

POLS 385/ENVS 385: Global Environmental Politics
Department of Political Science
Northern Illinois University

Spring 2024
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:30 pm
DuSable Hall 176

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1230-230 PM

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Office Hours: Monday 10-11 AM

Overview

Global environmental problems—climate change, biodiversity loss, depletion of freshwater resources, the hole in the ozone layer, the international transport of hazardous waste, and many more—have become increasingly pressing political concerns around the world. This course will introduce students to the myriad of global environmental challenges and the governance structures in place to try to solve them. It will begin with a focus on the agreements between states that regulate international environmental pollution and resource use with a focus on the underlying state dynamics through the use of a simulation. It will then focus on other avenues for solving these complex problems like transnational governance, economic mechanisms, and changes in individual consumption. The course concludes by examining the impact of global environmental degradation on issues such as development, violent conflict, and justice.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Be able to apply core theories and articulate contemporary debates within Global Environmental Politics
- Be able to think critically about environmental issues and thoroughly analyze potential policy solutions
- Be able to analyze and critique scholarly works
- Be able to present complex ideas and arguments through written and oral communication

Requirements and Evaluation

Course Requirements

- Midterm I: 15% (February 27th)
- Midterm II: 20% (May 2nd)
- Simulation and Country Report: 20% (Report due March 22nd)
- Group Governance Research Project: 20% (April 19th)
- Reading Analysis: 5% (rolling)
- Course Participation: 10% (on-going)
- Reading Quizzes & In-Class Activities: 10% (Weekly)

Midterm Exam I (15%) and II (20%): The midterm exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. They will be taken in-class on the dates above.

Simulation and Country Report (20%): The simulation will consist of an abbreviated negotiation of a global climate change treaty occurring over three meetings of the semester. Each student will be assigned a country and be expected to accurately represent that country's interests throughout the simulation. The grade will consist of both active and accurate participation in the simulation as well as a follow-up paper that will be part research paper and part reflection.

Group Governance Research Project (20%): Your group will become expert on a global environmental issue and its governance. Each group write an in-depth research paper (12-15 pages) and record an online lecture. Your analysis will include a brief discussion of the science underlying the problem, the various forms of global governance regulating the issue, and the impact of other important topics in class. A full assignment sheet will be provided later.

Reading Analysis (5%): One time during the semester you will submit a one-page analysis of an assigned academic research article (marked with a * below). Your analysis will briefly summarize and critique the author's contentions. A sign-up sheet and details will be provided in week 2. Your analysis will be due on blackboard the week the reading is due.

Course Participation (10%): Students are expected to have read and reflected upon required readings prior to each class. Participation in class means active engagement in discussions, group activities, and other forms of interaction with your colleagues and instructor. If you do not attend, you cannot earn participation points. However, missing one or two classes is less consequential than attending all classes but remaining quiet, distracted, or disengaged. I will take attendance during class at random throughout the semester. If you will be absent for long stretches because of illness, death in the family, etc please let me know as soon as possible. If you have concerns about your

performance or your ability to confidently engage within the class, please (at any time) speak to me in office hours.

Reading Quizzes(10%): Most weeks you will complete a short quiz during class time. The quiz will assess your comprehension of that week's readings as well as lectures and will be given at different times during the week(Tuesday or Thursdays, beginning or ending of class). Quizzes may also ask you to connect that week's content to online research or reflect on its connection to your life. Some weeks, in lieu of a quiz we will in-class group projects, writing reactions, and other activities Your lowest grade will be dropped.

Course Materials

We have one assigned textbook for this course (noted GEP in the course schedule below):

Global Environmental Politics, Jean-Frederic Morin Amandine Orsini, and Sikina Jinnah, 1st Edition. Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780198826088

We will be reading the vast majority of this book so please plan to buy, rent, or share a copy. All additional readings will be posted to Blackboard. Articles relating to current events will also be sent to your NIU email address.

Current Events: Important and consequential events in international environmental politics will be happening all the time this semester. Accordingly, this course will rely on discussions that transcend reading material and beckon engagement with contemporary issues of global politics. It is therefore required that students stay up to date with current global affairs by following a major newspaper (e.g. New York Times, BBC, or the Economist). I highly recommend getting in the habit of reading the news every day and, if you can, purchasing a subscription (quality journalism does not come cheaply) to an outlet of your choice for the duration of the semester.

