

**PSCI 4808A**  
**Global Environmental Politics**  
Mondays 2:35pm to 5:25pm  
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

*Note: While face-to-face classes at Carleton remain suspended because of COVID-19, this course will meet in a synchronous online format via Zoom during the regularly scheduled timeslot on Mondays. Please find access information on Brightspace.*

Instructor: Peter Andrée  
Online office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm (to book a slot, [schedule found here](#))  
Email: [peter.andree@carleton.ca](mailto:peter.andree@carleton.ca)

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**Calendar Description:** Global politics of transboundary environmental issues such as biodiversity protection, climate change and desertification. The perspectives, actors, institutions and economic relationships affecting international policy responses to these issues.

**Purpose and Objectives:**

The course aims to provide students with a solid understanding of the linkages between the global political system, the global economy, and the world's natural environment. It involves an in-depth exploration of the history, perspectives, actors, institutions, and economic relationships as they relate to the environment in international relations. In particular, the course addresses the following: conceptions of environmental politics in the fields of international relations and international political economy; environmental and political implications of the relationships between states, international institutions, and the global political economy; actors in global environmental politics; the role of the environmental sciences; and the relationships between trade and environmental agreements. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to case studies of a variety of international environmental policy issues. Students will be given the opportunity to use the conceptual basis developed through the readings, podcasts and class discussions to undertake in-depth analysis of the politics of a substantive global environmental policy issue of their own choice. Assignments are designed to build public policy research, critical analysis, and verbal and written communication skills. They include a mock UN negotiations session on a hypothetical global plastics convention. This course is designed as a fourth-year seminar in political science. As such, students will be expected to be prepared to discuss 40+ pages of assigned readings each week, and listen to at one or two podcasts each week. Students are expected to provide insights into the readings and podcasts based on their own areas of research and concentration.

**Texts**

There is one required texts for this course. It is available at Haven Books on Sunnyside Avenue.

<http://www.havenbooks.ca/>

Stevenson, Hayley. 2018. Global Environmental Politics: Problems, Policy and Practice. Cambridge University Press

**Evaluation**

Participation	10%
Reading/podcast responses	19%
UN negotiation policy statement, participation, and reflection <b>(March 21 to April 4)</b>	15%
Policy research essay proposal <b>(due to Brightspace Feb 5)</b>	15%
Policy research essay <b>(due to Brightspace April 11)</b>	30%
In-class presentation <b>(sign up for dates via Brightspace)</b>	11%

**Participation:** Your participation grade will be based on your attendance, the quality of your contributions to seminar group discussions, and your ability to interact with your fellow classmates in a respectful manner.

***Podcast and Reading Responses: “Save the last word for me”***

At least six times over the course of the term, each student is expected to arrive in class prepared to discuss a significant quote from that week’s podcast and/or readings. Quotes can be up to 40 words, but most will be shorter. Bring a print version of the quote to class (or be prepared to share it on a screen in small group discussions). Students should also prepare 150-300 words, in advance, critically engaging with the quote. These responses should contextualize the quote and then give the students’ own critical response to it, drawing on the week’s podcast(s), readings, and/or external sources as appropriate. To get grades for doing this portion of the work (3% of your course grade for simply arriving with a quote and analysis six times during the term), submit your quote and prepared comments to the appropriate assignment box on Brightspace BEFORE class begins (i.e. by 2:35 PM on the day of class). Please note that you will not get feedback on these submissions. Your submission is made simply to track participation in the exercise.

Each week, during class discussions with 3-4 students in each group, students will first share the quote with their colleagues and get their perspectives on it before sharing and discussing their own prepared thoughts on the quote.

**Then, by Friday February 18 at 11:55pm, and again by Friday April 15, 11:55pm, each student should upload what they deem their two ‘best’ quotes and critical analysis (for a total of four for the term) to the relevant assignment drop box in Brightspace to be graded.** These submissions for grading can be revised from what the student originally submitted on the day of the class and can be up to 400 words in length. Each should directly refer to at least 1 podcast and at least two additional course resources (including readings and other material listed as “supplemental material” on the [ecopoliticspodcast.ca](http://ecopoliticspodcast.ca) website). Each submitted response is worth 4% of your course grade.

**UN Negotiation Policy Statement**

Each student in the course will represent a country or other key stakeholder in a mock UN negotiation on the problem of plastic pollution. You can sign up for a particular actor via Brightspace. Prior to the simulation, you must research the issue of plastics pollution, relevant policy options, and determine your country’s national interest regarding these options. At the beginning of class on the first day of negotiations, you must submit a negotiating strategy providing a rationale for initial and fallback positions. You must also submit an original opening statement outlining your preferred outcomes for the meeting (the opening statement must be able to be read within two minutes). The total submission should be under 1000 words, excluding references. The simulation will follow a simplified version of UN diplomatic protocol. After opening statements are presented on March 21 negotiations will take place during that class and the subsequent sessions on March 28 and April 4. To achieve the objective of establishing a new plastics convention, you will need to argue skillfully, listen carefully, offer incentives (or threats), create alliances, and make compromises that you believe will be acceptable to the actor you represent. Further instructions on the negotiations will be posted to Brightspace. There is also a reading posted on Brightspace on multiple-party negotiations which you should read before the first session. Prior to class on April 11, you should also submit a short (up to 500 words) post-mortem on the experience, detailing your efforts, their effects, and what you learned from the process. 15% of your course grade is based on the written submissions and the quality of your participation in the negotiations. Please take into consideration that this assignment is as important to your classmates as it is to you. Respect the rights of others to participate, and do not deprive them of their share of the total time available.

