

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF GLOBALIZATION (PST 560)

University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth

Instructor: Dr. Shawna E. Sweeney

Office Hours: In person - Tuesdays from 2 to 4pm & Thursdays from 4:30 to 6pm; & **Chat Room Talks** - Every Wednesday from 3 to 4pm

Office Phone: 508-999-8254/ **Cell Phone:** 508-287-3218

Email: Please use the email system within the online classroom.

*Please note: You will need to read this syllabus thoroughly and print a copy on the first day of class. I reserve the right to make changes up to the first day of class.

Course Description: This course examines the relationship between contemporary globalization and the environment. Though the links between globalization and the environment are multiple and complex, there is a growing consensus that globalization has had an undeniably adverse effect on the environment. Unregulated economic activity, rapid industrialization and burgeoning population growth in the Global South, wasteful consumption patterns, the practices of powerful Northern-based corporations, and other aspects of the globalization process are taking a tremendous toll on our collective environmental security. These and other unsustainable environmental practices pose increasing threats to the Earth's climate, biodiversity, natural resource base, food supply, and thus to the very foundations of human existence and well-being.

At the same time, globalization has produced an important conceptual shift in the way societies and peoples think about the environment. Many now see environmental problems as being of global magnitude and concern, not just of national or local interest, such as protection of the oceans and atmosphere from pollution. There is a growing recognition that the effects of environmental problems increasingly spill over national borders and influence the decision-making process of many national governments. As a result, they have been the subject of major efforts by national policy making bodies, non-governmental organizations, and global governance institutions, such as the United Nations, all of which have been at the forefront of the struggle over the future of the earth's environment.

This course will critically examine a number of environmental problems exacerbated by globalization, such as global warming, ozone depletion, trans-boundary pollution, natural resource depletion, global relocation of unsafe industries, and various others. We'll begin with a discussion of key concepts that form the basis of this course, that of the environment, and globalization, a highly contested and poorly understood process. We will then move on to a discussion of the global trade in natural resources and how it facilitates bio-diversity loss. After this discussion, we will explore a related topic, bio-security and the spread of infectious diseases in over-populated world areas. Next, we'll discuss the impact of transnational corporations on the environment and innovative solutions that have been offered for minimizing environmental wastes. We will then discuss how rapid population growth and industrialization contributes to ecological insecurity in the Global South.

Other pertinent topics we will explore this semester include world agricultural trade and food insecurity, protection of the oceanic commons, global energy politics, and alternative methods of energy production. We will also examine the successes and

limitations of international treaties in key areas of environmental regulation, including atmospheric pollution, ocean despoliation, and hazardous waste trade, among others. In particular, we will discuss the growing conflict between international trade rules and environmental protection laws, and how the latter are often circumvented by corporations and governments under the guise of promoting free trade and economic development. Lastly, we will discuss the recent surge in transnational environmental activism and the growing influence of environmental groups on national and global environmental policy making.

Course Objectives:

- ◆ to provide students with a better understanding of the environmental impacts of globalization
- ◆ to provide students with a deeper understanding of the local, national and global challenges to sustainable environmental practices from various perspectives
- ◆ to explore unsustainable practices and the types of science and technological solutions used to reduce the impact of these practices
- ◆ to explore the laws and policy mechanisms adopted by policy makers at the national and supra-national levels to combat environmental problems (i.e., global warming, ozone hole depletion, pollution of the marine waterways)
- ◆ to build library and Internet research skills
- ◆ to improve written communication and analytical skills

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

My email address if needed (you should always use the email system within the online classroom unless I direct you otherwise): ssweeney@umassd.edu

By Appointment: My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. In addition to holding regular in-person office hours, I will also hold an online office hour in “Chat” every Wednesday from 3 to 4pm. I encourage you to use “chat” to ask questions and discuss the week’s topics and readings. If you are not available for a “chat” session, the sessions are always archived, so you can review them at a later date.