If a natural curiosity about the world or performing your civic duty is not enough to motivate a reading habit, current events will be a part of discussion (i.e. participation points) and be a component of reading quizzes and the midterms.

Note: In addition to news sources, I highly recommend these academic blogs for actual expert analysis on current events: The Conversation, Monkey Cage, Duck of Minerva, and Project Syndicate for general interest and political science and Grist, Climate Central, and Yale Climate Connections for environment. Please let me know if you find relevant articles (or podcasts) of relevance to the course elsewhere.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is expected at each class. Attendance will be taken at random as part of your participation grade. If you will miss discussion for a legitimate reason please email me prior to when we meet. Emails received after lecture will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Disability accommodations: If you need an accommodation for this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible. The DRC coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities. It is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building and can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu. Also, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations.

Office Hours: Office hours will be held in-person and online simultaneously. These are drop-in times, and all students are always welcome to attend to discuss anything related to the course, or anything else you feel that I could potentially help with. No RSVP is required. Students are encouraged to attend as often as they like and are invited to attend in small groups if you wish. Face to face interaction, even digitally, allows me to get to know you and allows me to much more efficiently and effectively answer any questions you may have. If you cannot meet during this period, please email me well in advance to arrange an alternative time.

Email: If you have smaller logistical questions etc., please feel free to email. If the response requires more than a couple sentences, I will ask that we set up a team to chat through online. I will check my email from the hours of 9 am - 5 pm but am not available on weekends. I will try to respond within 24 hours. Email me right now with "I'm paying attention" in the subject line for an extra credit point. Please include the course number (POLS 395) in the subject line.

Laptops and Technology: I highly recommend taking notes on the recorded lectures and doing so by hand. Research suggests it is more effective in helping you learn.

Academic Integrity - I take academic misconduct very seriously. All work submitted must be a student's own in full. Any student in this course found to have plagiarized (accidentally or otherwise) the work of another individual (including, but not limited to, other students or from existing scholarship) will receive a failing grade in this course and may be subject to additional sanctions by the University. Students are expected to have read and to abide by NIU's Student Code of Conduct. This is your responsibility and a requirement of this course. Please take NIU's Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity to re-familiarize yourself if you have doubts or concerns and/or speak to your Instructor in office hours. If you have any questions throughout the course relating to academic practices, academic integrity, and issues of plagiarism and/or citation, please speak to the Instructor and/or consult the links noted above. Failure to understand these requirements does not constitute an excuse to deviate from them.

A Note on AI: The use of AI, such as ChatGPT, is not explicitly prohibited in this course. However, please understand that outputs are often inaccurate or flawed in ways that you won't understand unless you do the real work anyway. I understand that the use of these technologies will likely be a valuable tool for all of us in the future(I'm trying to figure them out too). AI tools can be beneficial for various tasks, including research, idea generation, overcoming writer's block, and grammar editing, but solely relying on AI-generated content without proper attribution is still plagiarism. If using these tools you must cite them appropriately. Furthermore, papers and exams will ask that you explicitly apply concepts discussed in this course and not doing so, or reporting falsehoods generated by AI, will be penalized appropriately.

Exams: Exams must be completed at the scheduled date and time, unless prior accommodations have been arranged.

Health: Your health, whether it is mental, COVID related, or that of your family is our #1 priority. Simply put, if you aren't well you won't be able to be successful in this course. If you are struggling with health, of any kind, I pledge to work with you to make sure you make the most of this class, but I need to know as early as possible if you are struggling. Masks are not required in class, but are encouraged especially if you are feeling sick or have been exposed others that are. Please do your part to keep everyone healthy.

Assignment Submission: Your paper assignments will be submitted on blackboard. For every 24 hours, the assignment is late you will receive a 10% reduction in your grade, starting at the beginning of the class period the day the assignment is due. After 72 hours late, the grade becomes a zero.

Extensions: I understand that life happens, and accommodations are possible for documented medical or family emergencies, or when agreed upon with the Instructor. If you think you need to delay taking an exam or submitting a written assignment, you should talk to me as soon as possible. Extensions are never guaranteed but are much more likely if you talk to me before the issue arises, not after. They will be based on University policy, exigency of the circumstances, and timeliness of the request (i.e. the earlier the better).