**Policy Research Essay Proposal**

You are to select a specific international (whether global or regional) environmental policy issue which you will deal with in your research essay and in-class presentation. Examples of topics can be found in the list below. The goal of your essay will be to address the question: What are the factors that led to the adoption of this particular policy (or a specific decision within it)? In your argumentative response to this question, you should focus on what you think are the key

economic, institutional, ideational (or other) factors that shaped the policy outcome, drawing on suitable academic sources to help you substantiate your argument. In the proposal, you should include, in narrative form (and not necessarily in this order): 1) A brief description of the environmental issue at stake; 2) a brief introduction to the key state and non-state actors involved in the issue; 3) a description of the key international policy relevant to your issue area (such as a convention or protocol, etc.) and the specific section(s) of the policy that you are focussing on; 4) your draft thesis statement; 5) a review of the main pieces of evidence you have found to back your claim; 6) a description of the work that you intend to do (research, analysis) to complete your paper. (Note: of these six items, the fifth should be the most substantial – up to half of the proposal). In this proposal, you must cite at least two academic journal articles or books, one (or more) of which must be a theoretical source (e.g. helping you make your argument on the politics of policy-making). You should also cite at least one government document, an international organization document, NGO material (web site or otherwise), and industry material (web site or otherwise). Citations should follow APA style. **The proposal is due to Brightspace on Feb 7. It should be 1000-1200 words in length, with the word-count noted on the cover.**

**The Policy Research Essay is due to Brightspace on the last day of class, April 11.** This essay should be 2500-3000 words in length (word count must again be indicated). It should cite at least ten sources, including at least four secondary sources (e.g. academic journal articles or books) in addition to suitable primary sources (e.g. gov't documents or actor-generated documents). The essay should take into account any feedback you received on your proposal. Late proposals and essays will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per business day (e.g. a B paper handed in two days late would be reduced to a C+).

#### **Potential Research Topics:**

Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

International Trade in Hazardous Waste/ Basel Convention

Persistent Organic Pollutants/ POPs Treaty

Deforestation/ Statement of Forest Principles

Biodiversity/ Convention on Biodiversity

Biotechnology/Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety/Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement/

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

Food Safety Issues/CODEX Alimentarius/ Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) agreement of WTO or NAFTA

Whaling/ IWC

Ozone Depletion/ Montreal Protocol/ Illegal trade in CFCs

Freshwater Resources/ Fishing Disputes

Transboundary Air Pollution (acid rain)/ LRTAP

Trade in Dangerous Chemicals/ PIC treaty

Endangered Species/ CITES

European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways

Desertification/ Convention to Combat Desertification

NAFTA and the Environment/ Chapter 11

WTO and the Environment

Voluntary Industry initiatives (e.g. Fast Fashion)/ ISO 14000

World Bank Environmental Policy

UNFCCC/ Paris Agreement

(For more ideas, see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_international\\_environmental\\_agreements](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_international_environmental_agreements))

#### **Presentations:**

The study of global environmental politics is inherently interdisciplinary. The goal of the presentation is to show that you are acquainted with both the science and the politics of the issue you are researching for your essays. The specific

objectives are: 1) to explain, in accessible language, some of the important scientific concepts, trends and debates underlying your policy research area (citing appropriate references); 2) to outline key policy debates and your analysis of past or prospective outcomes – with a focus on the argument you are developing in your research essay; and 3) to draw connections between your topic and one or more of the readings or other resources for the week. Presentations will be done in a *pecha kucha* format (20 slides, 20 seconds each, for a total presentation time of 6 min and 40 seconds (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PechaKucha>)). Rehearse well especially if this is your first time presenting using this format! There are lots of tips available online (e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIDV0gCbeXA>) Presenters should use slides (e.g. PowerPoint or Prezi) and post them to Brightspace. Grading will be based on both content and style. When there is overlap in research topics from week to week, subsequent presenters are expected to make an effort to build on previous discussions rather than repeating the same material.

