

POLS 2560A: Introduction to International Environmental Politics (95791)

Tuesday & Thursday 11:40am—12:55pm Lafayette L210

Dr. Jonathan Doc Bradley.

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Office Hours: 10am-11am Tuesday and Thursday, 1pm-3pm Wednesday, or by appointment...or just email to see if I'm in.

Add:

Assignments are to be turned in on time. If you need to submit an assignment late, you need to clear it with me first. I may be willing to accept assignments late if there are extenuating circumstances, but I reserve the right to deduct points automatically from that assignment because it is late. You must keep up with the schedule and when items are due.

Not every assignment will have a clear explanation of exactly what you need to do. Life is not full of explanations. You have to figure some things out on your own.

Merely doing everything you think you are supposed to do to meet the minimum requirement of the assignment is what an average student does to earn an average grade. "A" grades are not given out for bare-minimum. If you want to be exceptional or above average then you need to turn in above average or exceptional work.

Every student has the right to contest their grade on an assignment. My door is always open. However, if you wish to contest a grade you need to do it in person within a week of the grade being listed in bright space (depending on vacations and end of the semester). You need to come to my office either during office hours or by appointment. You need to be prepared to explain why you think you earned a better grade. Do not ask me to defend the grade you have earned. Do not complain via email, or ask me for a detailed explanation over email.

Course Statement:

This course provides a foundational understanding of humankind's role in the current state of the global environment, global weather, resource management & exploitation. In particular, this course examines world governance and actors (or lack thereof), in relation to the above listed issues. This course is rooted in the scientific evidence that human-made environmental change is an existential threat, and that effective governance, coupled with cultural adaptations, can reduce the threat, and mitigate the damages.

Attention: You, the student, are responsible for all information contained in this syllabus. I maintain the right to amend this syllabus as needed to correct mistakes and, with limitations, readjust dates to meet the course needs. However, I, the professor, am also bound by the information and guidelines provided in this syllabus. We are in this together.

Sustainability (SU)

At the completion of a course fulfilling the SU: Sustainability requirement, students should be able to:

1. Have an informed conversation about the multiple dimensions and complexity of sustainability.
2. Evaluate sustainability using an evidence-based disciplinary approach and integrate economic, ecological, and social perspectives.
3. Think critically about sustainability across a diversity of cultural values and across multiple scales of relevance from local to global.
4. Recognize and assess how sustainability impacts their lives and how their actions impact sustainability.

Social Science Requirement (S1)

Students completing a course fulfilling the S1: Social Science requirement will:

1. Be able to draw on course topics, materials, and activities to *describe* how individuals, groups or institutions affect and interact with each other.
2. Be able to *identify and demonstrate understanding of* theories of human behavior, experience, institutions, or social systems addressed in the course.
3. *Recognize and evaluate* methods and processes of systematic investigation in one or more applied examples of social science research.

Text:

-O'Neill, Kate, 2016, *The Environment and International Relations, 2nd Edition* Cambridge University Press: Cambridge (Referred to in the syllabus as O'Neill and the chapter number to read.)

* Textbook has been ordered at the UVM bookstore. I don't care how you get the textbooks, as long as they are legally obtained.

*Several scholarly articles are also assigned. These can be found on the class Brightspace page.

*Not all readings match the section listed. Some readings are given early to spread them throughout the semester. Do not wait on the readings. Take notes so you can reference them later in the section they belong to.

*All readings contain testable material.

*Additional readings may be added throughout the semester as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Grades: Final Grade is Based on a 1000 Point System. (think of it as 100.0% to figuring out grade)

200 points for homeworks, 2 homeworks worth 100 points each.

250 Pamphlet for a cause, "Think Globally, Act Locally."

250 points for 1 midterm

300 points for comprehensive final

Homeworks will be due towards end of September and October

Homeworks must **typed and turned into a PDF** then submitted through Brightspace or handed in.

Do not use Google Docs to submit. Brightspace does not like Google Docs.

Midterm In October, Final in December.

