

Globalization and Environment

This course is about international dimensions of environmental issues, including the effect of economic globalization on the environment and the globalization of environmental conservation. The course takes an historical perspective, looking at the long history of globalization as a process of uneven development. In particular we will consider the interconnections between global integration, environmental transformation (with a focus on food and agriculture), and global inequality. The middle parts of the course focus on global environmental governance. Itself a form of globalization, global environmentalism is also a legacy of the long history of globalization and environment. Global environmentalism has culminated in the notion of “sustainable development,” which attempts to bring together economic globalization and global conservation. The final part of the course will examine this new era of “green neoliberalism.” By studying the ongoing linkages between globalization, environment, and inequality, students will better understand the failure of mainstream environmentalism to achieve sustainability.

This course is organized around interactive lectures, including small and large group discussions. There will be short lectures, but the emphasis is on student involvement in discussions and other activities. Students should feel free to ask questions and offer comments at all times.

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Office hours: After class on Wednesdays or by appointment

Reading materials:

There are two texts and a set of articles for this course. The articles are available on Carmen. You can order the texts through a bookstore of your choice, or use library copies (the library has electronic versions of both texts; they physical copy of *Imperial Nature* is on reserve for the course).

1. A set of articles, available on Carmen in the “content” section
2. Ellwood, Wayne. 2010. *The No-Nonsense Guide to Globalization*. Oxford: New Internationalist. ISBN: 1906523479 (Note that this is the 3rd edition, and is the one we will be using)
3. Goldman, Michael. 2006. *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization*. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN: 1904456448

Course requirements:

Participation	10%
In-class exercises (unannounced)	10%
Take-home midterm 1	25%
Take-home midterm 2	25%
Research paper	30%

Participation: All students are expected to come to class daily having done the day's readings, ready to participate in discussions and related activities. This portion of your grade will be based on your contributions to the class. Meeting with me to discuss class material also counts toward participation. Your engaged presence in class (*present, awake, not texting or surfing the internet*) is the minimum required to pass this portion of the course.

In-class exercises: There will be an unspecified number of in-class exercises. These will primarily take the form of an open-book, group activity using course materials to answer specified questions. *Your lowest grade will be dropped.*

Exams: The take-home exams will ask you to write an essay to answer questions I will provide.

Research Paper: You will write a research paper on a topic of your choosing, as related to course themes. An assignment with detailed instructions will be distributed in class. *Note that there is no final exam for the course; this paper is your opportunity to demonstrate mastery of course material by applying that material to issues beyond those we cover directly in the course.*

Course policies:Grading policies:

- *Make-up policy*: Missed in-class exercises *cannot* be made up as they are based on in-class, group activity. (Remember, your lowest grade will be dropped.)
- *Late policy*: Late essays will lose one percentage point (1/25 for the exams, 1/30 for the paper) for every day they are late. To avoid losing points, you must make arrangements AHEAD OF TIME.
- *To pass the course*:
 - You must receive a total grade of at least 55%.
 - You must complete all major assignments. Regardless of how well you do on other parts of the course, you will not pass the course if you miss an exam, fail to turn in a project, or miss more than 1/3 of the class sessions.
- PLEASE SEE ME IF YOU ARE HAVING PROBLEMS THAT PREVENT YOU FROM MEETING COURSE REQUIREMENTS; WE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.
- Grading scale (Standard OSU scale): 93-100 A; 90-92 A-; 87-89 B+; 83-86 B; 80-82 B-; 77-79 C+; 73-76 C; 70-72 C-; 67-69 D+; 60-66 D

Misconduct:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as using another person's ideas without acknowledging from where the idea came. Plagiarism ranges from direct copying of someone else's work to presenting someone else's ideas as though they are yours. Please use citations to differentiate between your ideas and those you got from other sources (such as books and articles).

Disability:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the **Office for Disability Services** will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901.

OSU Counseling And Consultation Services:

A recent American College Health Survey found stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, death of a significant other and alcohol use among the top ten health impediments to academic performance. Students experiencing personal problems or situational crises are encouraged to contact the OSU Counseling and Consultation Services (292-5766; <http://www.ccs.ohio-state.edu>) for assistance, support, and advocacy. This service is free to students and is confidential.

Schedule, with topics, readings, and assignments

This schedule is subject to change; changes will be posted in “news” section of Carmen.
A list of the Carmen readings with full references follows the schedule.

I: GLOBALIZATION AS UNEVEN INTERCONNECTION

1 M Jan 12 Introduction

W Jan 14 “The global environment”

Newell 2012, pp. 1-13

Sparke 2013, pp. 27-44

These readings provide background and definition, emphasizing that globalization is not inevitable but is political.

2 M Jan 19 MLK DAY NO CLASS

W Jan 21 Global environmental discourses 1

Adger et al. 2001, read from the beginning through 685 and 701-705

Mitchell 2002, pp. 209-221

These readings define “discourse”, with a focus on global environmental management discourses; the Mitchell reading provides a case (Egypt).

