

International Environmental Policy

Winter 2009-2010

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Contact Details:

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Course website: <https://moodle.uni-potsdam.de/course/view.php?id=2992>

Office Hours: by appointment

www.sprinz.org

Time: Introductory meeting: 06 Jan. 2009, 16:00-18:00 h (Room 3.06.S12!),

21 & 22 Jan. 2009: 16:00-19:30 h;

23 Jan. 2009: 9:00-17:30 h;

25 Feb. 2009: 16:00-19:30 h,

26 Feb. 2009: 9:00-17:30 h

Study Area MPM: Public Administration/Government

Study Area MGPP: International Political Economy

Status of Course: Optional MGPP and MPM

Location: Building 6, Griebnitzsee, Room 3.06.S21 (for exception, see above)

ECTS Credits: Major: 5

Non-Major: 2.5

Purpose and Contents

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview to international environmental policy. The course comprises select empirical domains of international environmental policy, overarching conceptual frameworks, and the management of long-term environmental policy problems.

Code of Conduct

All students are assumed to be familiar with and abide by the rules of proper academic conduct.

Course Requirements and Grading

This course combines a structured workshop-style setting with executive presentations and a paper assignment (see next pages for details). Students are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to class and will be able to discuss them in a workshop-style setting.

Your grade comprises the following components:

Requirement	Major	Non-Major
Oral Participation (throughout the course)	30%	40%
Oral Presentation of Executive Summary of the Memo	25%	30%
Technical Paper (in support of the Executive Summary of the Memo to the President/Minister of the Environment)	45% (max. 6,000 words)	30% (max. 1,000 words)

Overview

Date	Time	Module	Topic
06 Jan.	16:00-18:00 h	1	Course Overview
21 Jan.	16:00-17:30 h	2	Controversy: The Lomborg Debate
21 Jan.	18:00-19:30 h	3	Negotiations, Implementation, Compliance
22 Jan.	16:00-17:30 h	4	Regime Effectiveness
22 Jan.	18:00-19:30 h	5	External Lecture: Adil Najam (Boston University)
23 Jan.	09:00-10:30 h	6	Biodiversity
23 Jan.	10:45-12:15 h	7	Climate Change
23 Jan.	13:45-15:30 h	8	Internal Presentations
23 Jan.	16:00-17:30 h	9	Internal Presentations
25 Feb.	16:00-17:30 h	10	Tragedy of the Commons?
25 Feb.	18:00-19:30 h	11	Long-Term Environmental Policy (1)
26 Feb.	09:00-10:30 h	12	Long-Term Environmental Policy (2)
26 Feb.	10:45-12:15 h	13	Internal Presentations
26 Feb.	13:45-15:30 h	14	External Lecture: Michaël Aklin (NYU)
26 Feb.	16:00-17:30 h	15	Internal Presentations

Assignment: “Memo to the President or Minister for the Environment”

Assume that you work in the highest environmental agency or ministry or equivalent of your country or a country of your choice. You may alternatively choose supranational or international organizations. Pick an environmental challenge of this country and lay the groundwork for a major policy decision to be taken on this issue. You are the advisor with the highest *substantive* knowledge on the issue. You will prepare a one-page executive summary to be submitted to the highest political decision-maker on this issue (president, minister, or equivalent), defend it, and substantiate it by a 1,000 words (Non-Major) or 6,000 words (Major) technical paper.

Please make sure to focus on one specific issue or a *small* set of interrelated issues. Avoid undue fragmentation!

You will present the *executive summary* (one page) to the course at large during the “internal presentation” session and respond to the decision-makers questions (represented by the class and the instructor). Make sure that the query is clearly stated, the major environmental and political circumstances considered, and a major recommendation or series of short and precise recommendations offered to the decision-maker. The executive summary does not conform to academic requirements. The draft executive summary (PDF) plus the presentation file (either MS Office or OpenOffice) have to be uploaded to Moodle no later than 17 h of the day prior to the presentation. Every hour delay reduces your presentation grade by 1/3 of a full grade. Your presentation is not allowed to exceed 10 minutes. The ensuing discussion is limited to a maximum of 15 minutes.

Following your presentation, you have the opportunity to revise your executive summary. In addition, you write a maximum 1,000 words (Non-Major) or 6,000 words (Major) “technical paper” that provides more detailed substantiation of your executive summary. The word counts of the technical paper exclude the executive summary. The technical paper has to conform to academic requirements. Deadline for submission of the revised executive summary and the technical paper (in one document) is 11 March 2010 to Moodle. Every day delay reduces your grade for the technical paper by 1/3 of a full grade.

