

Fall 2014

**Environmental Politics and Institutional Innovation
POLS 404a/ PB AF 499a
Professor Aseem Prakash**

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday, 2:30-4:20
Class Location: Savery 158
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office: Political Science, Gowen 39
Email: aseem at uw.edu

Course Objectives

Environmental problems differ in their scope, scale, complexity, and severity. While governmental regulations remain the main vehicle for environmental governance across the globe, in the last two decades, a host of new institutional mechanisms have emerged. These include market-based mechanisms, information-based policies such as eco-labels, and voluntary programs. Alongside governments, businesses and NGOs have emerged as important institutional actors in sponsoring these new mechanisms.

How individuals respond to environmental challenges depends on many factors including their personal and community characteristics, collective action issues, consumption patterns, and the political, economic, and social institutions in which they are embedded. This course will explore the role of different actors – governments, firms, and NGOs, across different dimension of environmental issues such as energy policy, renewables, business response to climate change, environmental politics in China and the EU, community solutions to environmental challenges, and the environment-population-consumption debate.

Readings

I will post the readings on Canvas.

Course Expectations

This course requires active student participation. I expect you to energetically and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions in the following ways:

(1) Articles

For every session, students will present and evaluate the assigned articles. For each article, the assigned discussant-presenter should prepare a two page (single-spaced) “Article Memo” which summarizes the article, examines its analytic strengths and weaknesses (in terms of logical clarity and consistency and the empirical support for the claims), and, if appropriate, identifies its practical implications (how might this help a public, private, or nonprofit manager in her tasks).

Please email this memo to me prior to the class: if you are presenting an article assigned for say the October 4 class, please email it to me by October 3, 12:00 noon. I will post your memo to the class email list. The discussant-presenter should budget about 10 minutes for the in-class oral presentation. You don’t need a power point presentation; an oral presentation would suffice.

(2) Key Questions

I expect course participants to review all the assigned readings prior to the class. Based on these readings, email me a couple of questions or issues you want to discuss in the class (students assigned a specific article will not do so; they will email their “Article Memo” only). Briefly explain how these questions contribute to our understanding of the article under discussion. Your “Key Questions Memo” should be about one page (single-spaced). This memo will also be posted to the class email list.

Eco-Labels Project

Do consumers appreciate their contribution to environmental problems? Are they willing to change their consumption patterns if provided with appropriate information? Do businesses believe that they will be rewarded for environmental stewardship should they be able to communicate their stewardship commitments to consumers and other stakeholders? Eco-labels are an institutional innovation in response to above concerns. Tet, they show considerable variations in their design and efficacy. You will work on a project to systematically study this important institutional innovation.

For a partial listing of these labels see: <<http://www.ecolabelindex.com/ecolabels/>> and <http://pdf.wri.org/2010_global_ecolabel_monitor.pdf>.

Please select two eco-labels that address the same environmental issues and compare them on the following dimensions:

- What aspects of firms’ environmental policy or performance do these label cover,
- How stringent are their obligations,
- How are their obligations enforced,
- Why should citizens trust their claims, and
- How do they create tangible benefits for firms and citizens.

Deliverables

- Five page report (single spaced) to be turned in on the last day of the class
- 20 minute, in-class presentation.

Evaluation

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| Article Memos: | 30 points |
| Key Questions: | 20 points |
| Eco-Labels project: | 30 points |
| Class Participation: | 20 points |
| Total: | 100 points |

Schedule

Session 1

Wednesday, September 24

Hello and Welcome

Session 2

Monday, September 29

Conceptualizing the challenge

- Garret Hardin. 1968. Tragedy of the Commons. *Science*. 162:1243-1248.
- Terry Anderson and Donald Leal. 1992. Free market versus Political Environmentalism. *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*. 15(2).
- Michael Blumm. 1992. The Fallacies of Free Market Environmentalism. *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*. 15(2).

Session 3

Wednesday, October 1

Consumption and Population

- *National Geographic*. 2014. As World's Population Booms, Will Its Resources Be Enough for Us? <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/09/140920-population-11billion-demographics-anthropocene/>
- Diana Coole. 2013. Too Many Bodies? The Return and Disavowal of the Population Question. *Environmental Politics*. 22(2): 195-215.
- So Young Kim. and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias. 2014. Cross-National Public Opinion on Climate Change: The Effects of Affluence and Vulnerability. *Global Environmental Politics*. 14(1): 79-106.
- Johanna Wolf, Katrina Brown & Declan Conway. 2009. Ecological Citizenship and Climate change. *Environmental Politics*. 18(4).