Course Technology:

- Email – Class announcements will be made through your NIU email. Plan to check it regularly.
- Blackboard - Blackboard is the primary course webpage. It will host readings that are not available in the textbook mentioned below, to document student grades, and to disseminate announcements. Blackboard will also host copies of all additional materials provided in the course (e.g. assignment details). Please check Blackboard before contacting the Instructor or Teaching Assistant for information regarding assignments or readings, and

regularly visit the webpage to ensure you are up to date on announcements in the course. Please add a picture to your blackboard profile.

- Microsoft Teams: Group projects, as well as some course discussions, will be conducted using Teams. All students have free access through [O365.niu.edu](https://o365.niu.edu).

If you are having trouble accessing to appropriate technology or have internet access issues please let me know and we can work on an accommodation.

Grade Appeals: If you wish to appeal a grade, you must wait 48 hours after you receive the grade and send the instructor a 1-page email specifying why you believe your grade is incorrect.

Letter Grade Distribution: Students will receive a percentage score for each assignment that can be totaled and translated into a letter grade according to the scale below.

>= 92.5	A	77.50 - 79.99	C+
90.00 - 92.49	A-	70.00 - 77.49	C
87.50 - 89.99	B+	60.00 - 69.99	D
82.50 - 87.49	B	<= 59.99	F
80.00 - 82.49	B-		

Our Academic Environment -Together, we will foster a comfortable, engaging, and accessible scholarly environment. All students should feel welcome to attend and speak freely in class and in Office Hours. Issues of politics can be controversial, and debates can become heated. However, we will approach this course as colleagues, and we will treat each other with respect and dignity at all times.

Undocumented Students Undocumented students are welcome in this class. If you are undocumented and need assistance, please contact Undocumented Student Support or come talk to me.

Note: For all students addressing undocumented immigration as a category of analysis in class, do not use the word "illegal(s)" in a discussion. The term "illegal(s)" promotes a culture of intolerance and violence toward foreign nationals and undocumented immigrants. A more accurate and non-offensive term is "undocumented immigrant(s)." The use of this language signifies respect to the population addressed and reflects our campus's most basic values of diversity and civility in academic discourse.

Preferred Names and Pronouns - I am committed to using your proper names and pronouns as you prefer it. Class rosters and University data systems are provided to faculty with the student's legal name and legal gender marker. As an NIU student, you are able to change how your preferred/proper name shows up on class rosters.

Land Acknowledgement - Northern Illinois University operates and is built on the traditional lands of the Oceti Sakowin (Sioux), Miami, Bodewadmiakiwen (Potawatomi), Sauk and Meskwaki, and Peoria. We acknowledge this land and these peoples in order to honor the legacies, struggles, and current existence of Indigenous peoples.

Recordings- Please do not record lectures without first getting permission from the instructor. Lecture slides will be posted after class.

Course Schedule:

Weekly Schedule: Course topics and readings are organized into weeks and lectures in the schedule below. Please complete all course readings prior to our Tuesday course meeting.

Course Topics:

- Week 1 –Introduction to Global Environmental Politics
- Week 2 –The Science of Global Climate Change and the Anthropocene
- Week 3 –Theories of International Relations and the Environment
- Week 4 – States and Domestic Politics
- Week 5 – IOs and Multilateral Governance
- Week 6 –Compliance and The Paris Agreement
- Week 7 –Midterm and Simulation Prep
- Week 8 –Simulation
- Week 9 – Transnational Governance
- Week 10 – Private Governance and Individual Responsibility
- Week 11 – Sustainable Development
- Week 12 – Global Environmental Justice
- Week 13 – Conflict and the Environment
- Week 14 – Alternatives: Geo-Engineering and Adaptation
- Week 15 –Despair and Hope in Global Environmental Politics

Detailed Class Schedule and Assigned Readings:

All readings, videos, etc. are required unless otherwise noted. GEP is an abbreviation for the course textbook. Articles eligible for the reading analysis assignment are noted with a *.