The executive summary and the technical paper are to be submitted in PDF format. I recommend that you choose a font size of 11-12; single-spaced or 1.5-spaced formatting for the executive summary, and 1.5-spaced formatting for the technical paper. Note that appearance of the documents matters to decision-makers. Keep a minimum of 1 inch margins on all sides.

You will sign up for your topic on 06 January 2009 and the date of presentation during the overview session. If you cover topics relating to the contents of modules 2-7, your presentation will take place during modules 8 or 9; if your topic is related to modules 10-12 or 14, your presentation is during modules 13 or 15. Should you choose a topic not covered in this course, the instructor determines when you present the executive summary. Should you not be able to attend the 06 January 2010 session, you can also mail me your topic, and I will assign you to a presentation slot.

Schedule and Readings

Module 1: Course Overview

Module 2: Controversy: The Lomborg Debate

Lomborg, Bjørn. 2001. *The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press, ch. 1. + errata.

[http://www.lomborg.com/dyn/files/basic_items/69-](http://www.lomborg.com/dyn/files/basic_items/69-file/skeptenvironChap1.pdf?PHPSESSID=01ec5de3cb271daf3f5cf0e3a082cfb7)

[file/skeptenvironChap1.pdf?PHPSESSID=01ec5de3cb271daf3f5cf0e3a082cfb7,](http://www.lomborg.com/dyn/files/basic_items/69-file/skeptenvironChap1.pdf?PHPSESSID=01ec5de3cb271daf3f5cf0e3a082cfb7)

http://www.lomborg.com/dyn/files/basic_items/68-file/TSE%20-%20Errors.pdf

Scientific American. 2002. Misleading Math About the Earth - Science Defends Itself Against The Skeptical Environmentalist. *Scientific American* (January 2002).

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?articleID=000F3D47-C6D2-1CEB-93F6809EC5880000&ref=sciam>

The Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty. 2006. Guilty or Not Guilty? In *2005 Annual Report*. Copenhagen: Danish Agency for Science, Technology and

Innovation, 27. [http://en.fi.dk/publications/2006/annual-report-2005-danish-committees-scientific-](http://en.fi.dk/publications/2006/annual-report-2005-danish-committees-scientific-dishonesty/annual-report-2005-the-danish-committees-on-scientific-d.pdf)

[dishonesty/annual-report-2005-the-danish-committees-on-scientific-d.pdf](http://en.fi.dk/publications/2006/annual-report-2005-danish-committees-scientific-dishonesty/annual-report-2005-the-danish-committees-on-scientific-d.pdf)

See also:

- <http://www.lomborg.com>
- <http://www.anti-lomborg.com>

Module 3: Negotiations, Implementation, Compliance

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

http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/doc/Sprinz_Vaahtoranta_1994_Interest_Based_Explanation_IO.pdf

Mitchell, Ronald B. 2007. Compliance Theory: Compliance, Effectiveness, and Behavior Change in International Environmental Law. In *Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law*, edited by J. Brunee, D. Bodansky and E. Hey.

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 893-921. [http://iea.uoregon.edu/page.php?file=2007-](http://iea.uoregon.edu/page.php?file=2007-OxfordHandbookIEL.pdf&query=pdf)

[OxfordHandbookIEL.pdf&query=pdf](http://iea.uoregon.edu/page.php?file=2007-OxfordHandbookIEL.pdf&query=pdf)

Module 4: Regime Effectiveness

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

652. http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/doc/Sprinz_Helm2000.pdf

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

121. <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1162/152638001570651>

**Optional Public Lecture: Adil Najam (Boston University):
Global Environmental Governance - The Reform Agenda**

Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Pappelallee, 22 Jan. 2009,
14:00 h (*to be confirmed*)

Najam, Adil, Mihaela Papa, and Nadaa Taiyab. 2006. "Global Environmental Governance - Mapping a Reform Agenda." Medford, MA: The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. <http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2006/geg.pdf>

**Module 5: Adil Najam (Boston University):
The Negotiation Burden of Multilateral Environmental
Agreements**

Muñoz, Miquel, Rachel Thrasher, and Adil Najam. 2009. "Measuring the Negotiation Burden of Multilateral Environmental Agreements." *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (4):1-13. <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1162/glep.2009.9.4.1>

Module 6: Biodiversity

Le Prestre, Philippe G. 2002. *Governing Global Biodiversity: The Evolution and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*. Aldershot, Hampshire, England: Ashgate, 7-38.

