

School of Global Studies
SGS 394
Global Environmental Conflict
Line # 76125
T Th 4:30-5:45
EDB 212



*Revised final syllabus

Instructor:

Dr. Pamela McElwee
Assistant Professor,
School of Politics and Global Studies
Coor Hall 6690
pamela.mcelwee@asu.edu

TA:

Joshua Sierra
jtsierra@asu.edu

TA office hours:

By email appt.

Office Hours:

Tues 12:30-2:30 pm
Other times by email appt.

Course Description

While it may appear that globalization has fomented new environmental conflicts, given increasing international concerns about such issues as 'water wars' and the consequences of climate change among others, in fact discussions about conflicts over environmental resources between individuals and groups, both within and between states, are long-standing. This course will address theoretical and case-study oriented material on the nature of environmental conflicts and proposed solutions. Discussion will cover such topics as Neo-Malthusian perspectives on resource use, Neo-Marxist approaches to distribution and conflict, environmental security approaches to environmental stress and violence, and environmental justice issues.

Requirements:

There are no prerequisites for this course, but students are encouraged to have taken at least one environmentally-related class before, as the material to be covered assumes some basic familiarity with environmental issues. Students also must be sophomores or above, or have the instructor's permission to enroll, as this is an upper division SGS course. This is a writing and reading intensive class, so you will need to be prepared for a large amount of homework, and be disciplined in attendance.

Requirements & Grading

This course will serve as a vehicle to emphasize reading skills, discussion skills, and research skills of the student. There will be a fairly intense amount of reading spread throughout the semester, as well as

extensive writing. Please budget your time for homework that you can devote the necessary time to staying up to date with the readings. Students are expected to do all of the required readings for the assigned dates and to be prepared to discuss them in class. I reserve the right to call on any student in class: please be prepared! Pop quizzes may be given at any time throughout the semester, particularly if I feel discussion is suffering from a lack of preparation.

Other written work and their points are listed in the table below. Dates and details will be finalized throughout the course. Please discuss with me if any assignment or due date is unclear.

Grades

There are 100 points that are possible to achieve in the work in this class. I will grade according to the following scale. (According to university policy, C- and D+ are not available.) Cutoffs are firm, especially the use of pluses and minuses.

Grading Scale

A	90 - 100
A-	89
B+	88
B	80 - 87
B-	79
C+	78
C	70 - 77
D	60 - 69
E	- 59

Assignments

The points you will be graded on in the class include the following assignments:

Assignment	Points (100 total)	Due Date
Topic for final paper	5	Sept 23
Reading summary	20	Depends on dates chosen by students
Film Review	20	Nov. 9
Class presentations	10	Last 3 weeks of class
Final paper	25	Dec. 7, in class
Attendance/Participation/Discussion (may include pop quizzes)	20	All semester

Written Assignments:

All assignments are due online in designated slots on Blackboard. This means assignments are NOT to be emailed to the instructor, or dropped off at my mailbox after class, etc. Any assignment not turned in at the proper time begins to be considered late immediately following the time in which it was due. Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per day late, with the exception of the final paper, for which I will accept NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS. Any paper not turned in on Dec 7 will not receive a grade for the final

paper assignment. There are no exceptions: if you anticipate having a problem with this deadline, turn in your paper early.

-- Discussion Review Summary:

You will be asked to choose one date on which you will help lead the class discussion by posing a 'review' and summary of a reading assignment and asking questions to help lead discussion. This assignment needs to be posted on our class Blackboard in the designated site **no later than 24 hours** before the class you picked. Dates will be assigned the second week of class.

-- Film Review:

We will show at least four films during class time. You must choose one of the films for a 5 page written review. Your film review will be written in the style of a review for a popular audience, and should focus on the stylistic conventions needed to convey to the public the environmental content in the film of your choice. The review will be due Nov. 9. More details on the content and format of the review will be discussed in class. You may choose which film to review after you have seen all the films, but this will require you to take good notes on all of them. It will be difficult or impossible to arrange for you to see the films outside of class due to film rental policies, so make sure you attend the films in-class.

-- Policy Paper:

You will write a 10 page policy analysis paper looking at one world environmental conflict of your choice, either historical or on-going, and analyze this conflict with regard to environmental issues. More details on the content and format of the research paper will be discussed in class. You will need to start working on the paper early in the semester, as a draft topic outline is due on **Sept 23**. I will make comments on these outlines to help you improve them as you work toward a final paper. You will then give a class presentation about the individual conflict you have chosen at the end of the semester, which will be worth 10 points. You will be expected to field comments and questions from fellow students on this presentation.