- Week 1 – January 16th: Introduction to Global Environmental Politics
 - o Review course syllabus

- GEP Introduction (pgs. 1-14)
- Joshua Busby (2018) "Warming World: Why Climate Change Matters More Than Anything Else" *Foreign Affairs*
- Jessica Green, Thomas Hale, and Jeff Colgan (2019) "The Existential Politics of Climate Change" *Global Policy*
- Stacy Morford (2023) "2022's billion-dollar disasters: Climate change helped make it US's 3rd most expensive year on record" *The Conversation*

Recommended

- James Temple (2021) "The pandemic taught us how not to deal with climate change" *MIT Technology Review*

- Week 2 – January 23rd: Science of Global Climate Change and the Anthropocene
 - GEP Ch. 1 "Interconnections between science and politics" (pgs 25-53)
 - Adam Vaughan (2016) "Human Impact has pushed Earth into the Anthropocene, scientists say" *The Guardian*
 - Watch: The Royal Society "Climate Science Basics"
 - Julia Rosen (2021) "The Science of Climate Change Explained: Facts, Evidence, and Proof" *The New York Times*
 - NASA (2019) "Global Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet"
 - Skim: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2021) "Summary for Policymakers. Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis"
 - Explore: Skeptical Science "Global Warming and Climate Change Myths"

Recommended:

- David Roberts (2019) "Scientists have gotten predictions of global warming right since the 1970s" Vox
- Fourth National Climate Assessment, the Midwest
- Bruce Tranter and Kate Booth (2015) "Skepticism in a changing climate: A cross-national study" *Global Environmental Change*
- Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C"

- Week 3 – January 31st: Theories of International Relations and Environmental Cooperation
 - GEP Ch. 5 "The tragedy of the commons and sovereign rights"
 - Kate O'Neill. (2017) "Scholarly Perspectives on International Environmental Politics" *The Environment and International Relations*
 - Jessica Green (2021) "Climate Change Governance" in *Global Governance in a World of Change* ed. Michael Barnett, Jon Pevehouse, Kal Raustiala

- Michael Aklin and Matto Mildenberger (2020) "Prisoners of the Wrong Dilemma: Why Distributive Conflict, Not Collective Action, Characterize the Politics of Climate Change" *Global Environmental Politics*

Recommended:

- Sprinz and Vaahutoranta (1994) "The Interest-Based Explanation of International Environmental Policy" *International Organization**
- Bernauer et al. (2010) "A Comparison of International and Domestic Sources of Global Governance Dynamics" *British Journal of Political Science* *
- Jack Snyder (2009) "One World, Rival Theories" *Foreign Policy*

- Week 4 – February 6th: The Role of Domestic Politics

- GEP Ch. 3 "States"
- Paul Harris (2013) "What's Wrong with Climate Politics"
- Harrison and Sundstrom *Global Commons, Domestic Decisions* Ch. 1

Recommended

- Michèle B. Bättig and Thomas Bernauer . (2009). "National Institutions and Global Public Goods: Are Democracies More Cooperative in Climate Change Policy?" *International Organization**
- Paul Tobin (2017). "Leaders and Laggards: Climate Policy Ambition in Developed States." *Global Environmental Politics**
- Anna Klis (2022) 'Game Theory and Environmental Agreements: Getting Started with Coalition Models' in *Pathways to Research*

- Week 5 – February 13th: Non-state Actors in Global Environmental Cooperation

- GEP Ch. 4 "Non-State Actors"(pgs 127-159)
- Benjamin Bowman (2020) "Fridays for Future" *The Conversation*
- Adam Aron (2022) "3 Reasons Local Climate Activism is More Powerful than People Realize" *The Conversation*
- Jonathan W. Kuyper, Bjorn-Ola Linner, and Heike Schroeder (2019) "Non-state actors in ' hybrid global climate governance: justice, legitimacy, and effectiveness in a postparis era." *WIREs Climate Change*

Recommended

- Paul Wapner (1995) "Environmental activism and world civic politics." *World Politics* *

