

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FALL 2005**

**IR 422, ECOLOGICAL SECURITY AND GLOBAL POLITICS
M&W 3:30-4:50 P.M, VKC 101**

Professor Fred Gordon

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Office Hours: VKC 303, M, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m and TH 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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COURSE OVERVIEW

National and international security concerns provided the geopolitical framework for understanding international politics during the Cold War. Since the fall of the Former Soviet Union, economic development and ecological concerns have gained greater consideration in geopolitical discussions. Growing concern over environmental degradation and the possible impact of stratospheric ozone depletion as well climate change have linked environmental concerns with traditional military and foreign policy themes, thereby creating a discourse of environmental and ecological security.

The intersection of security and the environment raise profound questions about the relationships between the preparation and conduct of war and their impact on the environment, the potential and actual use of the environment as a weapon in warfare, the nexus between environmental degradation and political conflict, and whether resource scarcity can be a direct cause of inter and intrastate conflict. Raising these questions involves the contemporary debates about the limits of state sovereignty, the emergence of global governance, and the possibilities for continued global economic development. This class provides a theoretical and empirical platform to understand further the role of ecological security within the overarching framework of global politics.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Dalby, Simon. Environmental Security, University of Minnesota Press, 2002 (ON RESERVE)

Daniel H. Deudney and Richard A. Mathew ed. Contested Grounds, Security and Conflict in the New Environmental Politics, State University of New York Press, 1999.

Klare, Michael. Resource Wars, Henry Holt, 2001

Pirages, Dennis and Ken Cousins ed. From Resource Scarcity to Ecological Security, MIT Press, 2005.

REQUIRED ARTICLES (ON BLACKBOARD) or on Reserve

Broda-Bahm, Kenneth. "Finding Protection in Definitions: The Quest for Environmental Security," Argumentation and Advocacy, Spring 1999.

Conca, Ken and Geoffrey D. Dabelko ed. Green Planet Blues Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Johannesburg 3rd ed. Westview Press, 2004, pp. 229-282 (on reserve)

"Davidson, Debra J and Scott Frickel. "Understanding Environmental Governance: A Critical Review" Organization and Environment 17:4, pp. 471-493.

Drum, Kevin. "Crude Awakening" The Washington Monthly, Jan. 2005

Duruigbo, Emeku. "The World Bank, Multinational Oil Corporations, and the Resource Curse in Africa" University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Economic Law, 2005.

Foster, Gregory. "Environmental Security: The Search for Strategic Legitimacy" Armed Forces and Society, Spring 2001.

Gleick, Peter. "Water and Conflict, Freshwater Resources and International Security," International Security, 8:1, 1993, pp. 79-112.

Graeger, Nina. "Environmental Security?" International Peace Research Institute, Oslo, 36, 1996, pp. 109-116.

Levy, Marc. "Is the Environment a National Security Issue?" International Security 20, 1995 pp. 35-62

Obi, Cyril. "Globalised Images of Environmental Security in Africa" Review of African Political Economy, 2000.

Mathews, Jessica Tuchman. "Redefining Security" Foreign Affairs, Spring 1989, pp. 162-177

"Patterson, Mathew. "Interpreting Trends in Global Environmental Governance" International Affairs 75:4, pp. 793-802.

Rodrigues, Maria Guadalupe Moog. "Advocating for the Environment" Environment, 2004

Rooch, Philippe and Franz Xaver Perrez. "International Environmental Governance: The Strive Towards a Comprehensive, Coherent, and Efficient Environmental Regime" Colorado Journal of Environment and Policy <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universie/document>

“Why the World is Not Running Out of Oil” The Economist April 30, 2005

Recommended Readings

Commoner, Barry. Making Peace with the Planet The New Press: New York, 1992.

Dolsak, Nives and Elinor Ostrom. The Commons in the New Millennium ed. MIT Press: Cambridge, 2003.

Dougherty, James E. and Robert L. Pfaltzgraff, Jr. ed. Contending Theories of International Relations A Comprehensive Survey, Addison Wesley Longman: New York, 2001

“A Survey of Water” The Economist, July 2003.

Duncan, Brack. “Balancing Trade and the Environment,” International Affairs 71:3 July 1995

Kukk, Christopher L. “At the Water’s Edge: Regional Conflict and Cooperation over Freshwater” UCLA Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs (1996)

Haas, Peter. “Do Regimes Matter? Epistemic Communities and Mediterranean Pollution Control,” International Organization Summer 1989.

Hardin, Garret. Living Within Limits: Ecology, Economics, and Population Taboos New York: Oxford University Press, 1994

Postel, Sandra. The Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity W.W. Norton Publishers, New York 1997.