Below are the **guidelines** to follow when using chat:

- If you enter chat late, you should first check the “history” of the chat by clicking on the “history” button and reviewing the questions and discussions taking place. That way you won’t repeat questions that have already been asked.
- If you are addressing a particular comment made by another student, please use the student’s first name so there is no confusion as to who you’re directing your question towards. For example, if you want to ask *Elaine* a question, you type: *Elaine, what do you think about...*” If you want to ask me a question, please address me using the title you feel most comfortable with (Prof. Shawna, Prof. Sweeney, whatever works for you).

- Please be **respectful** towards others in your communication methods. Students should certainly feel free to ask questions and to express their opinions. Student debate of the issues is encouraged since the exchange of ideas is an important tool for learning. However, students should respect each other and not belittle opinions and ideas. If you are confronted with a viewpoint or an idea that you do not agree with, make sure you respond to it civilly. I will not tolerate profanity, harassment, intolerance, or ridicule in my classroom. Violation of this principle may result in dismissal from class.

*** Keep in mind that you can always email me or post a question to the weekly discussion boards.**

CLASS COMMUNICATION POLICY:

I will participate in the course Monday through Friday (with the exception of Thursday from 4 to 9pm while I'm holding office hours & teaching). I encourage you to email me with any questions during the week. You can expect a reply from me via email within 24 hours during the work week.

Although I generally do not participate in the course on weekends, you may receive an email reply during the weekend, but keep in mind that the reply will not be as quick as one you would receive during the week. Please use email ***ONLY*** when the subject is of a personal or private matter. For example, if you cannot meet an assignment deadline due to a family emergency, that information should be communicated via email only to the instructor. However, if you have a question that students may be interested in receiving an answer to, be sure to post the question in the appropriate discussion forum for the benefit of the entire class. For example, if you're having trouble accessing information from a learning module, please direct your question(s) to the discussion board since other students might be having trouble as well. In turn, I'll send one email response to the entire class.

Please note: If you have questions regarding an assignment, please do not wait until the night before the assignment is due to email me. Also, make sure to check your email often as I frequently send class emails and announcements.

I will also check the discussion forums regularly during the week. I will post often during the first few weeks of class and then decrease my online activity in subsequent weeks with the expectation that students will increase their participation. Rest assured, however, I will continue to actively participate in this course and will always reply to any discussion comment or question directed specifically towards me.

I do not regularly email students when they submit an assignment. However, expect to receive an email if I haven't received an assignment within 24 hours of the due date. Please keep in mind that it is your responsibility to submit your work by the due date. I will not email you additional notices about missing work.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books are available for purchase in the campus bookstore:

1. Dennis Clark Pirages and Theresa Manley DeGeest, *Ecological Security: An Evolutionary Perspective on Globalization* (2004)
2. Hilary French, *Vanishing Borders: Protecting the Planet in the Age of Globalization* (2000)

All books are on reserve in the library. You are also responsible for some short articles that are on the Internet. These readings will be on the mid-term and final exams. These readings are listed under the course schedule.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE:

Please submit all assignments as Microsoft Word Document attachments. I will accept Works documents if you do not own Word or a program that is compatible with Word. However, you'll need to save your Works document as an RTF file by following these steps: go to "file", select "save as", and under "save as type" select RTF; then send the file to me as an attachment. I'll email you immediately if I have any difficulty assessing the file.