- Frank Biermann (2001) "The Emerging Debate on the Need for a World Environment Organization: A Commentary." *Global Environmental Politics* *
 - Maria Ivanova (2010) "UNEP in Global Environmental Governance: Design, Leadership, Location." *Global Environmental Politics* *
 - Thomas Hale (2016). " "All Hands on Deck": The Paris Agreement and Nonstate Climate Action." *Global Environmental Politics* *
- Week 6 – February 20th: The Paris Agreement and Effectiveness
 - Skim: *The Paris Agreement*
 - Stephen Moore (2020) "Biden wants US to rejoin Paris Climate Accord. Why? It puts America last" *Foxnews.com*
 - Fred Pearce(2024) "[Mind the Gaps: How the UN Climate Plan Fails to Follow the Science](#)"
 - [Watch: Grist\(2022\) "The Paris Climate Agreement, explained\(5 years later\)"](#)
 - Explore: www.climateactiontracker.org

Recommended

- Ronald Mitchell (2008) "Evaluating the Effectiveness of International Environmental Institutions" from *International Politics and the Environment*
 - Bjorn Lomborg (2016) "A Climate Cure Worse than the Disease" *Project Syndicate*
 - Radoslav Dimitrov (2016)"The Paris Agreement on Climate Change: Behind Closed Doors" *Global Environmental Politics* *
 - Paul Tobin et al. (2018) "Mapping states' Paris climate pledges: Analysing targets and groups at COP 21" *Global Environmental Change* *
- Week 7 – February 27th - Midterm and Simulation Prep
- Week 8 – March 5th – Simulation – UNFCCC DeKalb COP

Spring Break

- Week 9 – March 19th: Transnational Governance
 - GEP: Ch 4.4 Transnational Governance
 - Michele Betsill and Desiree Fiske (2020) "International Climate Change Policy: Complex Multilevel Governance"

- Joshua Busby and Johannes Urpeleinen (2018) “Are states, cities and companies taking the lead on climate action?” *The Monkey Cage*
- Anne Hidalgo and William Peduto (2017) “We Have Our Own Climate Deal” *New York Times*
- Explore c40.org
- Harro van Asselt, Sander Chan, Idil Boran, Thomas Hale, Lukas Hermwille and Charles Roger (2020) “Realizing the Promise of Paris: Three Ways of Strengthening Non-State and Subnational Climate Action” *Global Policy Journal*

Recommended

- Harriet Bulkeley et al. (2012) “Governing Climate Change Transnationally: Assessing the Evidence from a Database of Sixty Initiatives,” *Environment and Planning* *
- Robert Keohane and David Victor (2010) “The Regime Complex for Climate Change” *Perspectives on Politics* *
- Miranda Schreurs (2008). “From the Bottom Up: Local and Subnational Climate Change Politics” *The Journal of Environment & Development*

- Week 10 – March 26th: Private Governance and Individual Responsibility
 - Hayley Stevenson (2018) “Individualising Responsibility” from *Global Environmental Politics*
 - Emma Marris (2020) “How to Stop Freaking Out and Tackle Climate Change” *The New York Times*
 - Michael Maniates (2021) “Beyond Magical Thinking” in *Routledge Handbook of Global Sustainability Governance*
 - Jerry Patchell and Roger Hayter (2013) “How big business can save the climate” *Foreign Affairs*

Recommended

- Michael Maniates (2001) “Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?” *Global Environmental Politics**
- Hamish van der Ven (2014) “Socializing the C-Suite: Why Some Big-Box Retailers Are ‘Greener’ than Others.” *Business and Politics* *
- Paasha Maahdahvi, Jessica Green, Jennifer Hadden, and Thomas Hale. “Using Earnings Calls to Understand the Political Behavior of Major Polluters.” *Global Environmental Politics* 22, no. 1 (2022): 159–74.*

- Ken Conca (2001) "Consumption and environment in a global economy" *Global Environmental Politics**
- Week 11 – April 2nd: Sustainable Development
 - GEP Ch. 10 "Trade and the Environment" (pgs. 318-357)
 - Robert Newman (2006) "It's capitalism or a habitable planet—you can't have both." *The Guardian*
 - Kate O'Neill (2017) "Market Mechanisms" *The Environment and International Relations*
 - Aseem Prakash (2017) "A Better Way to Regulate Carbon" *The Conversation*
 - GEP Ch. 6 "Development and the environment: From the Stockholm Summit to the Sustainable Development Goals" (pgs 192-220)
 - Asghar Zaidi (2015) "Explainer: what are the UN sustainable development goals?" *The Conversation*