Simon, Paul Tapped Out The Coming World Crisis in Water and What We Can Do About It, National Press: Washington D.C. 1998

Thomas Homer-Dixon and Jessica Blitt, eds. Ecoviolence (Laham: Rowan and Littlefield), 1998.

Young, Oren R. Resource Regimes: Natural Resources and Social Institutions (Berkley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1982.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Since this is a seminar class, you are expected to attend each class as well as contribute to the class discussions. The central requirements for this class will be a research paper (approximately, 20-25 pages). Additionally, students will critique the literature and make 2, 10-15 minute presentations on the assigned readings (one article per presentation).

Students will also write 4, 5 page papers about the specific readings. This means students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a specific article and then relate how a specific article relates to the overall field of ecological security and the global environment. These papers are critiques, not summaries. When assigned, students will place their papers on Blackboard. (24 hours prior to their presentation). Additionally, each student should submit to me two weekly questions that addresses the readings.

You are also expected to follow the daily international news and pay particular attention to news relating to the topics covered in this syllabus. Good and free online sources include the New York Times (nytimes.com), the international Herald Tribune (iht.com), CNN (cnn.com), the Washington Post, (washingtonpost.com), and the Los Angeles Times, (latimes.com). Besides reading the headlines, you should consult the Opinion Page of these papers for different perspectives on international events

GRADING SYSTEM

Term Paper – 40%

2 oral presentations – 20%

4 written reports – 30%

Class participation-10%

Guidelines for Writing the Research Paper

1. Paper topics will be assigned in class
2. Papers should include a title page and pagination
3. All papers should start with a statement of purpose
4. Typewritten original should be handed in. Research notes and **a photocopy** of paper must be made available by student upon professor's request. Students should familiarize themselves with University standards on **plagiarism** and academic integrity
5. Papers should be double spaced and approximately 20-25 pages in length (excluding title page, endnote page, and bibliography).
6. Citations Must be placed in endnotes (not footnotes) according to the guidelines specified in the **Chicago Manual of Style** or **MLA**
7. A bibliography Must be included at the end of the paper
8. All papers must be stapled – please do not place papers in any kind of plastic or other covering
9. Papers are due by Dec 14, 5:00 p.m.
10. Late papers will be downgraded accordingly

DEFINING ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

August 22 – Introduction and course overview – Defining ecological security and theoretical overview

Aug. 24 Deudney, pp. 1-22 “Mapping Contested Grounds” and Levy “Is the Environment a National Security Issue,” International Security pp. 35-62

(Blackboard)

Aug 26- “Bringing Nature Back In”, Deudney, pp. 25-57, Tuchman, “Redefining Security” Foreign Affairs, pp. 162-177 (Blackboard)

Aug 29-31 “Threshold of Turmoil, Deudney, pp. 61-89, Broda-Bahm, “Finding Protection in Definitions: The Quest for Environmental Security,” Argumentation and Advocacy, Spring 1999 (Blackboard)

Sept 7 – “A Realist’s Conceptual Definition of Environmental Security”, Deudney, pp. 91-108, Foster, “Environmental Security: The Search for Strategic Legitimacy,” Armed Forces and Society, pp. 159-170.

Sept. 12- **GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**

Davidson, “Understanding Environmental Governance: A Critical Review,” Organization and Environment, pp.471-493 and Patterson, “Interpreting Trends in Global Environmental Governance” International Affairs, pp. 793-802

Rodrigues “Advocating for the Environment,” Environment, 2004, pp. 14-25 (Blackboard) and Rooch, “International Environmental Governance: The Strive Towards a Comprehensive, Coherent, and Efficient Environmental Regime” Colorado Journal of Environment and Policy, <http://web.lexisnexis.com/universie/document>

Sept. 14 “The Case for DOD Involvement in Environmental Security, ” Deudney, pp. 109-126 and the Case for Comprehensive Security,” Deudney pp. 127-154.

Sept. 19 “The Environment as Geopolitical Threat” Dalby, pp. 21-40 (ON RESERVE)

Sept. 21 Dalby, “Imperial Legacies, Indigenous Lives” and Shadows, Footprints, and Environmental Space”, pp. 83-121 (On Reserve)

Sept. 26-28 “Threats from the South? Geopolitics, Equity, and Environmental Security”, Deudney, pp. 155-185, Obi, “Globalised Images of Environmental Security in Africa,” Review of African Political Economy, pp. 47-62 (Blackboard)

Oct. 3-5 “Environmental Security A Critique”, Deudney, pp. 187-219 and “Ecology and Security Studies” and “Securing What Future” in Dalby, pp. 143-184

Resource Scarcity (Renewable and Finite Resources)

OIL

Oct. 10, "Oil, Geography, and War, The Competitive Pursuit of the Petroleum Industry," Klare, pp.27-50

Oct 12 "Oil Conflict in the Persian Gulf" Klare, pp. 51-80 Drum, "Crude Awakening" The Atlantic Monthly, 2005, pp. 38-43 and "Why the World is Not Running Out of Oil" The Economist, 2005 (ON RESERVE)

ENERGY

Oct. 17 "Energy Conflict in the Caspian Sea Basin" and Oil Wars in the South China Sea Basin" , Klare pp. 81-131

Oct 19 "Energy, Security, and Cooperation over the Next Quarter Century", Pirages, pp. 105-126.

