

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 3: ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

Spring 2007  
Lectures: M/W/F 12:30-1:35  
X-Hour: Tu 1:00-1:50  
Filene Moore Auditorium

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Office Hours: Tu 2:00-4:00; by appt.

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**Course description:** Environmental problems are caused by human activities that involve the consumption of natural resources, the discharge of waste and pollution, and the transformation of natural landscapes for human purposes. Individuals and businesses often face strong incentives to undertake actions that degrade natural resources. Environmental quality, in contrast, generates shared benefits that must be defended through laws, regulations, and other public policies that are filtered through institutional discourses and practices.

This course explores these issues through the consideration of three major themes. Part I of the course examines the conceptual issues that surround so-called *commons dilemmas* – the tendency for individual decisions to cause excess levels of environmental degradation in the absence of corrective policies. Part II applies this reasoning to case studies from two areas of *U.S. environmental policy* – pollution control and the conservation of ecological resources. Part III of the course considers the theme of *environment and development* – the challenge of balancing the quest for improved living standards and environmental protection at the international scale. Viewed as a whole, the course introduces the major social science issues that are explored in the upper-level Environmental Studies curriculum.

### Textbook and Readings:

1. Thomas A. Easton (Editor), 2005, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Environmental Issues*, McGraw-Hill (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) (**available at Wheelock Books**).
2. Supplementary readings are available through the Course Reserve system and Blackboard.

Course reserves: <http://libcat.dartmouth.edu/screens/reserve.html>

Blackboard: [https://www.dartmouth.edu/~blackboard/new\\_bb61\\_index.php](https://www.dartmouth.edu/~blackboard/new_bb61_index.php)

### Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:

1. Midterm examination (35%)
2. Final examination (35%)
3. Two issue briefs (15% each)

The issue briefs will be a maximum of 800±100 words plus references. The first, which will be assigned in the first half of the term, will focus on a contemporary environmental issue in the United States (selected by the student) using multiple information sources. The second, assigned in the second half of the course, will focus on a contemporary environmental issue in a non-U.S. or international context. The instructors will provide additional information on these assignments at an X-hour early in the course.

**Academic honor:** Students are expected to understand and abide by Dartmouth's Academic Honor Principle as described in the *ORC*. You may not receive or render assistance on the midterm and final examinations. Although you are free to discuss the issue brief assignments with other individuals, the work you submit must be strictly your own.

**Disabilities:** Students with learning, psychiatric, or physical disabilities should contact the instructors during office hours to discuss the accommodations they may require to succeed in the course.

**Religious Observances:** Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during

this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please contact the instructors before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

### Lectures and Readings

3/28 Overview of the course (Dorsey/Howarth)

#### **Part I: Commons Dilemmas**

3/30 The state of the environment (Howarth)

Readings: Carl Pope and Bjørn Lomborg, “The State of Nature,” *Foreign Policy*, Vol. 149, pp. 66-73 (2005) (**Blackboard**).

Jane Lubchenco, “Entering the Century of the Environment: A New Contract for Science,” *Science*, Vol. 279, pp. 491-497 (1998) (**online Course Reserves**).

4/2 The market mechanism and the “invisible hand” (Howarth)

Reading: Robert L. Heilbroner, “The Wonderful World of Adam Smith,” Chapter 3 in *The Wordly Philosophers* (Simon and Schuster, 1986). (Skim whole chapter; focus especially on pp. 53-59) (**online Course Reserves**).

4/3 Overview of the “issue brief” assignments (X-hour, 1:00-1:50 pm)

4/4 The “tragedy and the commons” (Dorsey)

Reading: Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of The Commons,” *Science*, Vol. 162, pp. 1243-1248 (1968) (**online Course Reserves**).

4/6 The role of the state (Dorsey)

Readings: David Harvey, “Population, Resources and the Ideology of Science,” *Economic Geography*, Vol. 50, pp. 256-277 (1974). (**online Course Reserves**).

M.M. Bell, M.M. and P. Lowe, “Regulated Freedom: The Market and the State, Agriculture and the Environment,” *Journal of Rural Studies*, Vol. 16, Issue 3, pp. 285-294 (2000) (**online Course Reserves**).

4/9 The policy process (Howarth)

Reading: Neil Carter, “The Environment as a Policy Problem,” Chapter 7 in *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* (Cambridge University Press, 2001) (**online Course Reserves or Blackboard**).

4/11 Common-pool resources and property regimes (Dorsey)

Reading: Elinor Ostrom, Joanna Burger, Christopher B. Field, Richard B. Norgaard, and David Policansky, “Revisiting the Commons,” *Science*, Vol. 284, pp. 278-282 (1999) (**online Course Reserves**).