This course also requires students to use Power Point. If you own Microsoft Office, you own Power Point. Also, Power Point is available on all campus computers. If you do not own Power Point and you need to view PP slides in this class, you can download the program for free from Microsoft the Power Point viewer by following the directions at this website: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=428d5727-43ab-4f24-90b7-a94784af71a4&DisplayLang=en>

You are also expected to view a number of short video clips this semester. To access them, you may need to have Real Player or Windows Media installed on your computer. Both programs are free and can be downloaded at the following locations:

- Real Player: <http://www.real.com/freeplayer/?rppr=rnwk>
- Windows Media: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/9series/player.aspx>

You should also have Adobe Acrobat reader installed on your computer so that you can access **pdf** files. On occasion, I may post readings or an interesting Internet article in pdf format for you to read. Adobe Acrobat reader can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

ONLINE ACCESS POLICY:

Course materials will be housed at MyCourses. The address to the site is: dartmouth.umassonline.net. The user name and password are **exactly** the same as your UMass Dartmouth email username and password. All of your online courses are located at this site.

Taking an online course means assuming responsibility for learning how to use the MyCourses application, how to use Internet tools and websites, your own computer, and communicating with me in a timely manner about any unexpected problems you may encounter. My cell phone number listed at the top of the syllabus should only be used for *urgent* matters that require prompt attention on my part, and should only be used during reasonable hours of the day (*between 10am and 10pm at night). If you experience a

technical problem, you must assume responsibility for contacting me immediately and responding to returned emails and/or phone calls within a 12 hour period. Technical problems do not automatically mean an extension on an assignment or exam due date.

Please note: It is your responsibility to activate your UMass Dartmouth email account. Do not expect me to write to other personal email addresses.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Attendance and Participation. You are expected to participate in this class on a regular basis, including active participation in all online discussion forums. It is expected that students will read material before submitting their contributions online and be fully prepared to discuss the material with other students and the instructor. Closely follow the *due dates* outlined in the course schedule.

Attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be monitored by online discussion responses. Nearly every week, a number of online questions will be posted on the readings and class lectures. You are required to respond to these questions (called discussion boards) by the stated deadline.

Assignment Deadlines. Late assignments will be penalized by *a half a letter grade* for each day an assignment is overdue. For example, an “A” assignment that is submitted one day late would be reduced to an “A-”. Two days late would reduce it to a “B+”, etc.

Assignments must be submitted via the assignment area in myCourses. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to make sure that your assignment has been submitted properly.

Please note that students will not be allowed to make-up discussions. This would defeat the purpose of an online discussion.

Drops and Incompletes. You may drop any course within the guidelines established by the University. You will not be penalized simply for dropping a course. However, it is the student’s responsibility to drop a course. It is my policy that anyone who merely stops participating in class, fails to submit course work, but remains enrolled in the class will receive an “F.” Moreover, University policy prohibits professors from awarding an “I” to any student who fails to complete their course work, unless the student specifically requests an Incomplete before the last week of classes. I am receptive to awarding Incompletes under exceptional circumstances (such as late papers and make-ups). However, these must be arranged prior to the end of the semester.

Students with Learning Disabilities:

If you have a learning disability, please contact me within the first few days of class. In addition, campus resources are available to assist you. Please contact the UMD Center for Access and Success at 910-6875. The Center is located in Group 1 (Liberal Arts Building), Room 16.

Student Decorum/Conduct.

As university students and instructors, we operate in a professional environment. Importantly, it is my responsibility to ensure that this environment is conducive to

learning. This is what the university expects of me. UMass Dartmouth has developed a detailed student handbook on student behavior which is available at:

<http://www.umassd.edu/studenthandbook/welcome.cfm>

Students should consult this resource for a better understanding of the university's expectations of students, particularly with respect to the university policy's on academic dishonesty. Students that plagiarize will receive an F on the assignment. If in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism, please review the University's policy on Academic Dishonesty at:

<http://www.umassd.edu/studenthandbook/academicregs/ethicalstandards.cfm>

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated and graded on the basis of the following:

1. Participation in online discussion forums: This requirement is worth 25% of the course grade. We will have 10 discussion board conversations (threads) this semester (refer to the syllabus for dates). In addition, I expect you to respond to *at least 2* other student postings per discussion forum. Please post your initial response to the discussion assignment by **Tuesday** of the week during which we are having the discussion. Respond to *at least* two other students per discussion thread by **Friday** of the same week.