Session 4**Monday, October 6**Commons and Community Management

- Elinor Ostrom. 1990. *Governing the Commons*. Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1.
- Arun Agrawal and Clark Gibson. 1999. Enchantment and Disenchantment: The Role of Community in Natural Resource Conservation. *World Development*. 27(4): 629–649.
- Anke Fischera, , Dereje Tadesse Wakjirab, Yitbarek Tibebe Weldesemaetb, Zelealem Tefera Ashenafib. 2014. On the Interplay of Actors in the Co-Management of Natural Resources. *World Development*. 64(December): 158–168.

Session 5**Wednesday, October 8**Governmental Intervention

- Michael Porter and Class van der Linde. 1995. Towards a New Conception of the Environment- Competitiveness Relationship. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 9: 97-118.
- Daniel Cole and Peter Grossman. 1999. When is Command-and-Control Efficient: Institutions, Technology, and the Comparative Efficiency of Alternative Regulatory Regimes for Environmental Protection. *Wisconsin Law Review*. (pages 887-894, 910-935 only).
- Forrest Fleischman. 2014. Why do Foresters Plant Trees? Testing Theories of Bureaucratic Decision-Making in Central India. *World Development*. 62: 62–74.
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Session 6**Monday, October 13**Precaution and Cost-Benefit Analysis

- T. O’Riordan and A. Jordan. 1995. The Precautionary Principle in Contemporary Environmental Politics. *Environmental Values*. 4: 191-212.
- Cass Sunstein. 2003. Beyond the Precautionary Principle. *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*.
- P.A. Diamond and J.A. Hausman 1994. Contingent Valuation: Is Some Number Better than No Number? *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 8(4): 45-64.

Session 7**Wednesday, October 15**Climate Change: The Australian Case

- Adma Lucas. The Role of Beyond Zero Emissions in Australian Climate Debate.
- Verity Burgmann. Imagining the End of Capitalism: The Practical-political Value of Utopian Thinking for the Climate Movement.
- Stephen McGrail. A Review of Roadmaps for Transitioning to a Zero Carbon Built Environment in Australia.

Session 8**Monday, October 20**Energy Security

- Christian Winzer. 2012. Conceptualizing Energy Security. *Energy Policy*. 46(July): 36–48.
- Rainer Hillebrand. 2013. Climate Protection, Energy Security, and Germany's Policy of Ecological Modernisation. *Environmental Politics*. 22(4): 664-682.
- Jack D. Sharples. 2013. Russian Approaches to Energy Security and Climate Change: Russian Gas Exports to the EU. *Environmental Politics*. 22(4): 683-700.

Session 9**Wednesday, October 22**Zoos and Eco Tourism

- Mazur and Clark, Zoos and Conservation: Policy Making and Organizational Challenges
- Jessica Coria, Enrique Calfucura. 2012. Ecotourism and the development of indigenous communities: The good, the bad, and the ugly. *Ecological Economics*.

Session 10**Monday, October 27**Corporate Response to Climate Change

- Sandra Rothenberg and David Levy. 2012. Corporate Perceptions of Climate Science: The Role of Corporate Environmental Scientists. *Business & Society*. 51: 31-61.
- Bettina Furrer, Jens Hamprecht, and Volker H. Hoffmann. 2012. Much Ado About Nothing? How Banks Respond to Climate Change. *Business & Society*. 51: 62-88.
- Jason Thistlethwaite. 2011. The Climate Wise Principles: Self-Regulating Climate Change Risks in the Insurance Sector. *Business & Society*. 51: 121-147.

Session 11**Wednesday, October 29**New Energy Sources

- Matthew Cole and Robert Elliott. 2014. Climate Change, Hydro-Dependency, and the African Dam Boom. *World Development*. 60: 84–98.
- Howard Rogers. 2011. Shale gas—the unfolding story. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*. 27 (1): 117-143.
- Brice Laurent. 2014. The Politics of European Agencements: Constructing a Market of Sustainable Biofuels, *Environmental Politics*.