WATER

Oct. 24 "Water and Conflict, Freshwater Resources and International Security" International Security (1993), pp. 79-12

Oct. 26 "Transboundary Resource Disputes and Their Resolution, Deudney, pp. 223-245, "Global Water Prospects, Conca in Pirages, pp. 59-81.

Oct. 31- "Water Conflict in the Nile River Basin," and Water Conflict in the Jordan, Tigris-Euphrates, and Indus River Basins, pp. 138-189

MINERAL SCARCITY AND FOOD POLICY

Nov. 2 - "Fighting for the Riches of the Earth: Internal Wars over Minerals and Timber", Klare, pp. 190-212

Marc J. Cohen, "Food Policy: Underfed or Overfed," in Pirages, pp. 83-103

STUDENT REPORT UPDATES

Nov. 7, 9 – Student updates on their overall research project

POPULATION GROWTH – CRITIQUING THE MALTHUSIAN PERSPECTIVE

Nov. 14 "Imminent Political Conflicts Arising from China's Population Crisis", Deudney, pp.247-266 and Pirages, " Reflections on and Aging Global Population, Pirages, pp. 40-57.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Nov. 16- “Future Socioeconomic and Political Challenges of Global Climate Change,” Pirages, pp. 145-186

Nov. 21-23 – “Forest Degradation and Biodiversity and Ecological Security,” Pirages pp. 187-215 “Forest Degradation, the Timber Trade, and Tropical Region Plantations,

UNDERSTANDING THE SUSTAINABILITY – ECOLOGICAL SECURITY CONNECTION

Nov. 28 Twenty-Nine Days: Responding to a Finite World, Pirages, pp. 217-226, .
“The Sustainability Debate” in Conca, pp. 229-282, Deudney, pp. 291-301

Nov. 30 – **Student Presentations on Research Papers**

Dec 9 – Term Papers due at 5:00 p.m.

The Global Water Crisis - Useful Links & Documentation

American Water - home page - <http://www.amwater.com>

BBC News - the water crisis - <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

CSIS / Global Strategy Institute - global water futures - <http://www.csis.org>

Desert Research Institute - Nevada research campus - <http://www.dri.edu>

Environmental News Network - water news page - <http://www.enn.com>

Friends of the Earth Middle East - grassroots environmental organization - <http://www.foeme.org>

Parade - The World Water Crisis - <http://archive.parade.com>

Public Citizen - nonprofit consumer advocacy organization - <http://www.citizen.org>

RWE Thames Water - home page - <http://www.rwethameswater.com>

Sandia National Laboratories - water initiative - <http://www.sandia.gov>

The Pacific Institute - nonpartisan think-tank's home page - <http://www.pacinst.org>

United Nations Environment / Water Programme - <http://www.unep.org>

Voice Of America / Water For Life Special Report - <http://www.voanews.com>

WaterAid America - home page - <http://www.wateraid.org>

WaterConserve Up-To-Date Water News Portal - <http://www.waterconserve.info>

World Water - information web site about water - <http://www.worldwater.org>

NRRI - The 2nd National Drinking Water Symposium (pdf file) - <http://www.nawc.org>

Running Dry - press kit (pdf file) - <http://www.runningdry.org>

C-SPAN - Interview with Jim Thebaut (DVD / VHS) - <http://www.c-spanstore.org>

The Global Water Crisis - Issues from around the world

BBC News - The water debate - <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Iran-e-sabz.org - Report about Iranian water supplies - <http://www.iran-e-sabz.org>

BBC News - Water in Iraq - <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Australia news.com.au - No water for Queensland? - <http://www.news.com.au>

BBC News - Water shortage in Sydney - <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Energy Bulletin - Water in Africa - <http://www.energybulletin.net>

BBC News - Court battle looming in Tanzania -
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4558725.stm>

Indianz.com - Report on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe water crisis -
<http://www.indianz.com>

VOA - Finding solutions in India - <http://www.voanews.com>

World Wildlife Foundation - Himalayan glaciers shrinking - <http://www.panda.org>

MSNBC - Crisis on the mighty Colorado? - <http://www.msnbc.msn.com>

Maui Weekly - A water shortage in "Paradise"? - <http://www.mauiweekly.com>

China Daily - Water Forecast for China - <http://www.chinadaily.com>