4/12 SPECIAL EVENT: The George Link Jr. Environmental Awareness Lecture  
“Global Climate Change and Emerging Infectious Diseases”

Dr. Paul Epstein, Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School  
7:00 p.m., Filene Moore Auditorium

4/13 Discussion of the Link Lecture with Dr. Paul Epstein

## ***Part II: Case Studies in U.S. Environmental Policy***

- 4/16 Pollution control policy (Howarth)  
Reading: Brent Steel, Richard Clinton and Nicholas Lovrich, Jr., “Environmental Politics and Policy in the United States,” Chapter 4 in *Environmental Politics and Policy: a Comparative Approach* (McGraw-Hill, 2003) (**online Course Reserves**).
- 4/18 **1<sup>st</sup> POLICY BRIEF DUE**  
The Clean Air Act  
*Guest lecturer:* Prof. Tseming Yang, Vermont Law School  
Reading: Taking Sides, Issue #11, “Should Existing Power Plants Be Required to Install State-of-the-Art Pollution Controls”
- 4/20 Environmental justice (Dorsey)  
Reading: Taking Sides, Issue #5, “Should Environmental Policy Attempt to Cure Environmental Racism?”
- 4/23 Pollution trading (Howarth)  
Reading: Taking Sides, Issue #6, “Can Pollution Rights Trading Effectively Control Environmental Problems?”
- 4/24 REVIEW SESSION (X-hour)
- 4/25 MIDTERM EXAMINATION
- 4/27 Ecological conservation (Dorsey)  
Reading: Clayton Koppes, “Efficiency, Equity, Esthetics: Shifting Themes in American Conservation,” Chapter 10 in D. Worster (ed.) *The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History* (Cambridge University Press, 1988) (**online Course Reserves**).
- 4/30 Long-term commons in the North (Dorsey)  
Reading: James Acheson, “The Politics of Managing the Maine Lobster Industry: 1860 to the Present,” *Human Ecology*, Vol. 25, pp. 3-27 (1997) (**online Course Reserves**).
- 5/2 “Derailing Dirty Coal?”  
*Guest lecturer:* Pat Parenteau, Vermont Law School  
Reading: TBA
- 5/4 Valuing Nature (Howarth)  
Reading: Taking Sides, Issue #3, “Should a Price Be Put on the Goods and Services Provided by the World’s Ecosystems?”

## ***Part III: Environment and Development***

- 5/7 Models of development (Howarth)  
Reading: Adrian Leftwich, “Post-War Meanings of Development,” Chapter 3 in *States of Development: On the Primacy of Politics in Development* (Polity Press, 2000) (**online Course Reserves**).

- 5/9 “Sustainability” and sustainable development (Howarth)  
Readings: C. Sneddon, R.B. Howarth and R.B. Norgaard, “Sustainable Development in a Post-Brundtland World,” *Ecological Economics*, Vol. 57, pp. 253-268 (2006) (**available on Blackboard**).  
 Taking Sides, Issue #2, “Is Sustainable Development Compatible with Human Welfare?”
- 5/11 Earth summits: Stockholm, Rio, Joburg and Beyond (Dorsey)  
Reading: Lamont Hempel, “Earth Summit or Abyss?” Chapter 2 in *Environmental Governance: the Global Challenge* (Island Press, 1996) (**online Course Reserves**).
- 5/14 The politics of conservation: case study from the Mekong Basin  
Guest lecturer: Prof. Chris Sneddon  
Reading: Chris Sneddon, “Conservation Initiatives and ‘Transnationalization’ in the Mekong River Basin,” forthcoming in *Globalization and Geographies of Conservation* (**online Course Reserves**).
- 5/16 Water privatization matters (Dorsey)  
Reading: *The World Bank Group’s Program for Water Supply and Sanitation; Profit Streams: The World Bank and Greedy Global Water Companies—A Public Citizen Report* (**Blackboard**)  
Optional Reading: Patrick Bond, “Water Commodification and Decommodification Narratives: Pricing and Policy Debates from Johannesburg to Kyoto to Cancun and Back,” *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism*, Vol. 15, pp. 7-25 (2004) (**Blackboard**).
- 5/18 *No class* (Green Key)
- 5/21 Sustainable development in Southern Africa  
Guest lecturers: Prof. Jack Shepherd and students from the Africa Foreign Studies Program  
Reading: TBA
- 5/23 **2<sup>nd</sup> POLICY BRIEF DUE**  
 Climate change (Dorsey)  
Reading: Taking Sides, Issue #9, “Should Society Act Now to Forestall Global Warming?”
- 5/25 Ozone depletion (Howarth)  
Reading: Taking Sides, Issue #1, “Is the Precautionary Principle a Sound Basis for International Policy?”
- 5/28 *No class* (Memorial Day)
- 5/30 Summary and conclusions (Dorsey/Howarth)