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

*Revised final syllabus

**Instructor:**  
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**TA:**  
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jtsierra@asu.edu

**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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>- 59</td>
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</tbody>
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Assignments
The points you will be graded on in the class include the following assignments:

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

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 are 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 8:00 am 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

Aug. 26. Geographies of conflict
FILM: Blood and Oil

Aug 31. Theoretical Precursors: Malthus

FILM: The Legacy of Malthus

Sept 2. Hardin and the Limits to Growth


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


Sept 9. The Neo-Malthusians, continued


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


Sept 23: Political ecology, continued:


Part II — Specific Resources, Specific Conflicts

Sept 28: Blood Diamonds?


Sept 30: Diamonds continued.


Film: Diamond Road

Oct 5: Mineral conflicts in the Congo


Oct 7: Afghanistan


Oct 12: Gold Mining Conflicts


Oct 14. Gold Mining Conflicts, cont


Film: *Tambogrande*

Oct 19: Energy wars


Oct 21. Energy wars, cont


Oct 26: Oil in Africa


**Oct 28: Oil in the Amazon**


**Film: Crude**

**Nov 2: Water Wars**


**Nov 4 Water continued**


**Nov 9 Climate Change**


**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