Below is a list of qualities I will look for in evaluating your discussion participation:

- a) the development of independent thinking
- b) utilization of and specific references to course materials (books, Internet articles, video clips)
- c) well-formulated, thoughtful responses
- d) competence in writing (minimal grammatical errors & writing that summarizes and analyzes well)
- e) a receptiveness to new ideas and ways of thinking

2. Mid-Term and Final Exam: The format of the mid-term and final exams will be determined at a later date. The exams are worth 25% each for 50% total of the course grade.

3. Policy Paper (25%): A paper that analyzes the policy implications of a contemporary environmental problem or issue is worth 25% of the final course grade. In your paper, you should carefully explore the relevance of the problem/issue and its major policy implications at the national and global levels. You are expected to utilize multiple sources including class readings and well-documented external sources (books, web sites, journal articles, etc...). Please note that papers without references and papers that appear to only use Internet-based sources will be marked down by *at least* one letter grade. The paper is due by **Friday** of week 12 of class. Refer to the course schedule.

For undergraduate students, papers should be 8 to 10 double-spaced, typed pages not including the title page and references. For graduate students, papers should be approximately 15 to 18 double-spaced, typed pages not including the title page and

references. Please number your pages and include a cover page with your name, the title of your paper, and the date you submitted the paper to me.

Undergraduate and graduate students are expected to post a brief summary of the major findings of their paper by **Friday** of week 13 of class. Please post your findings under the discussion forum entitled “Policy Paper Forum” under the class assignments folder. Students should summarize the substantive findings of the paper in a few paragraphs and what they learned from this assignment. Students are expected to reply to two of these postings as a way of generating an online discussion.

Some suggested globalization issues you may want to explore in your paper include the following:

- ◆ Trade in a Natural Resource, Bio-Diversity Loss, and/or Species Extinction
- ◆ Bio-Security and The Spread of Infectious Diseases (HIV/AIDs, influenza, etc...)
- ◆ The Global Trade in Wildlife and/or Species Extinction
- ◆ The Impact of a Transnational Corporation on the Environment
- ◆ Global Energy Politics and Alternative Methods of Energy Production
- ◆ Rapid Industrialization in a Developing Country and Environmental Deterioration
- ◆ Globalization and Bio-invasion Threats
- ◆ Depletion of The Oceanic Commons (e.g. fisheries, natural resources, marine estuaries)
- ◆ Oceanic Pollution and/or the Ecological Costs of Oil Spills
- ◆ Integration of a World Agricultural Market and Food & Health (In)security
- ◆ The Environmental Impact of a WTO and/or IMF Policy
- ◆ Natural Resource Exploitation and Civil Strife in a Developing Country
- ◆ The Exportation of a Hazardous Waste to Developing Countries
- ◆ The Ecological and/or Health Consequences of the International Trade in a Hazardous Product or Pesticide
- ◆ Global Warming and/or Ozone Hole Depletion

Grading Summary:

Participation in Discussion Forums	25%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Policy Paper	25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Overview of the course

Required Reading: Pirages and DeGeest, Chap. 1; French, Chap. 1

WEEK 2: The Global Trade in Natural Resources & Bio-Diversity Loss

Required Reading: French, Chap.2; Pirages & DeGeest, pp. 139-143

Internet Readings: “Behind the Numbers: Untold Suffering in the Congo”
(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/congo/2006/0301numbers.htm>)

WEEKS 3 & 4: Bio-Security and the Spread of Infectious Diseases; The Global Trade in Wildlife

Required Reading: Pirages and DeGeest, Chap. 6; French, Chap. 3

Internet Reading: “UN Warns of Worst Mass Extinctions for 65m Years”
(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/envronmt/2006/0321extintion.htm>)