Recommended

- Paul Wapner and John Willoughby (2005) "The irony of environmentalism: the ecological futility but political necessity of lifestyle change" *Ethics & International Affairs* *
 - Steven Bernstein (2000) "Ideas, social structure and the compromise of liberal environmentalism." *European Journal of International Relations* *
 - Will Steffen, Johan Rockstrom, and Robert Costanza (2011) "How Defining Planetary Boundaries Can Transform Our Approach to Growth" *The Solutions Journal* *
 - Newell, P. (2011) "The elephant in the room: capitalism and global environmental change" *Global Environmental Change**
 - Benjamin Fong (2017) "The Climate Crisis? It's Capitalism, Stupid" *The New York Times*
- Week 12 – April 9th: Global Environmental Justice
 - Abrahm Lustgarten (2020) "Where Will Everyone Go?" *ProPublica*
 - Peter Newell & Dustin Mulvaney (2013) "The political economy of the 'just transition'" *The Geographical Journal*, 179(2), 132-140.
 - Mohamad Adow (2020) "The Climate Debt: What the West Owes the Rest" *Foreign Affairs*.
 - Explore: Mary Robinson Foundation "Principles of Climate Justice"

Recommended

- James Patterson et al. (2018) "Political feasibility of 1.5°C societal transformations: the role of social justice." *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability**
 - Farhana Sultana (2022) "The unbearable heaviness of climate coloniality" *Political Geography**
- Week 13 – April 16th: Conflict and the Environment
- GEP Ch. 9 "Natural resources, security, and conflict" (pgs 291-317)
 - Vally Koubi (2019) "Climate Change and Conflict" *Annual Review of Political Science*
 - Thomas Homer-Dixon (1994) "Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict" *International Security* *
 - Gabriele Spilker, Vally Koubi, Lena Schaffer and Tobias Böhmelt (2018) "There's grim news on climate change. Will it lead to mass migration and conflict?" *The Monkey Cage*
 - Skim: Department of Defense "National Security Implications of Climate Related Risks"

Recommended

- Colin P. Kelley, Shahrzad Mohtadi, Mark A. Cane, Richard Seager, and Yochanan Kushnir (2015) "Climate change in the Fertile Crescent and implications of the recent Syrian drought" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* *
 - Jan Selby, Omar S. Dahi, Christiane Froehlich, and Mike Hulm (2017) "Climate change and the Syrian civil war revisited" *Political Geography* *
 - Peter Gleick (2014) "Water, Drought, Climate Change and the Conflict in Syria" *Weather, Climate, and Society*
 - Brad Plumer (2013) "Will global warming lead to more war? It's not that simple." *The Washington Post*
 - Podcast: *Displaced* (2019) ["Climate Change: How Global Warming Exacerbates Conflict"](#)
- Week 14 – April 23rd: Geo-Engineering and Technology
- Simon Nicholson (2013) "The Promises and Perils of Geoengineering." *State of the World 2013*
 - Francisco Toro (2019) "Climate politics is a dead end. So the world could turn to this desperate final gambit" *The Washington Post*
 - Sikina Jinnah and Simon Nicholson (2019) "The hidden politics of climate engineering" *Nature Geoscience*
 - Hill, Alice and Leonardo Martinez-Diaz.(2019) "[Adapt or Perish.](#)" *Foreign Affairs*

Recommended

- Sikina Jinnah (2018) "Why Govern Climate Engineering?: Towards a Framework for Demand-Based Governance" *International Studies* *
 - Humphreys, D.R. (2011) "Smoke and mirrors: some reflections on the science and politics of geoengineering", *Journal of Environment and Development**
 - Podcast: Radiolab (2023) [Smog Cloud Silver Lining](#)
- Week 15 – April 30th: Despair and Hope in Global Environmental Politics
- David Roberts (2019). "The case for "conditional optimism" on climate change" *Vox*
 - Rebecca Solnit (2016) "[Hope is an Embrace of the Unknown](#)" *The Guardian*
 - Skim: The Good News on Climate www.dailyclimate.org/good-news

Note: Topics and readings may be subject to change at the discretion of your Instructor. Any change in the above schedule (e.g. the cancellation or rescheduling of a class or the hosting of the class by a guest other than your Instructor) will be noted as soon as possible by your Instructor through Blackboard.