

**Introduction to Environmental Studies**  
**Spring 2010**  
**46.175**

**T/Th 11:00-12:15**

**Office Hours: by appointment**

**South Campus, Room # TBA**

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**Course Description:** This course introduces environmental issues from a range of disciplines and perspectives. We begin in **Module I** with an overview of a number of classic works in the field, tracing the intellectual history of modern environmentalism to its roots. **Module II** provides an empirical underpinning for ecosystems and natural resource management. **Module III** applies these empirical tools to international issues, with an emphasis on international environmental law and policy. **Module IV** applies the theoretical, scientific, and policy expertise gained in Modules I-III to the various crises of global food policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Course wiki:** The website for this course is [ikesharpless.pbworks.com](http://ikesharpless.pbworks.com).

**Required Texts:** You must have the following texts in class as needed. I recommend that you buy these texts from a discounted used online site like [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com). The bookstore should have used copies of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Environment* and the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of *Global Environmental Politics* as well as the newer editions of each book. Either edition of each (4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> for *GEP* and 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> for *Environment*) will be acceptable for this course. However, if you are using the previous edition of either text, it will be your responsibility to identify the appropriate page numbers for each assignment.

- Pamela S. Chasek, David L. Downie, and Janet Welsh Brown. *Global Environmental Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2010). ISBN 13: 978-0813344423
- David M. Hassenzahl, Peter H. Raven and Linda R. Berg. *Environment*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. (2009). ISBN 13: 9780470118573
- Michael Keller. *Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species: A Graphic Adaptation*. ISBN 13: 978-1-60529-948-8

**Grading**

If you have any questions about whether and how a specific action will affect your grade—or about specific learning disabilities or religious holiday observance, etc.—please send me an email or talk to me directly before/after class.

Grading Scale: on all assignments, the grading scale is as follows: A 4.0 (94 and above), A- 3.7 (90 to 93), B+ 3.3 (87 to 89), B 3.0 (83 to 86), B- 2.7 (80-82), C+ 2.3 (77 to 79), C 2.0 ( to 76), C- 1.7 (70 to 72), D+ 1.3 (67 to 69), D 1.0 (63 to 66) and F (62 and below).

- Short paper (10%)
- Midterm (20%)
- Policy quiz (15%)
- Book review/critique (presentation 5%, paper 20%)
- Attendance (variable, as much as -20%)
  - I will take attendance each class. Two unexcused absences throughout the semester will be permitted, but each additional unexcused absence will lower your grade by a third of a letter.
- Participation (30%)
  - 10% of this grade will be based on from in-class participation
  - 20% of this grade will be based on student uploads to the pbworks website (you are responsible for uploading and commenting on a relevant link 10 out of 13 Thursdays—each upload will account for 2% of your grade. They will not be graded on content.)

**Note on Grading Papers:** Be sure to carefully check your work for spelling errors and grammatical flow. You can rewrite any paper if you are dissatisfied with your grade and I will average the two grades. I will also dock your assignment grade by a third of a letter grade for every unexcused calendar day (*not* class day) a paper is overdue.

**Book Critique Guidelines:** I will provide both a list of pre-approved books and paper guidelines on the pbworks page. There is no final exam for this course. Instead, this assignment is intended to allow you to seek greater depth of knowledge in a specific field or subfield that interests you. You are encouraged to select a book of your own choosing, but I will also provide a list of books that would be acceptable to critique. Any book drawn from a source other than the pre-approved list will require my approval, and cannot be a book you have read for another course.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about what does and does not constitute plagiarism, refer first to the UMass Lowell Undergraduate Catalogue under ‘Academic Integrity’. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by email, phone, or in person. I would much prefer to clarify a small confusion than be forced to give you a failing grade in the class.

**Citation Policy:** Use whichever standard citation format works for you (i.e., MLA, Chicago, etc.), but use the same throughout your work and be sure that all relevant information is included. If possible, include a web citation in addition to—but not instead of—a text citation. While useful for in-class queries and quick references, Wikipedia is not a valid citation source.