3 M Jan 26 Global environmental discourses 2

See Jan 21

W Jan 28 Uneven development 1

Ellwood, chapters 1 and 6 (to page 127)

Dicken 2011, pp. 13-48

Information on the contours of the global economy, emphasizing that globalization is (a) not new and (b) is very uneven.

4 M Feb 2 Uneven development 2

See Jan 28

W Feb 4 Colonial exchange of plants and animals 1

Kloppenber 2004a, pp. 152-157 and 175-182

Juma 1989, pp. 37-55

Colchester 1993, pp. 99-115 and 127-131

Historical background on the movement of plants and animals during European colonialism—an early version of globalization and environment. Kloppenber and Juma provide global perspective; Colchester provides an example in place (Guatemala).

5 M Feb 9 Colonial exchange of plants and animals 2

See Feb 4

W Feb 11 *Summing up: global discourses, uneven development, and colonialism*

*****MIDTERM 1 DUE FRIDAY FEB 13, 10AM**

II: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

6 M Feb 16 Global governance: political economy

Sheppard et al. 2009a, pp. 95-102

Ellwood, chapter 2

Background on basic political economic principles and approaches to governance (e.g. Keynesian, neoliberal) and introduce the Bretton Woods organizations.

W Feb 18 The World Bank

Goldman, Preface, pp. 1-7, pp. 46-88

This reading goes into detail about one of the Bretton Woods organizations, the World Bank, including both the author's fieldwork observations and a history of the Bank and how it changed over time.

7 M Feb 23 The Green Revolution

Atkins and Bowler 2001, pp. 220-226

Kloppenber 2004b, pp. 157-175

The Ecologist 1997

Atkins and Bowler provide basic background on the Green Revolution (GR). Kloppenberg situates the GR as part of the history of unequal agricultural exchange. The Ecologist piece is a (short) debate between Norman Borlaug and Vandana Shiva about the GR in India.

W Feb 25 The debt crisis and structural adjustment

Goldman, pp. 88-93

Ellwood, chapter 3

Sheppard et al. 2009b, pp. 559-560, 570-574, and 578-587

Ellwood and Sheppard et al. provide historical background about what the debt crisis (of the late 1970s-1980s) was and about structural adjustment as a response. Sheppard et al. provide more detail about loans and financing in the global economy. Goldman focuses on the role of the World Bank.

8 M Mar 2 Structural adjustment and agricultural liberalization

See Feb 25

In class we will view a documentary that provides a case (Jamaica)

W Mar 4 Global governance: "sustainable development"

Speth 2003

Adams 2009a, pp. 59-65 and 75-81

These readings introduce global environmental governance, with an emphasis on laws, reports, and conferences, since the 1970s, through which "sustainable development" came into being as an idea. Speth provides an overview, Adams goes into more detail.

9 M Mar 9 Evolution of sustainable development 1

Adams 2009a, pp. 86-115

Wapner 2003

WSSD 2002: read just pp. 1-5, 33-35, 37-38

Rio+20 2012

Continuation of Adams through the 2002 WSSD, with further evaluation by Wapner in terms of global priorities. The 2002 WSSD document: read selected pages for overall impression and for how links between globalization and environment are understood. The 2012 Rio+20 press release: read for overall impression and to identify anything new.

W Mar 11 Evolution of sustainable development 2
See Mar 9

10 M Mar 16 SPRING BREAK NO CLASS
W Mar 18 SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

11 M Mar 23 Green neoliberalism: market environmentalism
Adams 2009b, pp. 116-120
Sheppard et al. 2009c, pp. 148-168
Goldman, pp. 7-12 and 93-99
These readings provide an overview of the legacy of sustainable development in terms of mainstream approaches to economy and environment: green economy/green neoliberalism/market environmentalism. Adams provides summary, Sheppard et al. provide more detail and put it in the context of uneven development, and Goldman connects back to the history of the World Bank.

W Mar 25 Green neoliberalism: enclosure and dispossession
See Mar 23

*****RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC DUE FRIDAY MAR 27, 5PM**

12 M Mar 30 *Summing up: global governance, knowledge production, environmentalism, and neoliberalism*

III: GREEN NEOLIBERALISM IN PRACTICE: PROJECTS, OUTCOMES, AND CONTROVERSIES

NOTE: For this part of the course, your task is to apply the history and ideas we have explored this semester (e.g. uneven development, environmental management discourse, and neoliberal enclosure) to understand these contemporary issues in globalization and environment.

W Apr 1 Large dams 1
Goldman, chapters 4 and 5 (through p. 200)
Continuing his ethnography of the World Bank, Goldman describes a large dam project billed by the Bank as sustainable development. Read to identify what is neoliberal and what is "green" about this project. How do they go together?

