

**Course Syllabus**  
**Global Environmental Governance**  
**2024 Spring Term / DU Anglophone**

**Karen DELFAU LL.M. MIWM**  
[karen.delfau@sciencespo-toulouse.net](mailto:karen.delfau@sciencespo-toulouse.net)

This syllabus provides information about the course Global Environmental Governance, including the course objectives, schedule, expectations, as well as details pertaining to evaluation.

## **I Course description**

Contemporary ecological problems and crises are recognized as being predominantly a result of ineffective governance. This course provides a theoretical and practical understanding of the complexities and approaches of how individuals, institutions and governments manage natural resources from a global perspective using political ecology as a framework for our critique and analysis. The course will begin by exploring the conceptual frameworks that underpin natural resource governance, and from there detail the rules, mechanisms, processes and institutions through which important decisions are made and implemented. Natural resource governance is seen to be driven by three distinct policy strategies: public regulation, market-based incentives, and community-based resource management, all of which will be explored in the class looking closely at water and climate change governance and considering how these approaches apply or do not apply to other natural resources. Challenges and opportunities pertaining to the Global South will be emphasized.

This course will be taught in English, with readings in English.

## **II Learning objectives**

Learn and apply critical thinking:

- Distinguish opinions, values and evidence; types of knowledge;
- Understand why a policy decision is never just 'about the science';
- Explore your mental models pertaining to how global natural resources and the environment are governed.
- Critique various approaches and perspectives related to Natural Resource Governance / Global Environmental Governance through a Political Ecology lens.

Understand and be able to articulate key concepts:

- Elements of governance: global/international, market-based, and community-based;
- Understand polycentric challenges to Natural Resource Governance, and how informal and formal structures operate to impact environmental management and governance;
- Why and how power and differentiation between stakeholders determines governance and management outcomes (governance as a socio-ecological system);
- Laws, policies, and agendas from a critical perspective;
- Conduct a governance analysis for a specific natural resource within a 'problemshed'.



### III Course Schedule, Outline, Readings, and Assessment deadlines

Week 1	Course introduction, key concepts, game theory	13h-16h 17 January 2024
Week 2	Situating and conceptualizing governance: understanding pluralities	13h-16h 24 January 2024
Week 3	Political Ecology Approaches to Environmental Governance	13h-16h 31 January 2024
Week 4	Global / International Governance and institutions	13h-16h 7 February 2024
	<b>Reading critiques due</b>	<b>1 March – 20h</b>
Week 5	Public International Law & International Water Law	16h30-19h30 8 March 2024
Week 6	Climate Interactive and climate governance	16h30-18h30 15 March 2024
Week 7	Market-based approaches to governance and Payment for Ecological Services & National governance: Australian Water Law and Policy as a case study // Local and community-based governance	TBD
	<b>Reading Critiques due</b>	<b>28 March 2024 – 20h</b>
	<b>Final papers due</b>	<b>5 April 2024 – 20h</b>

#### Textbooks:

Textbook 1: Robbins, P. (2011). *Political ecology: A critical introduction*. John Wiley & Sons.  
 Textbook 2: Chasek, P. S., & Downie, D. L. (2021). *Global environmental politics*.

These textbooks will be made available on Moodle. **All readings are required, and students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss themes, topics, and questions arising from the readings.**

In addition, reading critiques are to be submitted in accordance with the schedule provided below. Additional information related to assessment is provided below.

#### Week 1: Course introduction, key concepts

- Class overview and approach, review of syllabus
- What are natural resources? What is governance?
- What are global environmental governance challenges?
- How have global environmental governance conferences and key reports evolved since 1972?
  - What are the most important international environmental treaties?
  - What are examples of successes? Failures?

What is game theory and how does it apply to global environmental governance?

- Activity: UNESCO Water Conflict Game

Readings (for Week 1/2): Please have read the following before our second class:

- Intro & Chapter 1, Textbook 1: **Introduction & Political versus Apolitical Ecologies** (pp. 1-24)
- Hardin G., (1968). *The Tragedy of the Commons*. Science. Vol. 162(3859) 1243-1248.
- Bridge, G. and Perreault, T. (2009). *Environmental Governance*. In **A Companion to Environmental Geography** (eds N. Castree, D. Demeritt, D. Liverman and B. Rhoads).

Readings (for Week 2):

- Chapter 2 Textbook 1: **A Tree with Deep Roots** (pp. 25-48)
- Dietz T, Ostrom E & Stern PC, 2003. *The Struggle to Govern the Commons*. Science Vol. 302 1907-1912.
- Benjamin K. Sovacool, Matthew Burke, Lucy Baker, Chaitanya Kumar Kotikalapudi, Holle Wlokas (2017). *New frontiers and conceptual frameworks for energy justice*, Energy Policy, Volume 105, 2017 (pp 677-691).

### **Week 2: Situating and conceptualizing governance: understanding pluralities**

What are the commons, and what conflicts exist between the two papers (Hardin // Ostrom & Stern)?

What is governance?

What is good governance?

How do context and spatial/temporal scales apply to governance?

Interdisciplinarity and governance

Readings (for week 3):

- Textbook 1, Chapter 3: **The Critical Tools (pp. 49-81)**
- Clapp & Dauvergne, 2011. Chapter 1: "Peril or Prosperity? Mapping World Views of Global Environmental Change". **Paths to a Green World**.
- Levin, K., Cashore, B., Bernstein, S., Auld, G. (2012). *Overcoming the tragedy of super wicked problems: constraining our future selves to ameliorate global climate change*. Policy Sci (2012) 45:123–152.

