

Prof. Paul Steinberg
 Political Studies 114
 Harvey Mudd College
 Office hours by appointment (Parsons 1280)

Mon/Wed 1:15-2:30
 Room: Parsons 1264
 Spring 2012

COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

This course examines one of the most remarkable political developments of the past century: the rise, within a single generation, of environmental concern and associated social movements and public policies in far-flung societies around the globe. What was once the preoccupation of small numbers of citizens in wealthy countries has become a major global trend inspiring political action from Rio to Budapest, Hong Kong, Lagos, and Tehran.

This affords us several opportunities. First, we will switch from the wide-angle lens of "Saving the Planet" – symbolized by the image of Earth seen from outer space – to take a closer look at the political challenges faced by environmental advocates in diverse domestic settings. Specific topics include comparative political systems, policymaking styles, changes in values, environmental movements, state-society relations, authoritarian regimes, democratization, resource conflicts, lesson-learning across borders, policy reform, gender analysis, and European unification. We will also use the environment as a window into broader themes in comparative politics – the subfield of political science that compares domestic politics around the world. Students will learn how to work more effectively in foreign settings by assessing the political context in which technological and policy innovations are applied. Finally, the subject allows us to study one of the leading edges of environmental research as it unfolds, lending insight into the practice of professional research.

Required Texts

Paul F. Steinberg and Stacy D. VanDeveer (eds.), *Comparative Environmental Politics: Theory, Practice, and Prospects*, MIT Press, 2012.

Merilee S. Grindle and John W. Thomas, *Public Choices and Policy Change: The Political Economy of Reform in Developing Countries*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Yok-shiu F. Lee and Alvin Y. So (eds.), *Asia's Environmental Movements: Comparative Perspectives*, M.E. Sharpe, 1999.

Paul F. Steinberg, *Environmental Leadership in Developing Countries: Transnational Relations and Biodiversity Policy in Costa Rica and Bolivia*, MIT Press, 2001.

Judith Shapiro, *Mao's War against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.

All other readings are available in a reader that can be purchased from the instructor.

Course Requirements

Quizzes (2)	20 %
Class participation	20 %
Midterm	25 %
Institutional landscape	
Individual product	20 %
Group product	15 %

Extra credit: student panels and environmental news updates

Introduction and Course Overview

Jan 18 Wednesday

Readings:

Steinberg and VanDeveer, Chapter 1: Comparative Environmental Politics: An Introduction, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

Greening the Nation-State

Jan 23 Monday

Readings:

Clifford Geertz, Countries, pp. 21-25 only, in *After the Fact: Two Countries, Four Decades, One Anthropologist*, Harvard University Press, 1995.

James Meadowcroft, *Greening the State?*, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

World Bank, *World Development Report 2010*, Oxford University Press, 2010. Statistical annex only – study Table 1 (not A1) pp. 378-9. Available on Sakai. Optional: other tables in annex.

Comparing Policy Styles

Jan 25 Wednesday

Readings:

Sheila Jasanoff (1990) American Exceptionalism and the Political Acknowledgement of Risk, *Daedalus* 119(4):61-81.

James Q. Wilson, National Differences, pp. 295-312 in Wilson, *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*, BasicBooks, 1989.

Suggested: Nigel Williams (1998) Agricultural Biotech Faces Backlash in Europe. *Science* 281:768–771.

Jan 30 Monday

Readings:

Grindle and Thomas, *Public Choices and Policy Change*, chapter 3.

Paul F. Steinberg, Welcome to the Jungle: Policy Theory and Political Instability, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

Feb 1 Wednesday

Readings:

Howard Husock, *Executive-Led Government and Hong Kong's Legislative Council: Debating Harbor Protection*, Case Study 1431.0 (A) and 1431.0 (B), Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Sharing Policy Innovations Across Borders

Feb 6 Monday

Readings:

⇒ Map quiz.

No readings. This week meet with your group outside class to discuss landscape assignment.

Comparing Public Opinion on the Environment

Feb 8 Wednesday

Readings:

Environmental Leadership in Developing Countries, chapter 2.

Suggested: Riley Dunlap and Herbert York, The Globalization of Environmental Concern, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

⇒ Student volunteer teams present oral summaries of the following articles (available on Sakai):

Anthony Downs (1972) Up and Down with Ecology – the “Issue-Attention Cycle,” *The Public Interest* 28:38-50.

Leiserowitz, Maibach, and Roser-Renouf (2010) *Global Warming’s Six Americas*. New Haven, CT: Yale Project on Climate Change. (Optional: see Yale Project's website for additional materials.)

Ramachandra Guha (1989) Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique, *Environmental Ethics* 11(1):71-83.

Summary of news (search internet) for the April 2010 “World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth” held in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Changing Social Values

Feb 13 Monday

Readings:

Environmental Leadership in Developing Countries, chapter 6.

Jonah Sachs and Susan Finkelpearl. From Selling Soap to Selling Sustainability: Social Marketing. In *State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures – From Consumerism to Sustainability*. Worldwatch Institute, Washington DC, 2010.

