

# **Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies**

## **Global Environmental Governance (GEG) (MEM Foundations Class)**

**F&ES 540a 01 (13510)**

**Fall 2017**

***Professor Detlef F. Sprinz, Ph.D.***

### **Purpose and Contents**

This course provides an overview of global environmental governance, incl. overarching conceptual frameworks, empirical domains of global environmental policy, and the management of long-term environmental policy challenges. Concepts include international negotiations, compliance, effectiveness, compensation, and overarching global environmental governance challenges, while the empirical domains encompass the three major global conventions on climate change, biodiversity, and desertification. Using a portfolio approach to examinations, students will prepare a range of individual and group assignments throughout the semester.

### **Logistics**

*Time & Location:* Wednesdays, 9-11:50 am, Kroon 321 (for exceptions or changes: announcements on →Canvas)

*Prerequisites:* Enrollment in an appropriate Master program  
→<http://environment.yale.edu/academics/degrees/>

*Course Registration:* Student Information Systems →<http://sfas.yale.edu/sis>

*Deadline for Dropping the Course:* 21 Sept. 2017

*Capacity:* 30 students

*Credit Points:* 3

*Course website:* Canvas →<https://canvas.yale.edu>

*Contact Details:*

detlef.sprinz@yale.edu (include “GEG Fall 2017” in the subject line)

[www.sprinz.org](http://www.sprinz.org)

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 11:30am-12:15 pm

Wednesdays: 1:45-2:30 pm

Rosenkranz Hall, room 334

Please book via →Canvas→Calendar→Scheduler

Teaching Fellow: Claire (“Lottie”) Boardman ([claire.boardman@yale.edu](mailto:claire.boardman@yale.edu))

## **Learning Goals**

### *Knowledge*

Students will:

- gain an overview of theoretical concepts that enable them to
- analyze generic global environmental problems, and
- understand the strategic challenges in managing long-term environmental challenges.

### *Skills*

Students will undertake a range of assignments, both individually and in small groups. In particular, they will broaden their skills basis by

- outlining a long-term environmental challenge of their choice,
- addressing a puzzle of global environmental negotiations,
- responding to a central challenge of the effectiveness of international environmental treaty regimes, and
- collaborating on group papers on overarching conceptual and practical challenges of global environmental policy.

### *Competences*

Students will:

- apply a range of concepts and methods to generic global environmental governance challenges,
- diagnose as well as propose remedies for long-term environmental governance challenges, and
- work individually as well as in groups on a diverse set of assignments.

## **Code of Conduct**

All students are assumed to be familiar with and will abide by the rules of proper academic conduct as specified by Yale University and its academic programs and schools (→<http://catalog.yale.edu/undergraduate-regulations/policies/definitions-plagiarism-cheating>). You are expected to undertake all your *individual* assignments independently. For *group* assignments, resulting products shall be authored exclusively by all group members (with individual components clearly marked).

Select students appear to have fallen in love with around-the-clock connectivity and social media. During our seminar sessions, I expect you to concentrate on this course.

All personal information that you encounter in conjunction with this course or on Canvas shall be exclusively used for course-related purposes.

If you have registered with the Resource Office on Disabilities (→<http://rod.yale.edu/student-information>), please inform the instructor, via email, no later than the last day for adding courses.

In case observation of religious obligations interferes with academic deadlines, please notify the instructor well ahead of the deadline.

## **Course Requirements and Grading**

Students are expected to attend all classes and read the required readings before class so as to allow for informed discussions.

This course comprises a portfolio of assignments.

<i>Requirements</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Oral Participation	20%
Assignment #1: paper “long-term policy” (individual paper)	10%
Assignment #2: negotiation challenge (group paper)	20%
Assignment #3: regime effectiveness (individual paper)	20%
Assignment #4: overarching global environmental policy challenge (group video, group Q&A, group paper)	30%

## **Reading Material**

All readings can be made available at →*Canvas*, incl. the →*Course Reserves*.

## **Course Overview**

All course sessions will take place in Kroon 321, if not indicated otherwise.

<b>Module</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment or In-Class Group Work</b>
1	30 Aug.	9:00-11:50 am	Course Overview, Core Social Science Terminology & Guest Lecture	Guest Lecture: Dr. Galina Churkina (Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies): Detecting and Diagnosing Global Environmental Challenges
2	06 Sep.	9:00-11:50 am	Tragedy of the Commons?	Play Tragedy of the Commons or Provision of Pure Public Goods in Class
3	13 Sep.	9:00-11:50 am	Long-Term Environmental Policy I	Students will play a long-term policy game
4	20 Sep.	9:00-11:50 am	Long-Term Environmental Policy II	Assignment #1: Outline of a Long-Term Environmental Policy Challenge (due on 17 Sep. 2017)
5	27 Sep.	9:00-11:50 am	Negotiations I	
6	04 Oct.	9:00-11:50 am	Negotiations II	Assignment #2: Negotiation Challenge (due on 01 Oct. 2017)
7	11 Oct.	9:00-11:50 am	Compliance & Implementation	
8	25 Oct.	9:00-11:50 am	Regime Effectiveness/ Evaluation I	