Requirements:

1. **Attendance:** I am not requiring attendance. Covid has broken me. I will control your participation by only placing a portion of my slides online, and those that I place online will be stripped down. On days with low attendance, I will not place the slides online. Low attendance means more than 25% of the class is missing. About half the test comes from my slides. If you miss you will need to make arrangements with a fellow student to obtain notes. It will be hard for you to pass the class if you do not regularly attend, but every semester I have students who choose to not come to class and then fail the class. No sympathy. You volunteered to be here. Heck, you are paying to be here.
2. **Tardiness:** I loathe tardiness. Constant tardiness will not be tolerated. It is disrespectful to your fellow students, and much more importantly, it is disrespectful to me. I reserve the right to restrict access to the class if tardiness by any student(s) becomes an issue. If you have extenuating circumstances that will cause you to be consistently tardy, please contact me at the beginning of the semester about the situation. I am willing to make allowances for valid reasons.
3. **Readings:** You are expected to have all readings assigned for the week read by the first class of the week they are assigned. This means you are responsible for the readings from the textbook, the scholastic articles assigned and placed in Brightspace, and the various news articles I email to you.

4. **Examinations:** There will be two examinations this semester, a midterm and final. The midterm will be all material covered to the point of the midterm. The final will be all the material from the class. All tests will be conducted online. During the midterm, we will not have 1 class, so you have time to complete the midterm. The final will also be online. Both tests will be open for several days (usually 5), and you can take the test at any time during the open window. Once you begin the test you must finish it in one sitting. You will not be able to save the test and come back to it later. All test are open book and open note.
5. **Communications:** I believe most problems can be prevented by effective and clear communication. Expect me to be one of your most communicative professors. Never be afraid to ask me questions or request clarifications.
 - a. Email communications must be via UVM student email. Do not send an email via Google, Yahoo, or other commercial providers. I will not answer emails sent in any medium other than UVM's student email system. I have no dedicated phone line so use email for all communication.
 - b. Please avail yourself of my office hours. I am here to help you and teach you. I am thrilled by visits from students (honestly) who are seeking to learn and understand. My email address, office location, and office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus.
6. **Grading:**
 - a. 200 points for homeworks, 2 homeworks worth 100 points each.
 - b. 250 Pamphlet for a cause, "Think Globally, Act Locally."
 - c. 250 points for 1 midterm
 - d. 300 points for comprehensive final

100% - 93% = A, 92.9%-90% = A-, 89.9%-87% = B+, 86.9%-83% = B, 82.9%-80% = B-, 79.9%-77% = C+, 76.9%-72% = C, 71.9% -70% = C-, 69% - 60% = D below 60% = F

7. **Check your Grades:** Your grades will be posted on the class Brightspace after each exam and homework. If you have a question about your exam, or if the grade is entered incorrectly in Brightspace, you must contact me within 72 hours after the posting of the grade to rectify the issue. You must check your grades at the very least once a week. For the final exam, this time period is 48 hours. After these 48 hours, your final grade as shown in Brightspace will be submitted formally to the university's grading system. Final grades will not be curved. Final grades will be figured by hand. Don't rely on Brightspace math. Do the math yourself.
8. **Classroom Behavior:** Every student is entitled to a distraction-free classroom. Students may not behave in any manner that interferes with the learning of another student or my teaching. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. You must arrive and be prepared to begin class on time. **I loathe tardiness.** If late arrivals become a problem, the doors will be locked once class has started. If you have a valid reason to be tardy, please inform me at the beginning of the semester. Do not be continually tardy and then try to explain to me at the end of the semester about the reasons. I am willing to be lenient on limited tardiness if there are extenuating circumstances and I am made aware of them before they happen.
 - b. **Cell phones must be turned off and stored out of sight.** Texting, accessing the internet (without my direction), or reading email during class is absolutely prohibited and will result in your being asked to leave the classroom. Continual cell phone use during the class will result in a lowering of your class participation grade. I have no tolerance for cell phones in class. We have survived in various forms of society for 8,000 years without cell phones. You can survive for a few hours without yours. I don't even want to see them out. If they are out, I will assume you are using it and I will ask you to put it away. Unless you are a brain surgeon on call or in possession of the nuclear launch codes there is absolutely no reason you need to be talking or texting on your cell phone in our class.

- c. Laptops and tablets are allowed in class ONLY to take notes. You are not to access the internet (unless I request you to do so), check email or perform any other function on your computer that is not class related. I reserve the right to discontinue the use of all or individual electronic devices in class if they disrupt the learning environment.
- d. No “side-bar” conversations. Ignoring this rule will result in you being asked to leave the classroom. I do not tolerate students who are disruptive or inconsiderate of other students.
- e. Do not do another classes’ homework in this class. This is not your home.
- f. Recording devices are allowed in class, but each recording must be converted into an mp3 or some easily playable file and emailed to me before the next class.
- g. No food or beverages (except water in a sealable container) are allowed in the classroom.
- h. Classroom behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

Schedule: is done by weeks. You are expected to have all the readings assigned completed by the first class of the week.

