



BCLA PSCI 3360
Global Environmental Politics: Balancing Human and Ecological Welfare

CAPA BARCELONA PROGRAM

Course Description

Human activity is responsible for many environmental issues facing the international community today. This class will explore these core environmental issues, with a special focus on their relation to biodiversity loss and climate change. It seeks to analyze the roles of states, international organizations, multinational corporations and civil society in the causation and solution process of environmental degradation while at the same time discussing some of the philosophical/ethical aspects of these issues. The underlying goal is to evaluate the effectiveness of global environmental governance and how it attempts to balance national, economic and corporate interests with global environmental welfare.

Course Aims

Climate change is one of the most popularized environmental problems facing the international community today. From unanimously approving the Kyoto Protocol, raising fuel efficiency standards to leading the world in the implementation of wind, solar and nuclear energy, European countries have developed a leading role in carbon reduction initiatives. However, there is much work needed to be done especially in slowing the rate of biodiversity loss most of which is caused by human activity. This class seeks to examine cooperation and competition between countries on environmental issues, starting first in Europe and then expanding our understanding on a global level.

Learning Outcomes

- a) Students will improve their knowledge of the political, economic, and demographic issues provoking global environmental damage.
- b) Students will improve their knowledge of the global system of governance in environmental affairs both its strong and weak points
- c) Students will develop analytical skills and writing skills.

Developmental Outcomes

Students should demonstrate: responsibility & accountability, independence & interdependence, goal orientation, self-confidence, resilience, appreciation of differences.

Class methodology

The course is both lecture and discussion based. Students are encouraged to participate in class debates in order to better their understanding of the issues facing the region. The readings are essential to following the course as they will provide the basis for discussions and lectures. Multimedia activities will also be prioritized to increase the spectrum of perspectives given in class.

Research Paper (25%): An analysis of a contemporary environmental issue in the context of the class.

Participation (10%): Participation in on-line study group. Details given in class.

Presentation (25%): A group presentation in front of the class.

Mid-term (20%): In-class essay.

Final exam (20%): In-class essay.

DESCRIPTOR	ALPHA	NUMERIC	GPA	REQUIREMENT/EXPECTATION
Outstanding (High Distinction)	A	93+	4.0	Maximum grade: In addition to description for grade "A-", the student shows detailed understanding of materials about which he or she can show independent analytical ability. This means the ability to question an

				issue from different perspectives and evaluate responses in an objective manner.
Excellent (Distinction)	A-	90 - 92	3.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook/class hand-outs/class notes, and the work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for evaluation.
Very good (High Credit)	B+	87 - 89	3.3	Shows evidence of a capacity to generalise from the taught content, or the material in literature, or from class lectures in an informed manner. Also, the work demonstrates a capacity to integrate personal reflection into the discussion and an appreciation of a range of different perspectives.
Good (Credit)	B	83 - 86	3.0	The work is well organised and contains coherent or logical argumentation and presentation.
Good (Credit)	B-	80 - 82	2.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook and/or notes, and, there is evidence of additional reading.
Average (Good Pass)	C+	77-79	2.3	The work demonstrates a capacity to integrate research into the discussion and a critical appreciation of a range of theoretical perspectives. Also, the work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question and its theoretical implications and demonstrates evidence of additional reading.
Adequate (Pass)	C	73 - 76	2.0	Shows clear understanding and some insight into the material in the textbook and notes, but not beyond. A deficiency in understanding the material may be compensated by evidence of independent thought and effort related to the subject matter.
Below Average (Borderline Pass)	C-	70-72	1.7	Shows some understanding of the material in the textbook and notes. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought related to the subject matter.
Inadequate (Borderline Fail)	D+	67 - 69	1.3	Fails to show a clear understanding or much insight into the material in the textbook and notes
Poor (Fail)	D	60 - 66	0.7 - 1.0	Besides the above for D+, student has not shown interest or engagement in the class work or study.
Poor (Fail)	F	<60	0	Shows little or no understanding of any of the material
Incomplete	I			Please see CAPA policy in the Faculty Handbook.

Dress Code

No requirements.

Course Materials

Ivette Perfecto, John Vandermeer, Angus Wright, 'Nature's Matrix', Earthscan, London, 2009.

Kate O'Neill, 'The Environment and International Relations', Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2009.

Jared Diamond, 'Collapse: How societies choose to fail',

Course Packet

Newspapers, weekly magazines, on-line sources and any other journals will be required as well to compliment this course.

Weekly Course Schedule

To be determined.

Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities

Attendance: CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class. Unauthorized absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade and potentially a failure for the course.

Missing classes for medical reasons: If you need to miss a class for medical reasons or for a family emergency, **you must send an e-mail** to let the Director of Academic Affairs (DAA) or Resident Director know at least one hour in advance of your class or meeting at the following e-mail:_____. Note that calling the CAPA Center (_____) is acceptable only if you do not temporarily have access to the internet. An e-mail is still required as quickly as you can get access to the internet again. You will need to provide evidence of the reason for your absence. Unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction. In the event of a missed class or field trip, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor and make up any missed assignments.

Class Participation: Students are expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time. Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity: A high level of responsibility and academic honesty is expected. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will result in dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

Use of electronic equipment in class: All devices such as laptops, I-pods, I-pads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are **NOT** allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Director of Academic Affairs or the Resident Director at the beginning of Term.

Use of Electronic Translators: In Language courses students are NOT allowed to use electronic translators for writing texts in the target language: those submitting compositions and texts of whatever kind translated in such a fashion will receive a final F grade for the course.

Late Submission: Late submission of papers, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

Behavior during Examinations: During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action.