9	01 Nov.	9:00-11:50 am	Regime Effectiveness/ Evaluation II	Assignment #3: Regime Effectiveness (due on 29 Oct. 2017)
10	08 Nov.	9:00-11:50 am	Compensation/Loss & Damage	Assignment #4: Suggested Topics will be announced
11	15 Nov.	9:00-11:50 am	Overarching GEG Challenges I	
12	29 Nov.	9:00-11:50 am	Overarching GEG Challenges II	
13	06 Dec.	9:00-t.b.d.	Solutions for Long-Term Environmental Policy & Global Environmental Governance Challenges	Assignment #4: Overarching Global Environmental Politics Challenge #4: Video (due on 03 Dec. 2017); Q&A on 06 Dec. 2017 #4: Paper (due on 17 Dec. 2017)
	13 Dec.	9:00-11:50 am	Backup Session: t.b.d.	

General format for each module:

- Q&A: Understanding the readings
- overview lecture
- extensive workshop-style discussions (incl. ad hoc work groups)

## **Assignments**

### **All Assignments**

Assignments will be posted to →*Canvas* well ahead of the deadline. Submission deadlines are indicated on the →*Course Overview*.

When composing your individual or group papers, your emphasis is *not* on reviewing the material covered in the required readings; it is assumed that you have read it. Read the instructions carefully (!), build on the required readings, and innovate in a way not found in the required readings. Leave the reader with the impression that *your* ideas (either individual or as a group) have been carefully chosen and could be expanded upon in a longer research paper. Please note that keeping it short is the art of structuring one's mind and concentrating on the main points rather than on peripheral considerations. It is more difficult to write a convincing short paper than a long paper!

All papers include your student ID number(s), assignment number (see overview), and word count on the first page. At a minimum, leave one inch margins from all four edges of letter-sized sheets. Footnotes shall be kept to a minimum. All text is 1.5-spaced, 11-12 point font. Paper length will be strictly enforced (the word count includes literally everything). Papers shall be submitted – in PDF format – via →*Canvas* by the due date and time (→*Assignment*). Extensions will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances, following written petition to the instructor (graduate students) or college dean (undergraduate students).

For proper citation, please consult <http://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources>.

In case of group assignments, all author ID numbers have to be listed, including a short description regarding who contributed what.

In case you cannot submit assignments due to medical reasons, you must submit an medical doctor's certificate to the instructor (graduate students) or college dean (undergraduate students).

The allocation of individual students into groups is at the discretion of the instructor.

Individual Assignments will be posted to →*Canvas* and are outlined below.

### **Assignment #1: Outline of a Long-Term Environmental Policy Challenge**

Read Sprinz (2009) (→Modules 3 & 4). Describe at least one (and not more than three) long-term environmental policy challenge(s) other than those mentioned in Sprinz (2009) by demonstrating and substantiating that they conform to the three definitional aspects mentioned in the readings for Modules 3 & 4.

### **Assignment #2: Negotiations Challenge**

Why do major global environmental negotiations (breadth: potentially all UN members) often end in a stalemate or conclude with toothless agreements? Clarify the meaning of "toothless." Are there major exceptions to this assertion?

### **Assignment #3: Regime Effectiveness - Evaluation**

Why do multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) often fail to lead to maximum possible improvements of the state of the environment (i.e., reduced environmental effects/impacts)?

### **Assignments #4: Solutions for Long-Term Environmental Policy & Global Environmental Governance Challenges: Video, Q&A, Paper**

A range of indicative enduring challenges will be made available no later than 08 Nov. 2017, yet you will be free to propose any comparable long-term environmental and/or global environmental policy challenge you wish to pursue. Please submit a (max.) one page proposal (ungraded) by 13 Nov. 2017 and book (as a group) a slot for consultation on 14-15 Nov. 2017, time t.b.d. Please produce a ca. 5-10 minutes group video which presents your solutions. The group Q&A session on your solutions will provide feedback on 06 Dec. 2017. The final group paper is due on 17 Dec. 2017.

## **Modules**

### **Module 1: Course Overview & Core Terminology**

Course Overview and Presentation of Core Terminology

**Guest Lecture:** ***Dr. Galina Churkina (Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies):  
Detecting and Diagnosing Global Environmental Challenges***

### **Module 2: The Tragedy of the Commons**

*Please bring your laptop, tablet, or smartphone and connect it to the Yale WLAN for an interactive exercise.*

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162:1243-1248,  
doi:10.1126/science.162.3859.1243.