Environmental Movements

Feb 15 Wednesday

Readings:

Robert Gottlieb, Chapter 3: The Sixties Rebellion, in *Forcing the Spring: The Transformation of the American Environmental Movement*, Island Press, 1993.

Kate O'Neill, The Comparative Study of Environmental Movements, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

Feb 20 Monday

Readings:

Asia’s Environmental Movements, Chapters 8 and 10.

⇒ Group work on institutional landscapes. Meet in computing space in Sprague building.

Gender Politics

Feb 22 Wednesday

Readings:

Linda Mayoux (1995) Beyond Naivety: Women, Gender Inequality and Participatory Development, *Development and Change* 26:235-258.

Connie Campbell, in collaboration with the Women's Groups of Xapuri, Out on the Front Lines But Still Struggling for Voice: Women in the Rubber Tappers' Defense of the Forest in Xapuri, Acre, Brazil, pp. 27-61 in Dianne Rocheleau, Barbara Thomas-Slayter, and Esther Wangari (eds.) *Feminist Political Ecology: Global Issues and Local Experiences*, Routledge, 1996.

Feb 27 Monday

⇒ Midterm

Feb 29 Wednesday

Group work on institutional landscapes. Meet in computing space in Sprague building.

Environmental Management under Authoritarian Regimes

March 5 Monday

Readings:

Mao's War Against Nature. Introduction and chapters 1 and 2.

Suggested: Jeannie Sowers, Institutional Change in Authoritarian Regimes: Water and the State in Egypt, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

March 7 Wednesday

Readings:

Nancy Lee Peluso, Coercing Conservation: The Politics of State Resource Control, pp. 343-352 in Ronnie D. Lipschutz and Ken Conca (eds.), *The State and Social Power in Global Environmental Politics*, Columbia University Press, 1993.

⇒ Assignment on environment and human rights. Student teams present summaries of news searches.

March 10-18 Spring Break

March 19 Monday

Group work on institutional landscapes. Meet in computing space in Sprague building.

Democratization and Transitions from Authoritarian Rule

March 21 Wednesday

Readings:

Gioconda Belli, Nicaragua: The Day After the Dictator, *Los Angeles Times*, August 24, 2003.

David Carruthers (2001) Environmental Politics in Chile: Legacies of Dictatorship and Democracy. *Third World Quarterly* 22 (3): 343–358.

Asia's Environmental Movements, Chapter 9.

Suggested: Kathryn Hochstetler, Democracy and the Environment in Latin America and Eastern Europe, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

March 26 Monday

Readings to be announced.

⇒ Student panel on the 'Arab Spring' and the environment

Forces for Change: Reconciling Interests through Negotiation

March 28 Wednesday

Readings:

David A. Lax and James K. Sebenius, *The Manager as Negotiator: Bargaining for Cooperation and Competitive Gain*, Free Press, 1986. Chapters 2 and 3 (skip pp. 50 to mid-54).

Browse websites of U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (www.ecr.gov) and RESOLV (www.resolv.org)

April 2 Monday

- ⇒ Negotiation simulation during this week. Written agreements due in Sakai drop box by Saturday evening.

April 4 Wednesday

Discussion of negotiation simulation. No required readings.

Forces for Change: Corruption and Transparency

April 9 Monday

Paul Robbins (2000) The Rotten Institution: Corruption in Natural Resource Management *Political Geography* 19(4): 423–443.

Additional reading on public disclosure programs to be announced

April 11 Wednesday

Group work on institutional landscapes. Meet in computing space in Sprague building.

- ⇒ Printout of individual contributions to institutional landscapes projects due in class and on Sakai.

Forces for Change: Influencing Policy Agendas

April 16 Monday

Readings:

Public Choices and Policy Change, chapters 4 and 5.

Environmental Leadership in Developing Countries, chapter 5.

- ⇒ Quiz on post-midterm readings.

Suggested: Paul F. Steinberg, Feasible Worlds, in *Who Rules the Earth? How Social Rules Shape our Planet and Our Lives*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

Scaling Up, Scaling Down

April 18 Wednesday

Henrik Selin and Stacy D. VanDeveer, Federalism, Multilevel Governance and Climate Change Politics across the Atlantic, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

Arun Agrawal, Local Institutions and the Governance of Forest Commons, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

Suggested: R. Daniel Kelemen and David Vogel (2010) Trading Places: The Role of the United States and the European Union in International Environmental Politics. *Comparative Political Studies* (43)4: 427-456; Liliana B. Andonova and Stacy D. VanDeveer, EU Expansion and the Internationalization of Environmental Politics in Central and Eastern Europe, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*; and Michael O'Neill, Political Parties and the Meaning of Greening in European Politics, in *Comparative Environmental Politics*.

April 23 Monday

- ⇒ Final institutional landscape team project due on Sakai.
- ⇒ Teams present oral summaries of projects.

Future Trends

April 25 Wednesday

No required readings.