## **Schedule of topics and readings:**

### **Week 1: January 10**

#### **Introduction to course**

Video and discussion: The UN Conference on the Human Environment 1972

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3-TgHFkfy8>)

### **Week 2: January 17**

#### **Key concepts in global environmental politics**

- Podcasts: *Season 2, Episodes 1 and 2: Introduction to Global Ecopolitics 1 and 2*
- Stevenson, Hayley. 2018. Chapters 1 and 2 of *Global Environmental Politics* (pp.1-35)
- Ostrom, E., J. Burger, and Shritopher B. Field. 1999. 'Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges'. *Science*. 284(5412):278-282 <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/284/5412/278>

### **Week 3: January 24**

#### **Research Methods and Approaches; Introduction to Pecha Kucha presentations**

*Podcasts: Season 2, Episode 3: Theory and Methods*

- Stevenson, Hayley. Chapter 7 of *Global Environmental Politics* (pp.140-166)
- Corell, Elisabeth and Michele M. Betsill. 2001. "A Comparative Look at NGO Influence in International Environmental Negotiations: Desertification and Climate Change". *Global Environmental Politics* 1(4): 86-107
- Levy, David L. and Peter J. Newell. 2002. "Business Strategy and International Environmental Governance: Towards a Neo-Gramscian Synthesis." *Global Environmental Politics* 2(4): 84-101

### **Week 4: January 31**

#### **Student presentations begin**

**Guest: Jay Sinha**, Co-Founder of Life Without Plastic (LifeWithoutPlastic.com)

- Podcast : *ecopolitics podcast, Season 1, episode 3 : Plastics case study*
- Stevenson, Hayley. Chapters 3 and 4 of *Global Environmental Politics* (pp. 37-78)
- Dauvergne, Peter. 2018. Why is the global governance of plastic failing the oceans? *Global Environmental Change* 51: 22-31
- Simon, Nils; Schulte, Maro Luisa (2017). Strengthening plastic governance: Towards a new global convention. Berlin: Adelphi [https://www.adelphi.de/de/system/files/mediathek/bilder/Simon-Schulte%202017%20-%20Strengthening%20Plastic%20Governance\\_final.pdf](https://www.adelphi.de/de/system/files/mediathek/bilder/Simon-Schulte%202017%20-%20Strengthening%20Plastic%20Governance_final.pdf)

### **Week 5: February 7 (Essay Proposals due)**

#### **The Role of the State**

*Podcasts: Ecopolitics podcast, Season 1, episodes 6 (Great power politics) and 7 (MEAs)*

- Stevenson, Hayley. Chapter 6 of *Global Environmental Politics* (pp.107-138)

**Week 6: February 14****Global Indigenous Environmental Politics**

*Podcasts: listen to any two of three: Ecopolitics podcast Season 2 Episodes 8 (Whyte), 9 (Maya) and 10 (Aotearoa)*

- Simpson, Leanne. 2008. Looking after Gdoo-naaganinaa: Precolonial Nishnaabeg Diplomatic and Treaty Relationships. *Wicazo Sa Review* 23 (2): 29-42

**Week 7: February 21 Reading week (no class)****Week 8: February 28****The role of Industry**

**Guest speaker: Sheri Meyerhoffer, Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise**

*Podcasts: Ecopolitics Podcast Season 3, episodes 3 (capitalism) and 5 (mining)*

-Stevenson chapter 9 of *Global Environmental Politics* (pp.197-223)

**Week 9: March 7****The role of Social Movements, and Local Government Actors**

*Podcasts: Ecopolitics podcast Season 2, episodes 5 (Social Movements) and 14 (Global Cities)*

-Stevenson chapter 10 of *Global Environmental Politics* (pp.224-254)

**Week 10: March 14****North-South Dynamics**

*Podcasts: Ecopolitics podcast Season 2 Episode 4 (Elephants in Botswana) and Episode 13 (Right to Water)*

- Stevenson, Hayley. Chapter 5 of *Global Environmental Politics* (p.79 to 106)

**Week 11: March 21** (UN Negotiating positions due)**Mock UN Negotiations (no podcast/reading responses)**

- Reading on course website: Lewicki, Roy J.J., David M. Saunders, Bruce Barry. Coalitions, Multiple Parties, and Teams (Internet Chapter B): 1-16

**Week 12: March 28****Mock UN Negotiations continued (no podcast/reading responses)****Week 13: April 4****Mock UN Negotiations conclude (no podcast/reading responses)****Week 14: April 11** (reflections on UN Negotiations due before class starts)**Next steps in global environmental politics**

*Podcast: Ecopolitics podcast, Season 2, episode 11 (Growth, Agrowth, Degrowth)*

- Stevenson, Hayley. Chapters 11 and 12 of *Global Environmental Politics* (pp.256-293)

## **Appendix**

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### **Covid-19 Information**

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) When accessing campus you must fill in the [COVID-19 Screening](#)

[Self-Assessment in cuScreen](#) each day before coming to campus. You must also check-in to your final destination (where you plan on being longer than 15 minutes) within a building using the [QR location code](#).

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca)

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

### **Requests for Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

***Pregnancy accommodation:*** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf).

***Religious accommodation:*** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf).

***Accommodations for students with disabilities:*** If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more information, please visit [carleton.ca/pmc](https://carleton.ca/pmc).

***Accommodation for student activities:*** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who engage in student activities at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

## **Sexual Violence Policy**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. Survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support).

## **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the

student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:  
<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

### **Intellectual property**

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

### **Submission and Return of Term Work**

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

### **Grading**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **Carleton E-mail Accounts**

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

### **Carleton Political Science Society**

The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

### **Official Course Outline**

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.