German Advisory Council on Global Change. 2001. *Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biosphere*. Sterling, VA: Earthscan, 301-307.
http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu_jg1999_engl.pdf.

Gupta, Aarti, and Robert Falkner. 2006. "The Influence of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Comparing Mexico, China and South Africa." *Global Environmental Politics* 6 (4):23-55. <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1162/glep.2006.6.4.23>

Modules 7: Climate Change

Bodansky. 2007. History and Institutions. In: Luterbacher, Urs, and Detlef F. Sprinz, eds. in preparation. *International Relations and Global Climate Change*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. Mimeo.

Hovi, Jon, Detlef F. Sprinz, and Guri Bang. 2009. Why the United States Did Not Become a Party to the Kyoto Protocol: German, Norwegian, and U.S. Perspectives. Oslo: Department of Political Science & CICERO. Mimeo.

Modules 8 & 9: Internal Presentations

Module 10: Tragedy of the Commons?

- Hardin, Garrett .1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162:1243-1248,
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/sci:280/5364/682?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=Extensions+of+%22The+Tragedy+of+the+Commons%22&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCIT>
- Hardin, Garrett. 1998. Extensions of "The Tragedy of the Commons". *Science* 280 (5364):682-683,
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/sci:280/5364/682?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=Extensions+of+%22The+Tragedy+of+the+Commons%22&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCIT>
- Buck Cox, Susan J. 1985. No Tragedy on the Commons. *Environmental Ethics* 7:49-61,
http://www.google.de/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=4&ved=0CBIOFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fdlcvm.dlib.indiana.edu%2Farchive%2F00001319%2F01%2Fbuck_NoTragedy.pdf&ei=a8QgS_nPMY-ImgOCvazUBw&usq=AFQjCNH_mp3jbzl9P86i6X4VQCADQqbXPA
- Ostrom, Elinor, Joanna Burger, Christopher B. Field, Richard B. Norgaard, and David Policansky. 1999. "Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges." *Science* 284 (5412):278-82. <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/284/5412/278.pdf>
- Hovi, Jon, and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2006. The Limits of the Law of the Least Ambitious Program. *Global Environmental Politics* 6 (3):28-42.
<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1162/glep.2006.6.3.28>

Module 11: Long-Term Environmental Policy (1)

- Sprinz, Detlef F. (2006): Long-Term Policy Problems: Definition, Origin, and Responses, prepared for inclusion in *Illuminating the Shadow of the Future: Scientific Prediction and the Human Condition*, edited by Frank Wayman et al., Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press.
<http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/doc/Sprinz.LoPo.Overview.pdf>
- Sprinz, Detlef F. 2009. "Long-Term Environmental Policy: Definition, Knowledge, Future Research." *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (3):1-8.
<http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/doc/Sprinz.2009.Introduction.LoPo.GEP.pdf>
- European Environment Agency (2005): *Climate Change and A European Low-Carbon Energy System*. Copenhagen: European Environment Agency, 7-8, 30-39.
http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eea_report_2005_1/at_download/file

Module 12: Long-Term Environmental Policy (2)

- Princen, Thomas. 2009. "Long-Term Decision-Making: Biological and Psychological Evidence." *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (3):9-19.
<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1162/glep.2009.9.3.9>
- 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. http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/doc/Hovi.2009.Implementing_Long_Term_Climate_Policy.GEP.pdf
- Steinberg, Paul F. 2009. "Institutional Resilience Amid Political Change: The Case of Biodiversity Conservation." *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (3):61-81.
<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1162/glep.2009.9.3.61>

Module 13: Internal Presentations

**Module 14: External Video Lecture: Michaël Aklin (New York University):
Does Politics Restrain Long-Term Carbon Emissions?**

Sprinz, Detlef F. and Michaël Aklin. 2009. Does Politics Restrain Long-Term Carbon Emissions? Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. Mimeo.

Browse:

World Bank. 2009. *World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change*. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank. ch. 8, 321-347.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2010/Resources/5287678-1226014527953/WDR10-Full-Text.pdf>

Module 15: Internal Presentations