*****MIDTERM 2 DUE FRIDAY APR 3, 10AM**

13 M Apr 6 Large dams 2
See Apr 1

W Apr 8 Global seeds 1
Feldmann 2000
Monsanto 2013
New York Times 2009 (read all six contributions)
These readings provide background on GMOs (genetically modified organisms) in agriculture, both "pro" and "con." What are the different sorts of issues over which there are debates? What is neoliberal about GM seeds? What are the alternatives?

14 M Apr 13 Global seeds 2

Graddy 2014, just pp. 426-439

SKIM the next two readings to get an idea of their projects:

Law of the Seed 2013

Seed Ambassadors Project 2010

These readings provide more information about alternative approaches to agricultural productivity and food security, through the lens of "food (and seed) sovereignty." What is the underlying model, if it isn't the market?

W Apr 15 Land grabs 1

Brown 2013

Holt-Gimenez 2012

Fairhead, Leach, and Scoones 2012

These readings provide an overview of the latest large-scale trend in global agriculture: land grabs. Brown and Holt-Gimenez provide basic information and raise questions. Fairhead et al. provide a more in-depth analysis that uses conceptual terms similar to those of this course; they also focus more specifically on "green-grabs."

15 M Apr 20 Land grabs 2

See Apr 15

W Apr 22 NO CLASS: WORK ON RESEARCH PAPERS

16 M Apr 27 *Summing up: globalization and environment*

*****RESEARCH PAPERS DUE FRIDAY MAY 1, 10AM**

Full references for readings in Carmen

- Adams, W. M. 2009. *Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in the Third World*. 3rd ed. London: Routledge.
- Adger, W Neil, Tor A Benjaminsen, Katrina Brown, and Hanne Svarstan. 2001. Advancing a political ecology of global environmental discourses. *Development and Change* 32:681-715.
- Atkins, Peter, and Ian Bowler. 2001. *Food in Society: Economy, Culture, Geography*. London: Arnold.
- Brown, Lester. 2013. Food, fuel, and the global land grab. *The Futurist* Jan-Feb 2013: 21-26.
- Colchester, Marcus. 1993. Guatemala: the clamour for land and the fate of the forests. In *Struggle for Land and the Fate of the Forests*, edited by M. Colchester and L. Lohmann, 99-137. Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Zed Books.
- Dicken, Peter. 2011. *Global Shift*. 6th ed. New York: Guilford Press.
- Ecologist, The*. 1996. Letter Forum (Borlaug and Shiva). *The Ecologist* 27 (5).
- Fairhead, James, Melissa Leach, and Ian Scoones. 2012. Green grabbing: a new appropriation of nature? *Journal of Peasant Studies* 39(2):237-261.
- Feldmann, Matthew, Morris, Michael, and Hoisington, David. 2000. Genetically modified organisms: why all the controversy? *Choices* first quarter 2000: 8-12.
- Graddy, T Garrett. 2014. Situating in situ: A critical geography of agricultural biodiversity conservation in the Peruvian Andes and beyond. *Antipode* 46(2): 426-454.
- Holt Giménez, Eric. 2012. Land grabs vs. land sovereignty. *Food First Backgrounder*: 18(4).
- Juma, Calestous. 1989. *The Gene Hunters: Biotechnology and the Scramble for Seeds*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Kloppenborg, Jack. 2004. *First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology*. 2nd ed. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Law of the Seed*. 2013. Navdanya International. www.navdanya.org
- Mitchell, Timothy. 2002. *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Monsanto. 2013. Corporate brochure. Online:
http://www.monsanto.com/whoweare/documents/monsanto_corporate_brochure.pdf
- New York Times*. 2009. Room for Debate: Can Biotech Food Cure World Hunger? October 26, 2009. Online: <http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/10/26/can-biotech-food-cure-world-hunger/>
- Newell, Peter. 2012. *Globalization and the Environment: Capitalism, Ecology and Power*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Rio+20. 2012. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. *Press Release: Rio+20 concludes with big package of commitments for action and agreement by world leaders on path for a sustainable future*. 22 June 2012.

- Seed Ambassador's Project. 2010. *A Guide to Seed Saving, Seed Stewardship & Seed Sovereignty*. Sweet Home, OR: Seed Ambassador's Project.
- Sheppard, Eric, Philip Porter, David Faust, and Richa Nagar. 2009. *A World of Difference: Encountering and Contesting Development*. 2nd ed. New York: Guilford Press.
- Sparke, Matthew. 2013. *Introducing Globalization*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Speth, James Gustave. 2003. Two perspectives on globalization and the environment. In *Worlds Apart: Globalization and the Environment*, edited by J. G. Speth, 1-18. Washington DC: Island Press.
- Wapner, Paul. 2003. World Summit on Sustainable Development: toward a post-Jo'burg environmentalism. *Global Environmental Politics* 3 (1):1-10.
- WSSD. 2002. *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*. UN Publication A/CONF.199/20*