Aug 29: Introduction & Start of Common Language

Read: *O’Neil Preface and Chapter 1 & 9

I don’t expect you to have anything read on the first day.

Aug 31-Sep7: Common Language & The Actors in the Arena.

Homework 1 assigned.

Read: *O’Neil Chapter 3

* Kathryn Hochstetler, and Manjana Milkoreit, 2015, “Responsibilities in transition: emerging powers in the climate change negotiations,” Global Governance,

Sep 1: Last day to add/drop without instructor permission.

Sep 12-14: The Issues Part I: The Current State of the Global Environment

Read: *O’ Neil Chapter 2

*Sprinz, 2012, “Long-Term Environmental Policy...”

*Falkner, 2003, “Private Environmental Government...” For Tools Section

*Paterson. 2009. “Post Hegemonic Climate...” For Realism in Theory

Sep 19-Oct 5: International Relations Theory as to Environmentalism

Homework 1 due via Brightspace as a PDF.

Read: *Pirages 1997 “Ecological Theory and International Relations”

* Vant 2005 Rationality, Institutions...”

*Go to these websites and read (Spread them out over the 3 weeks):

Realism: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Realism_\(international_relations\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Realism_(international_relations))

Liberalism: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism_\(international_relations\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism_(international_relations))

Constructivism: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructivism_\(international_relations\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructivism_(international_relations))

Marxism & World Systems Theory: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World-systems_theory

Green Theory: <https://www.e-ir.info/2018/01/07/green-theory-in-international-relations/>

October 10-Midterm: You are responsible for all material covered to this point. There will be no class on Oct 10. That is your testing period. The test will be conducted online. Details for the midterm will be presented in class and via email the week of October 3rd. You will have 60 minutes to take the test. The exam is open-book and open notes. The exam will consist of T/F, Multiple Choice, and Short Answer. Questions will be randomized and different for each test.

Oct 12-19: The History of Global Environmental Policy & Successes

Pamphlet Assigned

Homework 2 assigned.

- Read: *White. 1967. "Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crises..."
* Schroeder and Lovel 2012 "The Role of non-state actors"
* Sullivan & Gouldson 2016 "Corp Resp Climate Change..."

Oct 24-26: TOOLS of IEP:

- Read: *O'Neill Chapters 7.
*Bechtel and Urpelainen 2014. "All Policies are Glocal..."
*Bernhagen 2008 Business and International Agreements

Oct 31-Nov 2: Tools of IEP

Homework 2 due via Brightspace as a PDF.

- Read: *Lake Champlain Basin Program material

Nov 7-9: Tools of IEP: Environmental Policy in General International Agreements

- Read: * Additional readings and websites to visit sent via email week before class.

Nov 14-16: Tools of IEP: The United Nations and its Environmental Programme.

- Read: *O'Neill Chapters 6
* Additional readings and websites to visit sent via email week before class.

Thanksgiving Holliday: 21-25 November

UNCC COP 28 Nov 11-Dec 12

Nov 28-Dec 5: Tools of IEP: The United Nations Conference of Parties (COP)

Pamphlet Due Via Brightspace as PDF

- Read: *O'Neill Chapter 8
*Cop 1, COP21, COP27 Agreements posted on Brightspace
* Additional readings and websites to visit sent via email week before class.

Dec 7: Last Class: Let's wrap it all up.

Dec 11-14: FINAL: This final will be conducted on Brightspace. You will need to use a computer with a working internet connection. The exam will become available early Monday morning the 11th of December at Midnight (00:01) and will be open till the end of the day (11:59pm/23:59) the following Thursday the 14th of December. You will have 90 minutes to take the exam. The exam is open-book and open notes. The exam will consist of T/F, Multiple Choice, and Short Answer. Questions will be randomized and different for each test. DO NOT WORK TOGETHER. DO NOT PUT THE EXAM OFF TILL LAST MINUTE.

The Minutia

UVM's Department of Political Science Classroom Protocol:

- a) Students are expected to attend and be prepared for ALL regularly scheduled classes.
- b) Students are expected to arrive on time and stay in class until the class period ends. If a student knows in advance that the student will need to leave early, the student should notify the instructor before the class period begins.

c) Students are expected to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. For example, students must not disrupt class by leaving and reentering during class, must not distract class by making noise, and must be attentive to comments being made by the instructors and by peers.

