Course UEP 0166A

International Environmental Policy

Tufts University Summer School 2008

Course objective

To provide participants with
• an overview of major issues in international politics concerning environment, development, and security
• knowledge about the structures set up to deal with these issues
• a sensitivity to conflicts of interest in international politics regarding environment, development, and security issues.

Time and place

May 23 – June 27, 2008. Tuesdays and Thursdays 6 - 9.30 p.m.
Classroom at the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, 97 Talbot Avenue, Medford MA02155.

Form and contents of the course

This is an inter-disciplinary course, drawing on facts and discourses from many different academic disciplines, based on active participation by the students. Global climate change and water scarcity are two of the major global environmental concerns covered in the course in a combination of lectures, presentations by students and discussion. In order to familiarize students with international policy discourses many of the readings for the course are from documents and reports published by international organizations.

Students will be divided into small working groups, each representing one country. The working groups will do simple research on the state of the environment, development, and security in the countries that have been selected for study. Students will present their findings in class. They will also conduct a mock international negotiation.

The objective with the working groups on specific countries and the presentations in class of the groups’ research findings is three-fold:
• to enable to students to get a perspective on environment, development, and security politics that combines the macro-perspective fashioned by the authors of the articles students read during the course and the single countries they have selected to study in depth;
• to give students an experience of how the differences in countries’ geo-political situation and history color their positions with regard to the issues in international politics that we cover during the course;
• to give students practice in making “mini-studies” for crisp, short presentations of the kind that they will be expected to master during their professional careers.
Students will be expected to participate actively in the course by preparing at least one introduction each for the sessions, participate in discussions, and reading the listed literature.

**Literature for the course**

In the beginning of the course, students will get an introduction to some of the resources on the Internet that contain material of relevance for the course. Video materials will be used to stimulate thinking and discussions during the course.

Required course books and reference material available at Tisch Library Reserve Desk for short loans are listed on pp. 13-14. Students will need to be able to access Most of the readings are available on Internet sites and can be accessed online at ‘Blackboard.tufts.edu’. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are in a reader available at the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy office, 97 Talbot Avenue, Medford MA.

**Support for Internet searches**

Students who wish guidance regarding research, Internet searches, and databases that might be useful for the course can make an appointment with Regina Fisher Raboin, Reference Librarian at Tisch Library for instruction (e-mail: regina.raboin@tufts.edu). You can also consult Tisch Library’s web searching tips at http://www.library.tufts.edu/tisch/ra/webSearchingTips.htm.

**Examination**

At least one oral presentation during the course.
One mid-term and one final written examination.

**Graduate credit**

Students who wish graduate credit for the course will be asked to prepare summary statistical overviews of some of the problems we cover during the course.

**Contacts with the teacher**

I will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays before class, 5.00 - 5.45 p.m. at the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy, 97 Talbot Avenue. E-mail address: IPalmlund@aol.com.

I hope you will enjoy the course and that you will find it useful for your future career!

Ingar Palmlund
Course UEP 0166A

International Environmental Policy

SCHEDULE

1. Thursday May 22 The human environment - a global concern

Introduction of the form and contents of the course.
Presentation of participants.
Formation of working groups for country studies.

2. Tuesday May 27 Environment, development and security in world politics.

Working groups’ tasks

• What is the population situation in each selected country?
• What is said in The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development regarding population developments?

Internet search

• What is the United Nations’ Millennium Declaration?

For reflection

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 1 on human beings at the center of concerns for sustainable development.

Mandatory readings

• UNDP. Human Development Report 2007/2008. Overview: Fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world, pp. 1 – 10, col. 1 “…vital ecological systems, for example — are likely to prove irreversible.”
• The United Nations-Millennium Development Goals-
• *The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.*

3. Thursday May 29

**Issues in international environment, development, and security: Population, water and other natural resources**

**Working groups’ tasks**

• What characterizes the relationship between population, water and other natural resources in each selected country?
• What is said in *The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* regarding natural resources?

**Internet search**

• What can you find about international treaties to protect the freshwater resources on Earth?

**For reflection**

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 2 on States’ right to exploit the their own resources.

**Mandatory readings**

• UNEP. *The Ozone Story.* UNEP 2000.
• UNEP. *YEARBOOK 2008,* “Methane from the Arctic: Global warming wildcard,” pp. 37-47.

4. Tuesday June 3

**Issues in international environment, development, and security politics: Food security**
Working groups’ task

• What is the situation with regard to food supply and demand in each selected country?