WEEK 5: The Impact of Transnational Corporations on the Environment

Required Reading: French, Chap. 5

Internet Readings: “Toxic Shock: How Western Rubbish is Destroying Africa”
(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/envronmt/2006/0921toxics shock.htm>)

“Global Exchange’s List of “Most Wanted” Corporate Human Rights Violators of 2005” (<http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/tncs/2005/12wanted.htm>)

“Workers Left Sterile by Pesticide Seek Justice”
(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/tncs/2004/1112bananapesticide.htm>)

“We Want Real Justice for Bhopal”
(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/tncs/2004/0625bhopal.htm>)

“Corporates Take Toll on Rights and Environment, Says Amnesty.”
(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/tncs/2003/0221amnesty.htm>)

WEEK 6: Rapid Population Growth, Industrialization, and Ecological (In)Security

Required Reading: Pirages and DeGeest, Chaps. 2 & 8

Recommended Reading: Chap. 13 of Thomas Friedman’s *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* (ON RESERVE)

Internet Reading: “Pollution Poisons China’s Progress”
(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/envronmt/2005/0704pollutionchina.htm>)

Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis
(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/gpg/2006/1109humdev.htm>)

WEEK 7: World Agricultural Trade, Hunger, and Food (In)Security

Required Reading: Pirages and DeGeest, Chap. 5; French, Chap. 4

WEEK 8: The Conflict between the International Trade Regime & Environmental Protection Laws

Required Reading: French, Chaps. 7 & 8; Pirages and DeGeest, pp. 176 – 183
(* Read the sections entitled “Deeper Harmonization” and “Intellectual Property”)

WEEKS 9 & 10: Atmospheric Turbulence: Air pollution, Ozone Hole Depletion & Global Climate Change

Required Reading: Pirages and DeGeest, pp. 68-80; French, Chap. 6

Internet Reading: “A Third of the World Population Faces Water Scarcity Today”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/envronmt/2006/0821waterstudy.htm>)

“Armed Forces Are Put On Standby to Tackle Threat of Wars over Water”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/water/2006/0228threat.htm>)

“Africans Are Already Facing Climate Change”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/develop/africa/2006/1106africaclimate.htm>)

“Shrinking of Lake Chad: Tale of Human Abuse, Climate Change”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/water/2006/1214lakechad.htm>)

“Limiting Climate Change: The Neglected Obstacle”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/envronmt/2006/0818climatechange.htm>)

Global Warming Is Now a Weapon of Mass Destruction

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/envronmt/2003/0728weapon.htm>)

Are Ordinary People in the US to Blame for World Poverty? Do We Consume Too Much?”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/hunger/2003/0808blame.htm>)

WEEK 11: Protecting the Oceanic Commons

Internet Reading: Read all of the *World Wildlife Fund's* section on “marine problems”

(http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/problems/index.cfm)

WEEKS 12 & 13: Global Energy Politics, Alternative Methods of Energy Production & the Ecological Risks of Oil Dependence

Required Reading: Pirages and DeGeest, Chap. 4

Internet Readings: “The Real Impact of Shell’s Work”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/tncs/2004/0623shellimpact.htm>)

“ExxonMobil in Aceh”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/opinion/2006/0417exxonaceh.htm>)

“Nigeria: Are Human Rights in the Pipeline?”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/tncs/2004/1109amnesty.htm>)

“Is Nigeria the Next Persian Gulf?”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/oil/2005/1110gulf.htm>)

“Burden of Oil Weighs on Nigerians”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/oil/2005/1001burden.htm>)

“War of the Future Oil Drives the Genocide in Darfur”

(<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/sudan/2005/0818darfuroil.htm>)

POLICY PAPER DUE DURING WEEK 12

WEEK 14: Reforming and Strengthening Global Environmental Governance;
Globalization and the Growth in Transnational Environmental Activism

Required Reading: Pirages and DeGeest, Chap. 9 and Epilogue; French, Chaps. 9
& 10