Academic Integrity:

Remember the University of Vermont's motto: *Studiis et Rebus Honestis* ("For honorable studies and pursuits").

The University strives to provide an environment that encourages all students (undergraduate, medical, graduate, and continuing education) to learn, create, and share knowledge responsibly. As society entrusts our students and faculty to pursue knowledge and report their discoveries truthfully, any deliberate falsehood or misrepresentation undermines the stature of the University. These standards are also necessary for evaluating the quality of student work in a fair manner.

The policy addresses plagiarism, fabrication, collusion, and cheating.

<https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Policies/policies/acadintegrity.pdf> (PDF link)

Athlete Student & Academic Absences

If you are the member of a UVM recognized sports team and you need to miss class for a University sanctioned event please provide me with the relevant documentation before your absence. A simple "hey, I got a game next Monday" will not cut it. If you need to miss class for a University sanctioned academic event please provide me with the relevant documentation before your absence. A simple "hey, I got a thing next Monday" will not cut it.

Counseling & Psychiatry Services (CAPS)

Phone: (802) 656-3340

If you are concerned about a UVM community member or are concerned about a specific event, we encourage you to contact the Dean of Students Office (802-656-3380). If you would like to remain anonymous, you can report your concerns online by visiting the Dean of Students website at

<https://www.uvm.edu/deanofstudents>.

Counseling and Psychiatry Services: <https://www.uvm.edu/health/CAPS>

There is honor in seeking help and fools refuse it when they need it. And hopefully you will never need this, but it is better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it: The Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-8255.

Course Evaluation

All students are expected to complete an evaluation of the course at its conclusion. These evaluations are anonymous and confidential. They are important for faculty to consider when designing and improving courses, and for the annual review and promotion considerations of faculty.

FERPA

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the rights of students regarding access to, and privacy of their student educational records as provided for in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. <https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/ferpa.pdf> (PDF link)

Grade Appeals:

If you would like to contest a grade, please follow the procedures outlined in this policy:

<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/gradeappeals.pdf> (PDF link)

Physical Health:

The University of Vermont's number one priority is to support a healthy and safe community. College is stressful. The professor wants you to pay attention to your physical and mental health. If you feel that either one of them are in jeopardy in any way, please contact the UVM Center for Health & Wellbeing. I encourage you to wear a mask in class for your and my safety. And you are feeling infectious with anything go to the wellness center instead of coming to class. Bring me the doctor's note and I will excuse your absence. <https://www.uvm.edu/health>

Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing ADA accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS), the office of Disability Services on campus for students. SAS works with students and faculty in an interactive process to explore reasonable

and appropriate accommodations, which are communicated to faculty in an accommodation letter. All students are strongly recommended to discuss with their faculty the accommodations they plan to use in each course. Faculty who receive Letters of Accommodation with Disability Related Flexible accommodations will need to fill out the Disability Related Flexibility Agreement. Any questions from faculty or students on the agreement should be directed to the SAS specialist who is indicated on the letter. For more info see: <https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/disability.pdf> (PDF link)

Religious Holidays Policy – Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. If you need to miss class to observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence to me in writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time.

Tutoring

UVM provides you with a tutoring center. https://www.uvm.edu/academicsuccess/tutoring_center
However, remember my office hours. If you are needing extra understanding of the material in this course please come to my office hours or make an appointment with me at both our conveniences.

UVM Writing Center

Need some help with your writing? We all do from time to time. UVM provides an undergraduate writing center to help you start, work-on, and complete your writing assignments. Please avail yourself of this service: <https://www.uvm.edu/undergradwriting>

Final Examinations:

The University final exam policy outlines expectations during final exams and explains timing and process of examination period. <http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/academicinfo/examsandgrading/>

Statement on Alcohol and Cannabis in the Academic Environment

As a faculty member, I want you to get the most you can out of this course. You play a crucial role in your education and in your readiness to learn and fully engage with the course material. It is important to note that alcohol and cannabis have no place in an academic environment. They can seriously impair your ability to learn and retain information not only in the moment you may be using, but up to 48 hours or more afterwards. In addition, alcohol and cannabis can:

- Cause issues with attention, memory and concentration
- Negatively impact the quality of how information is processed and ultimately stored
- Affect sleep patterns, which interferes with long-term memory formation

It is my expectation that you will do everything you can to optimize your learning and to fully participate in this course.