

**Spring 2009**

**WWS 586d**  
**Global Environmental Governance**

Prof. Michael Oppenheimer  
Thursday 1:00-4:00

**Course Information**

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Professor Michael Oppenheimer**

Robertson Hall 448

Phone: 609-258-2338

E-Mail: [omichael@princeton.edu](mailto:omichael@princeton.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 1:00-2:00pm at Robertson 448, Friday 12-1:00 pm in Robertson 448 or at NYU Law School, Vanderbilt 310E, depending on class location;

Or, by appointment made through Geraldine Rhodes

**Assistant:** Geraldine Rhodes

Robertson Hall 447a

Phone: 609-258-2863

E-Mail: [grhodes@princeton.edu](mailto:grhodes@princeton.edu)

**LOCATION**

Meetings will alternate between WWS and NYU Law School, with six at each location. Most classes before Spring Break will be held at NYU while most afterward will be held at WWS. The schedule below is subject to change so check the syllabus posted on Blackboard weekly well before class.

**OVERVIEW**

This seminar examines international law and governance as applied to a few specific environmental problems and the international agreements pertinent to them, in the broader context of the great variety of domestic approaches among nations, and the resulting challenge to global trade and regulatory regimes. We shall consider the need for regulation under conditions of scientific uncertainty with respect to a number of issues of current interest, including ozone depletion, climate change, GMOs, marine

resources, and forest conservation. The course explores the efficacy of diverse regulatory approaches, mechanisms for scientific advice to policy makers and participation by business firms and NGOs. Intersections of environmental regulation (both domestic and international) with trade, investment, and multilateral development and aid programs are examined.

Elements of international environmental regimes that are of interest include

- formal and informal scientific advisory mechanisms
- the interaction of international regimes with domestic politics and domestic interest groups
- means to rationalize diverse national approaches to risk
- formal administrative elements
- informal governmental networks
- the relation between domestic implementation and international procedures
- cross-state influence of domestic regimes
- public-private and voluntary standard setting

These issues will be addressed on an interdisciplinary basis, drawing on insights from law, politics, and the natural sciences.

The course will proceed in seminar form, with occasional guest lecturers. The seminar is a joint effort co-taught with an NYU Law School professor, Katrina Wyman, and will have approximately equal numbers of students from NYU Law School and Princeton. Professors Oppenheimer and Wyman will collaborate, teaching each class as a team. However, administrative matters (e.g., grading) are handled separately for Princeton and NYU students by their respective professor as if the course consists of two independent classes that meet together.

## **COURSE MATERIALS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

The following books are required:

Barrett, S.: 2006, *Environment and Statecraft: the Strategy of Environmental Treaty-Making*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. (paperback edition)

Benedick, R.: 1998, *Ozone Diplomacy*, Harvard U., Cambridge. (paperback edition)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: 2007, *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report* (available online at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>).

Reference materials on reserve in Stokes Library:

Philippe Sands, *Principles of International Environmental Law* (2d ed 2003)

Lakshman D. Guruswamy, *International Environmental Law in a Nutshell* (2d ed 2003)

David Hunter, Durwood Zaelke, James Salzman, *International Environmental Law and Policy* (3d ed 2007)

Other materials will be posted on Blackboard. Some additional readings may be distributed in hard copy. Class assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

**Class Meetings:**

- February 6** Course Introduction: The American Mood on the environment (Guest: Tony Leiserowitz, Yale); Ozone Depletion I: The science, and early policy initiatives  
**Location:** NYU
- February 13** Ozone Depletion II: The Montreal Protocol and beyond  
**Location:** NYU
- February 20** Climate Change I: How Warm is Too Warm? The UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol  
**Location:** NYU
- February 27** Climate Change II, Post-Kyoto: Is Emissions Trading Really the Way Forward; domestic legislation, regulation, and litigation  
**Location:** NYU (Guest: Nat Keohane, EDF)
- March 6** Private Regulation and Global Environmental Problems: Eco-labeling And Sustainable Forestry (Tentative guest: Annie Petsonk, EDF)  
**Location:** WWS
- March 13** Sustainable Fisheries (Guest: Becky Goldberg, Pew Charitable Trusts)  
**Location:** WWS
- March 20** *Spring break*
- March 27** Implications of the Arctic Thaw  
**Location:** WWS

- April 3** Trade and Environment: Shrimp, Turtles, Whales  
**Location:** WWS
- April 10** GMOs – Labeling, Traceability and International Regulatory Impacts On Developing Countries (Guest: Prof. Richard Stewart, NYU Law)  
**Location:** NYU
- April 17** Border Tariffs on Carbon, engaging China and the US (Guest: Rob Howse, NYU Law)  
**Location:** NYU
- April 24** Pesticides and other chemicals (Tentative Guest: Adam Finkel)  
**Location:** WWS
- May 1** Synopses of Term Paper Topics/Reflections on the Course  
**Location:** WWS

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Course requirements are as follows:

1. Class attendance and participation is an essential element in this course. Accordingly, all members of the class are required to attend class regularly after having read and considered the readings and questions for class discussion, and also contribute to the class discussion.
2. For each class, two pairs or teams of students will be required to submit a short position paper (about 800 words) on a hypothetical policy exercise that will be a focus of that class. Teams will consist of one Princeton and one NYU student. Papers will be developed cooperatively by each team, and must be posted on Blackboard by 6pm on the Thursday before the relevant class. Princeton students will email their papers to their NYU classmates and vice versa. Each student will be required to participate in a team no more than four times during the course of the seminar. Students not on the teams-of-the-week are expected to prepare questions and criticisms of the teams' positions in order to broaden the discussion. Several students may be asked in advance to be prepared to present brief but specific responses to the teams' positions in order to stimulate discussion.
3. Submission of a final research paper on issues broadly relevant to the issues addressed in the course. An outline of your paper should be submitted to me by March 23. Final papers must be submitted no later than Dean's Day. I will develop a list of sample topics and meet with students to discuss their paper topics individually.

Grading:

Short position papers	30%
Seminar participation	30%
Final paper	40%