Hardin, Garrett. 1998. Extensions of "The Tragedy of the Commons". *Science* 280 (5364):682-683, doi:10.1126/science.280.5364.682.

Ostrom, Elinor. 2009. *A Polycentric Approach for Coping with Climate Change*, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 5095; Washington, D.C. The World Bank.

### **Module 3: Long-Term Environmental Policy I**

*Please bring your laptop, tablet, or smartphone and connect it to Yale WLAN for an interactive exercise.*

Sprinz, Detlef F. 2009. Long-Term Environmental Policy: Definition, Knowledge, Future Research. *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (3):1-8.

Underdal, Arild. 2010. Complexity and Challenges of Long-Term Environmental Governance. *Global Environmental Change* 20 (3):386-393.

Princen, Thomas. 2009. Long-Term Decision-Making: Biological and Psychological Evidence. *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (3):9-19.

Levin, Kelly, Benjamin Cashore, Steven Bernstein, and Graeme Auld. 2012. Overcoming the Tragedy of Super Wicked Problems: Constraining Our Future Selves to Ameliorate Global Climate Change. *Policy Sciences*: 45 (2), 123-152, doi:10.1007/s11077-012-9151-0.

### **Module 4: Long-Term Environmental Policy II**

*Assignment #1 Due*

Stone, Randall W. 2009. Risk in International Politics. *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (3):40-60, doi:10.1162/glep.2009.9.3.40.

Hovi, Jon, Mads Greaker, Cathrine Hagem, and Bjart Holtsmark. 2012. A Credible Compliance Enforcement System for the Climate Regime. *Climate Policy* 12 (6):741-754, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2012.692206>.

Additional readings based on the long-term environmental policy challenge chosen for Assignment #1.

## **Module 5: Negotiations I**

Bodansky, Daniel. 2010. *The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, ch. 8 →*Course Reserves*.

Sprinz, Detlef F., and Tapani Vaahtoranta. 1994. The Interest-Based Explanation of International Environmental Policy. *International Organization* 48 (1):77-105.

Liefferink, Duncan, and Rüdiger K. W. Wurzel. 2017. Environmental Leaders and Pioneers: Agents of Change? *Journal of European Public Policy* 24 (7): 951-968, doi: 10.1080/13501763.2016.1161657.

Watch the videos:

The Paris Climate Deal: An Inside Account of How it Happened,

<http://livestream.com/accounts/3723851/events/4783560> ,

Obama on 'Terrifying' Threat of Climate Change,

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/politics/100000004632792/obama-on-terrifying-threat-of-climate-change.html>.

## **Module 6: Negotiations II**

*Assignment #2 Due*

Brun, Aslak. 2016. Conference Diplomacy: The Making of the Paris Agreement. *Politics and Governance* 4 (3):115-123, <http://dx.doi.org/10.17645/pag.v4i3.649>.

Dimitrov, Radoslav S. 2016. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change: Behind Closed Doors. *Global Environmental Politics* 16 (3):1-11, doi:10.1162/GLEP\_a\_00361.

Sprinz, Detlef F., Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Steffen Kallbekken, Frans Stokman, Håkon Sælen, and Robert Thomson. 2016. Predicting Paris: Multi-Method Approaches to Forecast the Outcomes of Global Climate Negotiations. *Politics and Governance* 4 (3):172-187, doi:10.17645/pag.v4i3.654.

Statement by President Trump on the Paris Climate Accord, 01 June 2017

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/06/01/statement-president-trump-paris-climate-accord>, and  
<https://youtu.be/z99y6bUgJqI> .

## **Module 7: Compliance & Implementation**

Bodansky, Daniel. 2010. *The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, ch. 11 →*Course Reserves*.

Dai, Xinyuan. 2005. Why Comply? The Domestic Constituency Mechanism. *International Organization* 59(2): 363-398, doi:10.1017/S0020818305050125.

Hovi, Jon, Detlef F. Sprinz, and Arild Underdal. 2009. Implementing Long-Term Climate Policy: Time Inconsistency, Domestic Politics, International Anarchy. *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (3):20-39.

Rosendal, Kristin, and Peter Johan Schei. 2012. Convention on Biological Diversity - From National Conservation to Global Responsibility. In Steinar Andresen, Elin Lerum Boasson, and Geir Hønneland, eds. *International Environmental Agreements - An Introduction*, New York, NY: Routledge, 119-133, →*Course Reserves*.

Oberthür, Sebastian, and Kristin Rosendal, eds. 2014. Global Governance of Genetic Resources - Access and Benefit Sharing after the Nagoya Protocol. New York and London: Routledge, 1-17 & 231-250, →*Course Reserves*.