Session 12**Monday, November 3**New Dimensions of Climate Politics

- Nardia Haigh and Andrew Griffiths. 2012. Surprise as a Catalyst for Including Climatic Change in the Strategic Environment. *Business & Society*. 51: 89-120.
- Paul G. Harris. and Jonathan Symons. 2013. Norm Conflict in Climate Governance: Greenhouse Gas Accounting and the Problem of Consumption. *Global Environmental Politics*. 13(1): 9-29.
- Lisa Vanhala. 2013. The Comparative Politics of Courts and Climate Change. *Environmental Politics*. 22(3): 447-474.

Session 13**Wednesday, November 5**Voluntary Regulation

- Aseem Prakash and Matthew Potoski. 2006. Collective Action through Voluntary Environmental Programs. *Policy Studies Journal*. 35(4): 773-792.
- Lars Gulbrandsen. 2009. The Emergence and Effectiveness of the Marine Stewardship Council. *Marine Policy*. 33, 654–660.
- Magali Delmas and Laura Grant. 2010. Eco-Labeling Strategies and Price-Premium: The Wine Industry Puzzle. *Business & Society*.

Session 14**Monday, November 10**Voters and Politics

- Christine M. Moser. 2014. Voter Response to Conservation Policies in Madagascar. *World Development*. 64 (December): 93–103.
- Aksel Sundströma and Aaron M. McCrigh. 2014. Gender Differences in Environmental Concern among Swedish Citizens and Politicians. *Environmental Politics*.
- Peter J. Jacquesa, Riley E. Dunlap & Mark Freema. 2014. The Organisation of Denial: Conservative Think Tanks and Environmental Skepticism. *Environmental Politics*

Session 15**Wednesday, November 12**Public Opinion and Agenda setting

- H. Whitt Kilburn. 2014. Religion and Foundations of American Public Opinion towards Global Climate Change. *Environmental Politics*
- Sarah Pralle. 2009. Agenda Setting and Climate Change. *Environmental Politics*
- Sebastiaan Princen & Mark Rhinard. 2006. Crashing and Creeping: Agenda-Setting Dynamics in the European Union. *Journal of European Public Policy*.

Session 16**Monday, November 17**NGO Advocacy

- Michael John Bloomfield. 2014. Shame Campaigns and Environmental Justice: Corporate Shaming as Activist Strategy. *Environmental Politics*.
- van Huijstee, Mariette; Pollock, Leo; Glasbergen, Pieter; Leroy, Pieter. 2011. Challenges for NGOs Partnering with Corporations: WWF Netherlands and the Environmental Defense Fund. *Environmental Values*. 20(1): 43-74.
- Zhan, X. and Tang, S-Y. 2013. Political Opportunities, Resource Constraints, and Policy Advocacy of Environmental NGOs in China. *Public Administration*. 91(2): 381-399.

Session 17**Wednesday, November 19**Authoritarianism and the Environment: The Case of China

- Bruce Gilleya. 2012. Authoritarian Environmentalism and China's Response to Climate Change. *Environmental Politics*. 21(2): 287-307.
- Sott Moore. 2014. Modernisation, Authoritarianism, and the Environment: The Politics of China's South-North Water Transfer Project. *Environmental Politics*.
- Phillip Stalley. 2013. Principled Strategy: The Role of Equity Norms in China's Climate Change Diplomacy. *Global Environmental Politics* 13(1): 1-8.

Session 18**Monday, November 24**New Environmental Superpower?

- Anu Bradford. 2013. The Brussels Effect. *Northwestern University Law Review* (pages 2-46 only).
- Alexandra Lindenthala. 2014. Aviation and Climate Protection: EU Leadership within the International Civil Aviation Organization. *Environmental Politics*.
- Patrick Müller & Peter Slominsk. 2013. Agree Now – Pay Later: Escaping the Joint Decision Trap in the Evolution of the EU Emission Trading. *Journal of European Public Policy*. 20(10).

Session 19**Wednesday, November 26***In-Class presentations***Session 20****Monday, December 1***In-class presentations***Session 22****Wednesday, December 3***In-Class presentations*