The final paper will then be due **on the last day of class, Dec. 7, and worth 25%** of your grade. The criteria for the research paper is as follows:

1. The paper must be typed in 12 point font and be double spaced.
2. The paper must be in standard APA bibliographic format.
3. You must turn in a draft outline and paper topic by **Sept 23**, so that I can see where you hope to go with the paper and give you advice on ways to approach your topic. You are strongly urged to meet with me prior to this date to discuss paper topics.
4. The paper must be turned in on the date due of **Dec 7**. Failure to turn in a paper will result in a failing grade for this class.
5. Papers must be turned in online before coming to class on the 7th.
6. Papers should be proofed carefully, and please pay attention to readability and writing style, as well as to content. An A paper is not only well-researched, but well-written.

Blackboard Information

This course has a Blackboard site. The site contains the syllabus and all our required readings. It is your responsibility to access and read what is posted. I will also post on the website announcements, class lecture notes, and extra handouts/readings. The website is only a supplemental aid, and not a replacement for attending class.

Attendance and Make-ups

Attendance and participation are an important part of making the class work. Excessive absences will detract from your grade. Attendance will be taken at each class. If you cannot attend a class it is YOUR responsibility to obtain notes, syllabi changes, assignments etc. from another student and/or Blackboard. If you know you will have to miss class in advance because of something beyond your control (NOT, for example, a routine appointment), let one the TA know (with relevant documentation) in time to arrange when you should hand in any work. Make-up after the fact is available only for a documented emergency (doctor's note and/or dean's excuse). Students who will miss class due to an athletic competition or other official university events are required to follow official ASU policies if they wish to make up an assignment. You must notify the TA immediately in this circumstance, and at that time we can make arrangements for turning in missed work. Those who fail to do so will not be accommodated.

Withdrawals and Incompletes

Please see the instructor if you feel you will need to withdraw from the class. You will need to follow ASU and SGS rules on dates for withdrawal. I will not give incompletes for this course, except for extreme and ongoing situations such as family problems or illnesses that you or an immediate family member suffer that would make it impossible for you to come to class. Documentation is required. For more information, please see: <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi203-09.html>

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in any shape or form. If you are unclear on what constitutes dishonesty, please see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/policy/StudentObligations>. Dishonesty includes any forms of plagiarism, cheating on tests, turning in the same work for more than one class, passing off another's work as your own, and other things. **I have a zero tolerance policy on academic dishonesty: An initial incident will result in the student receiving no credit for the assignment. A second incident will result in a failure in the class, and a grade of XE is an option for cases in which I feel there has been serious misconduct. *It is your responsibility to be aware of what plagiarism is, and not to do it in any shape or form.*** There may be additional university consequences, including expulsion.

Other Policies

Please note the following.

1. There is no extra credit work.
2. The classroom is a place of mutual respect. Everyone is expected to treat each other and his/her questions and comments with civility. Cell phones must be off or on silent. Please, no text messaging, surfing websites, reading outside material, and the like during class. If you are using a computer during class I reserve the right to ensure you are using it for class purposes.

3. Announcements and instructions throughout the course (in class and on Blackboard) will amplify, supplement, and possibly change the syllabus. The student is responsible for keeping up-to-date on these announcements and for understanding any changes.

4. Email is a medium that should be used carefully. I do not answer emails immediately and especially not on nights and weekends, so be aware that emailing me the night before an assignment is due is not acceptable. Please plan ahead and try to make use of my office hours, not email, for more complicated or in-depth discussions. Questions regarding attendance and assignments should be directed at the TA first.

5. Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. NOTE: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential. Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. Their office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. DRC staff can also be reached at (480) 965-1234 (V) or 480-965-9000 (TTY). For additional information visit: www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc. Their hours are 8:00am to 5:00 pm., Monday through Friday.

Outline and Schedule of Class Periods and Readings

-- This schedule is subject to change; refer to announcements in class--

Aug 19. Overview of class

Part I – Theories of Environmental Conflict

Aug 24. Introduction to topic

Kaplan, R. (1994). "The coming anarchy," *The Atlantic Monthly*, Feb 273(3).

Klare, M. (2001). "The new geography of conflict." *Foreign Affairs* 80(3):49-61

Aug. 26. Geographies of conflict

Klare, M. (2006). Oil, Iraq and American foreign policy. *International Journal* 62: 31-42.

FILM: Blood and Oil

Aug 31. Theoretical Precursors: Malthus

Selections from Malthus, T. (1798) *An Essay On The Principle Of Population*.

Mann, C. (1993) "How Many is Too Many?" *Atlantic Monthly* Feb 1993 p 47-

FILM: The Legacy of Malthus

Sept 2. Hardin and the Limits to Growth

Hardin, Garrett, 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162: 1243–1248

Dryzek, John. (2005) "Looming Tragedy: Survivalism" in *The Politics of the Earth*. Oxford University Press, p 27-50.

Sept 7: Does Scarcity Cause Conflict? The Neo-Malthusians

Homer-Dixon, T. (1991) "On the Threshold: Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict." *International Security* 16: 76-116.