Check [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int) (climate change), [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int) (biodiversity), <http://www2.unccd.int/> (desertification) for the compliance records of respective global environmental agreements.

### **Module 8: Regime Effectiveness/Evaluation I**

Helm, Carsten, and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2000. Measuring the Effectiveness of International Environmental Regimes. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (5):630-652.

Young, Oran R. 2001. Inferences and Indices: Evaluating the Effectiveness of International Environmental Regimes. *Global Environmental Politics* 1 (1):99-121.

Bang, Guri, Jon Hovi, and Tora Skodvin. 2016. The Paris Agreement: Short-Term and Long-Term Effectiveness. *Politics and Governance* 4 (3):209-218, doi:10.17645/pag.v4i3.64.

Harris, Paul G., and Taedong Lee. 2017. Compliance With Climate Change Agreements: The Constraints of Consumption. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*: 1-16 (available first online).

### **Module 9: Regime Effectiveness/Evaluation II**

#### *Assignment #3 Due*

Butchart, Stuart H.M. et al. 2010. Global Biodiversity: Indicators of Recent Declines. *Science*, 328(5982), 1164-1168, doi:10.1126/science.1187512.

Tittensor, Derek P. et al. 2014. A Mid-Term Analysis of Progress Toward International Biodiversity Targets. *Science*, 346(6206), 241-244, doi:10.1126/science.1257484.

Zafar, Adeel et al. 2005. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005: Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Desertification Synthesis. Washington, D.C.: World Resources Institute.

Javeline, Debra, Jessica J. Hellmann, Jason S. McLachlan, Dov F. Sax, Mark W. Schwartz and Rordrigo Castro Cornejo. 2015. Expert Opinion on Extinction Risk and Climate Change Adaptation for Biodiversity. *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene* 3: 000057, <http://doi.org/10.12952/journal.elementa.000057>.



## **Module 10: Compensation/Loss and Damage**

- Tol, Richard S. J., and Roda Verheyen. 2004. State Responsibility and Compensation for Climate Change Damages - A Legal and Economic Assessment. *Energy Policy* 32:1109-1130.
- Sprinz, Detlef F., and Steffen von Bünau. 2013. The Compensation Fund for Climate Impacts. *Weather, Climate, and Society* 5 (3):210-20.
- Munich RE. 2016. NatCatSERVICE: Loss Events Worldwide 1980-2015, Munich: Munich RE.
- Swiss Re. 2014. sigma Natural Catastrophes And Man-Made Disasters in 2013: Large Losses From Floods and Hail; Haiyan Hits the Philippines, Zurich: Swiss Re, esp. 15-27.
- Sprinz, Detlef F., Rebekka Popp, Jennifer Bansard, and Peter Hefele. 2017. *Compensating for Climate Change Impacts? Priorities for Research and Public Policy*. Brief. Hong Kong & Potsdam: RECAP – Konrad Adenauer Foundation & Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), → *Course Reserves*.
- Munich Climate Insurance Initiative. 2017. ACRI+ Video “The Silver Linings of Natural Disasters”  
<https://youtu.be/IRUNWlofPTY>.

## **Module 11: Overarching GEG Challenges I**

- Economist. 2016. The Mundell-Fleming Trilemma - Two Out of Three Ain't Bad. *The Economist*, 27 Aug. 2016.
- Hovi, Jon, Tora Skodvin, and Stine Aakre. 2013. Can Climate Change Negotiations Succeed? *Politics and Governance*, 1 (2): 138-150, <http://dx.doi.org/10.17645/pag.v1i2.96>.
- Keohane, Robert O., and David G. Victor. 2016. Cooperation and Discord in Global Climate Policy. *Nature Climate Change* 6:570-575, doi:10.1038/nclimate2937.
- Michaelowa, Katharina, and Axel Michaelowa. 2017. Transnational Climate Governance Initiatives: Designed for Effective Climate Change Mitigation? *International Interactions*, 43(1), 129-155, doi:10.1080/03050629.2017.1256110.

## **Module 12: Overarching GEG Challenges II**

Q&A on Assignments #4A and #4B

- Hovi, Jon, and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2006. The Limits of the Law of the Least Ambitious Program. *Global Environmental Politics* 6 (3):28-42.
- Urpelainen, Johannes. 2009. Explaining the Schwarzenegger Phenomenon: Local Frontrunners in Climate Policy. *Global Environmental Politics*, 9 (3), 82-105, doi:10.1162/glep.2009.9.3.8 .

## **Module 13: Solutions for Long-Term Environmental Policy & Global Environmental Governance Challenges**

Assignment #4 Videos (due 03 Dec. 2017), Q&A on 06 Dec. 2017.

Assignment #4 Paper (due on 17 Dec. 2017).