Science, University of Pittsburgh

WEEK 4. 4 Oct: International Organizations

Questions: What is the role of international organizations in making and implementing IEL?

- O’Neill, Kate. 2017. *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3, pp 51-63. **Quercus**
- Andonova, Liliana. 2018. *Governance Entrepreneurs*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chap 4 (pp. 108-144). **UofT-e / LRL**
- Hale, Thomas, and Charles Roger. 2014. Orchestration and transnational climate governance. *The Review of International Organizations* 9 (1): 59–82. **UofT-e / LRL**

- NOTE: This is a long piece. Focus on the Introduction and Sections 2.3, 3.3, 4 and 5.
- When you read this paper ask yourself: 1) What is orchestration? 2) When does it happen? 3) What are some examples?

Synchronous portion: Prof. [Charles Roger](#), Institut Barcelona Estudis Internacionals.

WEEK 5. 11 Oct: Civil society – Inside and outside the negotiating halls

Questions: What is civil society? What role does it play in IEL?

- Raustiala, Kal. 1997. “States, NGOs and International Environmental Institutions.” *International Studies Quarterly* 41(4): 719-740. **UofT-e / LRL**
- Stroup, Sarah S. and Wendy H. Wong. 2017. *The Authority Trap*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Pp. 1-13 **UofT-e / LRL**
- Dauvergne, Peter, and Genevieve LeBaron. 2014. *Protest Inc.: The Corporatization of Activism*. Cambridge Malden, Mass: Polity. Chapter Five. **UofT-e / LRL**

Synchronous portion: Ali Rougeot, former ENV student and currently Program Manager, Climate and Energy, Environmental Defence

WEEK 6. 18 Oct: Effectiveness of IEL: Successes and Failures

- O’Neill, Kate. 2017. *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chap 5. **Quercus**
- Barrett, Scott. 2003. *Environment and Statecraft*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 8, “The Montreal Protocol”. **UofT-e / LRL**
- Allan, Jen Iris. 2019. Dangerous Incrementalism of the Paris Agreement. *Global Environmental Politics* 19 (1): 4–11. **UofT-e / LRL**
- Axelrod, Mark. 2017. Blocking change: facing the drag of status quo fisheries institutions. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 17 (4): 573–588. [To be discussed during synchronous portion] **UofT-e / LRL**

Synchronous Portion: Prof. [Mark Axelrod](#), Michigan State University

WEEK 7. 25 Oct: Climate change: What are the obstacles to decarbonization?

- Tollefson, Jeff. 2018. Can the world kick its fossil-fuel addiction fast enough? *Nature* 556: 422–425. Available [here](#)
- Busby, Joshua. 2018. [Warming World](#). *Foreign Affairs*. (July / August issue) **UofT-e**
- Aklin, Michaël, and Matto Mildemberger. 2020. Prisoners of the Wrong Dilemma: Why Distributive Conflict, Not Collective Action, Characterizes the Politics of Climate Change. *Global Environmental Politics* 20 (4): 4–27. **UofT-e / LRL**
- Green, Jessica. 2020. [The Existential Politics of Climate Change](#). *Boston Review*.
- Unruh, Gregory C. 2000. Understanding carbon lock-in. *Energy Policy* 28 (12): 817–830. **UofT-e / LRL**

Synchronous portion: Discussion of readings

WEEK 8. 1 Nov: The Paris Agreement and the Road Ahead

Questions: How has the climate change regime changed over time? Are there indications of progress?

- Victor, David. 2015. "Why Paris Worked" *Environment 360*. Available [here](#)
- Green, Jessica F. 2021. "Climate Change Governance: Past, Present and (hopefully) Future." In Michael Barnett, Jon Pevehouse and Kal Raustiala eds. *Global Governance in a World of Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Graham, Erin. 2021. "Climate Crisis." In Jon Pevehouse and Leonard Seabrooke eds. *The Oxford Handbook of International Political Economy*. **Quercus**.
- Overview of UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2021. Available [here](#).
- I will assign an additional short reading on what to expect in the upcoming COP 27.

Synchronous portion: Prof. [Bryce Rudyk](#), New York University School of Law.

WEEK 9. 8 Nov: NO CLASS FALL BREAK

WEEK 10. 15 Nov: Trade, Investment and the Environment

Questions: How does the global trade regime help or hinder progress on global environmental problems?

- O'Neill Chapter 6, pp 139-44 and 153-164 AND Chapter 8 pp. 207-219.
- Klein, Naomi. 2014. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the climate*. Simon&Schuster. Chapter 2. **Quercus**.
- Van Asselt, Harro and Michael Mehling. 2021. "[Border Carbon Adjustments in a Post-Paris World: Same old, same old, but different?](#)"
- Read this short critique of carbon border taxes [here](#)
- Nahm, Jonas, Joanna Lewis and Bentley Allan. 2022. "[Can the US fight climate change and shift industrial policy?](#)" *Washington Post*.

Synchronous portion: Prof. [Harro van Asselt](#), University of Eastern Finland.

WEEK 11. 22 Nov: Private Authority

Questions: Can non-state actors solve global environmental problems? Through what mechanisms?

- O'Neill, 2017. Chapter 7. **Quercus**.
- Dauvergne, Peter, and Jane Lister. 2015. *Eco-Business: A Big-Brand Takeover of Sustainability*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press. Chap 1. **U of T-e / Quercus reserve**
- Maniates, Michael. 2019. "Beyond Magical Thinking." In *Routledge Handbook of Global Sustainability Governance*, edited by Agni Kalfagianni, et al., Routledge, 2019. **Quercus**

Synchronous portion: Prof. [Hamish van der Ven](#), University of British Columbia.

WEEK 12. 29 Nov: Eco-socialism and the Green New Deal

- Chomsky, Aviva. *Is Science Enough? Forty Critical Questions about Climate Justice*. Boston: Beacon Press. Excerpts. **Quercus**
- Aronoff, Kate et al. 2019. *A Planet to Win*. London: Verso. Chapters 1 & 4. **Quercus**.
- Huber, Matt. 2022. "[The Green Transition must be union-powered.](#)" *The Nation*.
- Huber, Matt. 2022. "[Awareness will not save us from climate disaster.](#)" *Jacobin*.

Synchronous portion: Prof. [Billy Fleming](#), Wilks Family Director of the Ian L. McHarg Center in the Weitzman School of Design and Senior Fellow, Data for Progress.

WEEK 13. 6 Dec: Other tools for change: Divestment and Direct Action

- Malm, Andreas. 2021. *How to Blow up a Pipeline*. London: Verso. Excerpts. **Quercus**.
- Neville, Kate. 2020. Shadows of Divestment: The Complications of Diverting Fossil Fuel Finance. *Global Environmental Politics* 20 (2): 3-11. Available [here](#).
- Newell, Peter, and Andrew Simms. 2019. Towards a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty. *Climate Policy*. Taylor & Francis: 1–12. **UofT-e / LRL**

Synchronous portion: Diana Yoon, Climate Activist