**Reference Bank:** In addition to the obvious quick searches available online via Wikipedia and Google, the following are all useful online reference sources. I will provide additional links to videos and news sources throughout the semester (may also be available for your perusal on the pbworks page), but the sources below are intended as general references and as a starting point for your upload assignments

### General News Media

- [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)
- [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)
- [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)
- [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
- [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)
- [www.pbs.org/newshour](http://www.pbs.org/newshour)
- [www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)
- [www.newser.com](http://www.newser.com)
- [www.odemagazine.com](http://www.odemagazine.com)
- [www.newyorker.com](http://www.newyorker.com)
- [www.onpointradio.org](http://www.onpointradio.org)
- [www.tnr.com](http://www.tnr.com)
- [www.harpers.org](http://www.harpers.org)
- [www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com)
- <http://newstimeline.googlelabs.com>
- <http://english.aljazeera.net>
- [www.newsvine.com](http://www.newsvine.com)
- <http://mondediplo.com>
- [www.motherjones.com](http://www.motherjones.com)
- [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com)

### Science

- [www.top100science.com](http://www.top100science.com)
- [www.newscientist.com](http://www.newscientist.com)
- [www.sciencedaily.com](http://www.sciencedaily.com)
- [www.sciencefriday.com](http://www.sciencefriday.com)

### University Webcasts

- <http://webcast.berkeley.edu>
- <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/web/home/home/index.htm>

### Environment (general)

- <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com>
- [www.grist.com](http://www.grist.com)
- <http://News.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature>
- Encyclopedia of Earth, [www.eoearth.org](http://www.eoearth.org)
- [www.treehugger.com](http://www.treehugger.com)
- [www.motherearthnews.com](http://www.motherearthnews.com)
- <http://gliving.com>
- <http://greenoptions.com>
- [www.greenmaven.com](http://www.greenmaven.com)
- [www.deepecology.org](http://www.deepecology.org)
- <http://lowbagger.org>
- <http://antigreen.blogspot.com>
- <http://envirowonk.com>
- [www.ecoversity.org](http://www.ecoversity.org)
- [www.alternativeconsumer.com](http://www.alternativeconsumer.com)
- <http://greenoptions.com/blogroll/>

## **Environmental Conventions**

- Fletcher Ginn Library – multilaterals project: <http://fletcher.tufts.edu/multilaterals.com>

## **International**

- UNEP, [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)
- International Institute for Environment and Development, [www.iied.org](http://www.iied.org)
- [www.globaissues.org](http://www.globaissues.org)

## **Videos (many more available at pbworks)**

- TED talks, [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)
- NOVA, [www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova)
- FRONTLINE, [www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/)

## **Short paper multimedia examples: life cycle analyses and resource use in coffee**

- TED/WWF – water use in one latte: [www.worldwildlife.org/ted/latteflash.html](http://www.worldwildlife.org/ted/latteflash.html)
- GOOD, water use chart: <http://awesome.good.is/transparency/web/trans0309walkthisway.html>
- Starbucks and McDonald's chart: <http://www.princeton.edu/~ina/infographics/starbucks.html>
- [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com)

## **Course Outline**

**\*nota bene – reading assignments are subject to revision anytime up to the class prior to their assignment. If you miss a class, be sure to verify the next day's readings by checking the pbworks website.**

**Tues. Jan. 26 – Introductions, class policies, and course outline**

### **MODULE I: Classics**

**Thur. Jan. 28 – The Early Origins of Environmentalism**

- [required] Keller/Darwin, “On the Origin of Species” pp. 41-103
- [optional] Malthus, T.R., “An Essay on the Principle of Population”, preface and chapters 1 and 2, available at <http://www.faculty.rsu.edu/~felwell/Theorists/Malthus/essay2.htm>
- [optional] Darwin, Charles, “On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection”, chapter 14, “Recapitulation and Conclusion”, available at <http://www.literature.org/authors/darwincharles/the-origin-of-species/chapter-14.html>

**Tues. Feb. 2 – Darwin, day 2**

- Keller/Darwin, “On the Origin of Species” pp. 105-189
- [optional texts useful here too...]

**Thur. Feb. 4 – Collective Action Problems and Western Anthropocentrism**

- Hardin, Garrett, “The Tragedy of the Commons”, available at [http://www.garretthardinsociety.org/articles/art\\_tragedy\\_of\\_the\\_commons.html](http://www.garretthardinsociety.org/articles/art_tragedy_of_the_commons.html)
- White, Lynn Jr., “The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis”, available on the pbworks course documents page
- World Commission on Environment and Development, “Our Common Future”, chairman’s forward, available at <http://www.un-documents.net/ocf-htm>

**Tues. Feb. 9 – Other Trends: Environmentalism in the Global South**

- Vandana Shiva, *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development*. Forward, introduction, and chapter 1, available on Google Books at <http://tinyurl.com/ml5lkz>