### **Week 3: Political Ecology Approaches to Environmental Governance**

What is Political Ecology, and how can it help us to understand nuances of global environmental governance? How can we use Political Ecology to critically engage with global environmental governance?

Readings (for week 4):

- Textbook 1, Chapter 4: **Political Ecology Emerges** (pp. 82-100)
- Head BH & Alford J, 2015. Wicked Problems: Implications for Public Policy and Management. *Administration & Society* 2015, Vol. 47(6) 711–739.
- Dryzek, John S., and Jonathan Pickering (2019) 'Anthropocene: the good, the bad, and the inescapable', **The Politics of the Anthropocene** (pp 1-19)
- Liverman, Diana (2017). "Reading Climate Change and Climate Governance as Political Ecologies" , in **The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology** ed. Tom Perreault , Gavin Bridge and James McCarthy (pp 303-319)

### **Week 4: Global / International Governance and Institutions**

What is happening in the global arena to govern natural resources?  
What are multilateral approaches to addressing natural resource governance?

Readings (for week 5):

- Textbook 2, Chapter 1: **The Emergence of Global Environmental Politics** (pp. 1-48)
- Textbook 2, Chapter 2: **Actors in the Environmental Arena** (pp. 51-104)
- **Multilevel Polycentric Governance** (book chapter from *The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2021)
- **General Principles and Rules of International Environmental Law** (book chapter from *Principles of International Environmental Law*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2018)

### ***Week 5: Public International Law & International Water Law***

Readings (for week 6):

- Textbook 2, Chapter 5 : **Effective Environmental Regimes** (pp. 257-308).
- Molle, F.; Mollinga, P.P. and Wester, P. (2009). Hydraulic bureaucracies and the hydraulic mission: Flows of water, flows of power. *Water Alternatives* 2(3): 328-349.
- Kuokkanen R, (2010). From Indigenous Economies to Market-Based Self-Governance: A Feminist Political Economy Analysis. *Canadian Journal of Political Science / Revue canadienne de science politique* 44:2 (June/juin 2011) 275–297.
- Rutgerd Boelens, Jaime Hoogesteger, Erik Swyngedouw, Jeroen Vos & Philippus Wester (2016) *Hydrosocial territories: a political ecology perspective*, *Water International*, 41:1, 1-14.

### ***Week 6: Climate Governance***

Climate Interactive game: Challenges in environmental negotiations and developing MEAs

Readings (for week 7):

- Robin Wall Kimmerer, 2013. *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Milkweed Editions. 1011 Washington Avenue South, Suite 300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415. (pp. 7-77 and more if you so wish).

### ***Week 7: Market Based approaches; National governance: Australian Water Law and Policy as a case study // Local and community-based governance :***

How can governance be approached within a 'problemshed'?  
How has Australia used a market approach to solve a resource scarcity? What can we learn from their approach?

Murray-Darling Basin Interactive Learning: Exploring power, interests, and allocations in the Murray-Darling Basin

How do national and regional governance mechanisms operate?  
What is the role of market-based governance?

Emphasis on Indigenous governance and different types of knowledge and how they fit within the broader spectrum of natural resource governance.

How are market approaches being used at the national level to address natural resource governance challenges?

No readings

#### **IV Assessments**

25% Reading critiques due : Dates set in the above schedule

25% Class participation

50% Written papers

*Reading critiques:* You are also expected to prepare weekly papers of 1-2 pages that respond critically to the readings (approximately 0.5 pages per reading). Critique papers may present questions, rebuttals, syntheses of key ideas, or critical analyses of particular ideas in the week's readings. Your papers should not merely summarize the key points in the week's readings. Rather, they are meant to be *critical* in nature and should *make an argument*.

Reading critiques are to be submitted by email to [karen.delfau@sciencespo-toulouse.net](mailto:karen.delfau@sciencespo-toulouse.net) . Late submissions will not be accepted unless a reasonable excuse has been provided beforehand.

*Class participation* means being present in class and fully engaging in the discussions, presentations, and learning activities. If you are unable to attend class, please let me know beforehand. Students are asked to have completed their readings beforehand and to engage in class discussion, activities, and presentations.

*Final paper :* Students must submit a paper on their final research and analysis. Please consider the elements of environmental governance that we have discussed in class and provide an analysis that explores challenges, synergies, and trade-offs associated with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (one or several goals may be discussed) in light of the frameworks discussed in class surrounding environmental governance and political ecology.

Papers are expected to be between 3000-3500 words, not including references. A marking matrix will be made available on moodle.

Please use APA referencing style for your paper. Guidance is available as a resource on Moodle. All papers will be run through a plagiarism checker as a part of the marking process, and non-original content that is not cited and referenced will be penalized.

All requests for deadline extensions and make-up exams must be done in writing (by email) a week in advance of the scheduled date. Unexcused work submitted late will receive partial credit with a **10% deduction for each day late**. Work submitted late due to circumstances beyond your control (illness, family emergencies, etc.) or other reasons that have been cleared with me (e.g., religious holidays) will not be penalized. What I ask is that you please let me know when your work will be late and how much of an extension you need.