Sept 9. The Neo-Malthusians, continued

Hartmann, B (2001). "Will the circle be unbroken? A critique of the project on environment, population and security." In *Violent Environments*. Cornell U. Press, p 39-64

Sept 14. Does Abundance Cause Conflict? The Resource Curse Hypothesis

Ross, M. (2004). "The Natural Resource Curse: How Wealth Can Make You Poor" in *Natural Resources and Violent Conflict*. Washington: World Bank, p. 17-42

Sept 16. Resource curses, continued.

Ross, M. (2003). "Oil, drugs and diamonds: The varying roles of natural resources in civil war." In *The Political Economy of Armed Conflict: Beyond Greed and Grievance*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, p 47-72.

Sept 21: Does Resource Distribution Create Conflict? The Neo-Marxist/Political Ecology Perspective

Watts, M. and N. Peluso (2001) Introduction to *Violent Environments*. Cornell U. Press, p 2-38

Sept 23: Political ecology, continued:

Le Billon, P. (2001). The political ecology of war: natural resources and armed conflicts. *Political Geography* 20: 561–584

Part II – Specific Resources, Specific Conflicts

Sept 28: Blood Diamonds?

Le Billon, P. (2008.) Resource Wars? Conflict Diamonds and Geographies of Resource Wars. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 98(2): 375-392

Sept 30: Diamonds continued.

Global Witness. (2006). *The Truth About Diamonds*.

Grant, A. and I. Taylor (2004). Global governance and conflict diamonds: the Kimberley Process and the quest for clean gems. *The Round Table* 93: 375-401.

Film: Diamond Road

Oct 5: Mineral conflicts in the Congo

Montague, D (2002). Stolen goods: coltan and conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *SAIS Review* 22: 103-118.

Enough (2009). A Comprehensive Approach to Congo's Conflict Minerals.

Kristof, N (2010) Death by gadget. *The New York Times*.

Oct 7: Afghanistan

Risen, J. (2010). U.S. Identifies Vast Mineral Riches in Afghanistan. *NYTimes.com*, June 13.

Shroder, J (2007). Afghanistan's development and functionality: Renewing a collapsed state. *GeoJournal* 70: 91-107.

Oct 12. Gold Mining Conflicts

Perlez, J and K. Johnson (2005). Behind Gold's Glitter: Torn Lands and Pointed Questions. *New York Times* Oct 24, 2005

Kumah, A. (2006). Sustainability and gold mining in the developing world. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 14: 315-323

Oct 14. Gold Mining Conflicts, cont

Muradian, R. et al. (2003) International Capital Versus Local Population: The Environmental Conflict of the Tambogrande Mining Project, Peru. *Society and Natural Resources* 16 (9) 775-793.

Film: Tambogrande

Oct 19: Energy wars

Kaldor, M. et al. 2007. Introduction to *Oil Wars*. London: Pluto Press, p 1-40.

Oct 21. Energy wars, cont

O'Hara, S. (2005) Great game or grubby game? The struggle for control of the Caspian. In *The Geopolitics of Resource Wars*, ed. P. Le Billon. New York: Routledge, p. 138-160.

Oct 26: Oil in Africa

Ikelegbe, A. 2006. The Economy of Conflict in the Oil Rich Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. *African and Asian Studies* 5: 23-55.

Chavkin, S. 2009. Shell Games in Nigeria. *The Nation*. December 16, 2009

Nossitor, A . 2010. Far From Gulf, a Spill Scourge 5 Decades Old. *The New York Times* June 10.

Oct 28: Oil in the Amazon

Center for Human and Economic Rights. 1994. Rights violations in the Ecuadorian Amazon: the human consequences of oil development. *Health and Human Rights* 1(1): 82-100

Finer, M. 2008. Oil and gas projects in the western Amazon: Threats to wilderness, biodiversity, and indigenous peoples. *PLOS One* 3(8): e2932. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0002932

Film: Crude

Nov 2: Water Wars

Peter Gleick (1993). Water and conflict: Fresh Water Resources and International Security. *International Security* 18 (1): 79-112.

Nov 4 Water continued

Michael Specter (2006). The Last Drop: Confronting the possibility of a global catastrophe. *The New Yorker*, Oct 23.

Gleick, P. (2009). Facing down the Hydrocrisis. *World Policy Journal*/Winter 2009/10: 17-23.

Nov 9 Climate Change

Faris, S (2007) The real roots of Darfur. *The Atlantic* April 2007.

Barnett, J. and W.N. Adger (2007). Climate change, human security and violent conflict. *Political Geography* 26: 639-655.

Nov 11: No class – Veterans Day

Nov 16: Class presentations

Nov 18: Class presentations

Nov 23: Class presentations

Nov 30: Class presentations

Dec 2: Class presentations

Dec 7: Final wrap up

Final paper due