

## **International Environmental Negotiations IO 647, Winter 2014**

**Class schedule:** Monday-Thursday 10.00-11.30A

**Class location:** SIS 112

**Instructor:** Dr. Shivaji Kumar

**Office hours:** Thursday 11:30-1:00P and by appointment

### **Contact information:**

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### **Course Description**

This course examines contemporary international environmental problems from theoretical and policy perspectives. It raises and addresses questions such as the following: what are the causes of contemporary environmental problems? What diplomatic strategies do international actors use to address these problems, and which of them are the most successful? What are the most pressing environmental problems facing policy makers, particularly in the existing great powers and emerging powers? How do environmental issues create problems in other areas such as security and economics? In an attempt to shed light on these questions, this course analyses agents, structures, and processes affecting international negotiations about environmental issues in the first part. The second part focuses on diplomatic approaches to environmental negotiations of some key states in the contemporary international relations.

### **Course Requirements**

There are four required components of doing well in this class:

1. Two short memos reacting to newspaper articles that will appear during the Winter semester on international environmental politics **20%**
2. One book review **20 %**
3. 20-25 page final essay **50 %**
4. Class participation **10 %**

There are three required assignments. You will write two short memos about contemporary environmental issues basing them on newspaper articles appearing during the Winter semester. You will relate issues discussed in the newspaper articles to the day's readings. You will do this twice this semester. You will send these memos to the entire class via email latest by 8P the night before our class. You will sign up for these memos on the second day of the semester. Remember: each memo accounts for 10 percent and two memos account for 20 percent of the total grade.

The second required assignment consists of a book review. You will select a book on international environmental politics published not before 2013. I will hand out more instructions about this review during the first two weeks of the semester. **Attention:** this

review is due by the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> week.

The third required assignment is an essay. The details of this essay will be distributed later in the semester. Attention: this essay will be a multistage assignment in which each stage will carry its own grades. For example: you will first submit an abstract of the proposed paper that will carry its own grade, say 5 percent. I will discuss these different stages of the essay in the class as we approach this assignment.

Please note that class participation will NOT be a murky component of your grade. Students who vigorously participate can enhance their participation scores.

## **Readings**

The class uses a collection of readings drawn from journals and books. The first book important for the course is the *Handbook of Climate Change and India: Development, Politics and Governance* edited by Navraz K. Dubash (London: Earthscan, 2012).

Also, you will be required to read/watch material I will be sending via email throughout the semester.

## **Note on disability accommodations:**

I am committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the university medical board will be appropriately accommodated, and they should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

## **Communications via email**

Please set my email address ([shivajik2050@gmail.com](mailto:shivajik2050@gmail.com)) to be accepted by any spam filter you may be using. If you send me an email, please put the course title in the subject line. Because of computer viruses, if I do not recognize the source of an email, I DELETE IT UNOPENED. I will make every effort to respond to email quickly, but please recognize that I do not spend all my time next to my computer. Allow 24 hours for a reply.

## **Changes to the Syllabus**

The syllabus of this course can be revised as and when needed to accommodate more interesting/insightful material. In the event that there is a need for any changes to be made to the syllabus, an e-mail will be sent to all students' mail accounts and will be mentioned in class before the reading is scheduled. Changes become effective immediately after their mention in class, or the sending of the e-mail, whichever comes last.

## **Class Cancellation.**

In the event that the instructor needs to cancel class, an e-mail will be sent to all students' e-mail accounts prior to class time.

## **Class Schedule**

### **Week 1**

#### **January 13**

Class introduction and syllabus distribution.

#### **January 16**

What are environmental problems?

Ronald B. Mitchell "Sources of International Environmental Problems" in Mitchell (2010) pp. 48-79.

Liliana Andonova and Ronald Mitchell "The Rescaling of Global International Politics" Annual Reviews of Natural Environment (2010)

Nitin Desai "Geopolitics of Climate Change" in Dubash (2012) pp. 373-384

### **Week 2**

#### **January 20**

Ronald Mitchell "Defining and Distinguishing International Environmental Problems" in Mitchell (2010) pp. 27-47

Anil Agrwal and Sunita Narain "Global Warming in an Unequal World: A Case of Environmental Colonialism" in Dubash (2012) pp. 81-89

#### **January 23**

Ken Conca "Rethinking the Ecology-Sovereignty Debate" Millennium (27:3, 1994) pp. 701-711

Marc Williams "The Third World and Global Negotiations: Interests, Institutions and Ideas" *Global Environmental Politics* (5:3, 2005) pp. 48-69.

### **Weeks 3-9**

Structures, Agents and Processes in International Environmental Negotiations

**(Book review due by end of 9<sup>th</sup> week)**

**Week 10**

Case Studies in International Environmental Negotiations

Case Study: India

**Week 11**

Case Study: China

**Week 12**

Case Study: European Union

**Week 13**

**Case Study: United States**

**Week 14**

**Class Presentations**

**Week 15**

**Final paper due (date to be decided).**