**Thur. Feb. 11 – Other Trends: Animal Liberation and Deep Ecology**

- Peter Singer, "Animal Liberation at 30": <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/16276>
- Aldo Leopold, "Thinking Like a Mountain": <http://www.eco-action.org/dt/thinking.html>
- Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic": <http://home.btconnect.com/tipiglen/landethic.html>

**MODULE II: Environmental Science**

**Thur. Feb. 18 – Introducing Environmental Science**

- Raven *et al*, chapters 1 and 2

**Tues. Feb. 23 – Ecosystems**

- Raven *et al*, chapters 3-6, selected passages

**Thurs. Feb. 25 – Population and the Urban Environment**

- Raven *et al*, chapters 8-10, selected passages

**Tues. Mar. 2 – Energy**

- Raven *et al*, chapters 11-13, selected passages

**Thur. Mar. 4 – Resource Use**

- Raven *et al*, chapters 14-16 and 18, selected passages
- Short paper due (assignment on pbworks page)

**Tues. Mar. 9 – Climate Change**

- Raven *et al*, chapter 21

**Thur. Mar. 11 – Biodiversity and the ‘animal issue’ revisited**

- Raven *et al*, chapter 17
- John Berger, “Why Look at Animals”, available on the pbworks web page

**Tues. Mar. 23 – Midterm**

**MODULE III: International Environmental Policy**

**Thur. Mar. 25 – Introducing Global Environmental Politics**

- Chasek *et al*, chapter 1
- Begin thinking about a book to use for your book critique

**Tues. Mar. 30 – The Actors on the World Stage**

- Chasek *et al*, chapter 2

**Thur. Apr. 1 – Cases, day 1: Toxics, chemicals, Wastes**

- Chasek *et al*, chapter 3

**Tues. Apr. 6 – Cases, day 2: Atmosphere, Ozone, Climate Change**

- Chasek *et al*, chapter 4

**Thur. Apr. 8 – Cases, day 3: Resources, Species, Habitats**

- Chasek *et al*, chapter 5

**Tues. Apr. 13 – Global Environmental Politics in Context (focus on Ecolabeling)**

- Chasek *et al*, chapters 6-8, selected passages

**Thurs. Apr. 15 – Focus on: Corporate Social Responsibility**

- “Corporate Social Responsibility: Just good business”, *The Economist*, January 17 2008. Available on the pbworks course documents page
- McDonald’s “Worldwide Corporate Responsibility Report: Responsible Food for a Sustainable Future, 2008 Highlights”, available on the pbworks course documents page.

**Tues. Apr. 20 – Policy Quiz**

## MODULE IV: Global Food Policy

### Thur. Apr. 22 – The food system is broken...

- Michael Pollan, "Farmer in Chief": [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html?_r=1)
- Bryan Walsh, "Getting Real About the High Price of Cheap Food": <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1917458,00.html>

### Tues. Apr. 27 – But how to fix it?

- "The Omnivore's Delusion: Against the Agri-Intellectuals": [http://www.american.com/archive/2009/july/the-omnivore2019s-delusion-against-the-agri-intellectuals/article\\_print](http://www.american.com/archive/2009/july/the-omnivore2019s-delusion-against-the-agri-intellectuals/article_print)
- "Spoiled: Organic and Local is so 2008": <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2009/02/spoiled-organic-and-local-so-2008>
- Nicolle Hahn Niman, "The Carnivore's Dilemma": <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/31/opinion>

### Thur. Apr. 29 – Spotlight on Animal Agriculture

- *Livestock's Long Shadow* (influential FAO report): read at least the executive summary (pp. 22-26): <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a0701e/A0701E00.pdf>
- "As more eat meat, a bid to cut emissions" (NYT article): [As More Eat Meat, A Bit to Curb Emissions.pdf](#)
- "Sweden looks to diet to cut global warming" (NYT, Oct 23 2009): <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/23/world/europe/23degrees.html>
- Also read the "case for eating dogs" passage from this npr story on Jonathan Safran Foer's new book, *Eating Animals*: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=114298495&ft=1&f=2>

### Tues. May 4 – PowerPoint on Crop Biotech, Aquaculture, and Animal Agriculture

- No reading: prep for student presentations

### Thurs. May 6 – Student book critique presentations

### Tues. May 11 – Book Review / Critique Discussion and Course Recap