Internet search

• Which are the positions on genetically modified (GM) food crops in the US, in Europe, and in China?
• What do the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) do?

For reflection

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 3 on intergenerational equity.

Mandatory readings

• Food and Agriculture Organization. “High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy.”
5. Thursday  June 5  

Issues in international environment, development, and security politics: Protecting ecosystems and biodiversity

Working groups’ task

- What is each country’s position with regard to biodiversity?
- How does the International Convention on Biodiversity respond to the country’s needs?

Internet search

- What was the outcome of the latest negotiations on the International Convention on Biodiversity?
- What can you find about the agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)? What relevance does it have with regard to biodiversity?
- Which countries are stake-holders in the protection of whales and African elephants? What are their positions? How do they use CITES?

For reflection

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 15 regarding the precautionary approach.

Mandatory readings

6. Tuesday June 10

Issues in international environment, development and security politics: Energy, development, and global climate change

Working groups’ task

• Which are the main sources of the economic development in each selected country?
• Which is the energy situation in each selected country?

Internet search

• What are the mandates of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the World Energy Council (WEC)?
• What do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Greenpeace, The Union of Concerned Scientists, The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) say about global climate change?
• What is the official US policy position in the international negotiations over global climate change? What has the US policy on this issue been previously?

For reflection

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 7 on the common but differentiated responsibilities of States; Principle 9 on States’ cooperation to exchange scientific and technical knowledge.

Mandatory readings

7. Thursday  June 12

Mid course exam.
Issues in international environment, development and security politics: Chemicals and transboundary pollution

Working groups’ task

• How is each selected country affected by transboundary pollution?
• How is it affected by the risks of global climate change?

Internet search

• What can you find about the state of pollution in the Arctic and the Antarctic?

For reflection

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 6 about giving priority to the special situation and needs of developing countries.

Mandatory readings

• L. H. Newton and C. K. Dillingham, Watersheds 4, Chapter 7: Chlorine sunrise: The beneficent possibilities of a known poison, pp. 116-140.
* S. Krimsky, Hormone disruptors: A clue to understanding the environmental cause, Environment 2001; 43(5), pp. 21-23.

8. Tuesday  June 17

International institutions, environment, development, and security

Working groups’ task

• Which issues with regard to environment, development, and security are of crucial importance for each selected country?
• What is each country’s position and action with regard to human rights and equity in international politics regarding environment and development?

Internet search

• What do you think about the Global Compact proposed by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan? Can it be achieved? How?
• What does the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) do?
• What does the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) do?
Who is bound by an international treaty? (See, for instance, explanations about the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the World Wide Web.)

For reflection

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 10 regarding public participation in decision-making on environmental issues.

Mandatory readings


9. Thursday June 19 International negotiations on environment and development issues

Working groups’ task

Prepare for a negotiation on global climate change where the group represents “its” country.

Internet search

- What are the main issues at the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?
- What do the protesters against globalization want?

For reflection

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 4 on environmental protection as an integral part of development.
Mandatory readings

• UNDP. Human Development Report 2006. “Overview: International cooperation at a crossroads,” pp. 1-7 “…. These pathologies of power are bad for market-based development and political stability — and a barrier to achieving MDGs.”

10. Tuesday June 24 Trends in international politics regarding environment, development, and security

• Draw up a written charter of the ten most important issues you think should be tackled by the world’s leaders.
• What can you do yourself to contribute?

The charter of ten important issues should be presented in class and also submitted on 1 - 2 printed pages with the name of the author in the top left corner. On July 1 all students will get a copy of the collective good thinking in this class on major challenges in the world at the threshold of the new millennium.

Internet search

• How would you define terrorism?
• What does sustainable development mean in the United Nations’ context?

For reflection

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 25: “Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.”
Mandatory readings

  http://disarmament2.un.org/issue.htm
• UNDP. Human Development Report 2003, Chapter 4, Box 4.5 “Military spending or education? The inconsistencies of government action,” p. 93.

11. Thursday June 26 Options and strategies for the 21st century

Final examination.
Epilogue.
Evaluation.
Course Literature for UEP 0166A: International Environmental Policy

Most of the mandatory readings are accessible via http://blackboard.tufts.edu, except readings marked with an asterisk (*).
All United Nations documents and publications are available via the Internet.

Required course books


Reference material available at the Reserve Desk, Tisch Library, Tufts University.


