

Course Syllabus
IPEC 4396.002 / PSCI 4396.002
Natural Resources and Conflict
Tu/Th 8:30-9:45 in CB1 1.106
Fall 2017

Professor Contact Information

Alisha Kim

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Office hours: 10-12 M-W, 4-5 MW

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Students should know how to find articles via the library databases; however, this will be reviewed early in the term.

Course Description

This course examines the role of natural resource endowments and scarcity in national and international conflict. The course begins with a study of the various causes of conflict at the state, society and individual levels such as structural violence, politics, religion and humiliation. We then explore how constraints on natural resources such as water and fertile soil increase the likelihood of environmentally related violence as compared to other causes of conflict. Students will explore not only conflict theory but also technical aspects of global environmental change. Finally, the class will explore potential conflict resolution approaches as they relate to resource scarcity and environmental change.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

After taking this course students will:

1. understand the various sources of natural resource conflict;
 2. develop strategies for analyzing conflict;
 3. recognize various challenges and how to address them within the collaborative process; and
 4. learn about evolving management strategies within natural resource collaboration
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Required Textbooks and Materials

The required text for this course is Environmental Conflict by Paul Diehl and Nils Gleditsch (2001, Westview Press). ISBN: 0813397545.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

A * indicates the reading is from the text.

A ** indicates the reading is in the course reserves.

INTRODUCTION

Aug. 22 Diehl and Gleditsch, Chapter 1 “Controversies and Questions” (pp.1-13)*

Aug. 24 1. Diehl and Gleditsch, Chapter 2 “The Case of South Africa” by Percival and Homer-Dixon (pp.13-35)*
2. Pruitt and Kim, “Toward a Theory of Conflict” Chapter 1 in Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate and Settlement, Third Edition (2004)**

CAUSES OF CONFLICT & LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

Aug. 29 1. Levy, Jack. Theories and causes of war, in The Handbook on the Political Economy of War (2011)

[http://fas-](http://fas-polisci.rutgers.edu/levy/articles/2011%20Theories%20&%20Causes%20of%20War.pdf)

[polisci.rutgers.edu/levy/articles/2011%20Theories%20&%20Causes%20of%20War.pdf](http://fas-polisci.rutgers.edu/levy/articles/2011%20Theories%20&%20Causes%20of%20War.pdf)

Systemic Level Variables – Power, Structural Violence, Globalization

2. Galtung, Johan. (1969) “Violence, Peace, and Peace Research.” Journal of Peace Research. Vol. 6, No. 3. 167-191.

State/Society Level Variables – Political Causes (Choose 1 reading from 3 below)

3. Mansfield, Edward D. and Jack Snyder.(2001) “Democratic Transitions and War: From Napoleon to the Millennium’s End.” In Crocker, C.A., et al., (eds.) Turbulent Peace. Washington, DC: US Institute of Peace Press. 113-126. **

4. Ayoob, M. (2001). “State making, state breaking and state failure.” In Crocker, C.A. et al. (eds.). Turbulent Peace. Washington, D.C.: US Institute of Peace Press. 127-142. **

5. Gurr, Ted R. (2001) “Ethnopolitical Conflict in the New Century.” In Crocker, C.A., et al., (eds.) Turbulent Peace. Washington, DC: US Institute of Peace Press. 163-188. **

Aug. 31 Intra/Inter Group Relationships & Individual Level Variables

1. Duckitt, John (2003) “Prejudice and Intergroup Hostility.” In Sears, David O. et al., (eds.) Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 559-600. **

Sep. 5 Introduction to Natural Resources and Conflict

1. Diehl and Gleditsch, Chapter 3, “Causal Pathways to Conflict” pp.36-57*

NOTE: You are not responsible for the ‘Research Design’ Section in the chapter – you can skip this part unless it interests you.

2. Baviskar, Chapter 1, “Introduction” pp.1-13 **

3. From Conflict to Peacebuilding: http://unep.org/pdf/pcdmb_policy_01.pdf

4. UN Study Series on Peace and Conflict, READ ONLY pp.1-16

<http://www.usip.org/files/file/08sg.pdf>

Sep. 7 1. Tsunami and Aceh Conflict Resolution:

<http://www1.american.edu/ted/ice/tsunami-aceh.htm>

Sep. 12 **The Stakeholders in Natural Resources**

1. Preventing Deadly Conflict, Chapter 5:

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/subsites/ccpdc/pubs/rept97/finfr.htm>

Sep. 14 **Writing Assignment #1 Due**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCARCITY AND VIOLENT CONFLICT

Sep. 19 **Environmental Scarcity**

1. Gilmartin, David. (2003) "Water and Waste: Nature, Productivity and Colonialism in the Indus Basin." Economic and Political Weekly. Vol. 38, No. 48. 5057-5065.

Demographic Pressures – Too Many People

2. Diehl and Gleditsch, Chapter 4, "Demographic Pressure and Interstate Conflict" by Tir and Diehl, pp.58-83*

3. Diehl and Gleditsch, Chapter 5, "Demography, Environment, and Security" by Jack Goldstone, pp.84-108*

Sep. 21 **Population Malthusians vs. Economic Optimists**

1. Diehl and Gleditsch, Chapter 7, "Resource Constraints or Abundance?" by Bjørn Lomborg, pp.125-152*

2. Homer-Dixon, Chapter 3 in The Upside of Down "We are Like Running Water" **

Sep. 26 **Economics of Natural Resources and Conflict**

Tsing, Anna. (2003) "Natural Resources and Capitalist Frontiers." Economic and Political Weekly. Vol. 38, No. 48. 5100-5106.

Watts, Michael. (2003) "Economies of Violence: More Oil, More Blood." Economic and Political Weekly. Vol. 38, No. 48. 5089-5099.

Michael Ross, "The Natural Resource Curse: How Wealth Can Make You Poor" Chapter 2 in Natural Resources and Violent Conflict. Bonnin and Collier Editors (The World Bank, 2003) (This book can be found on google)

Sep. 28 **Exam 1**

Oct. 3 Civil Conflict, Natural Resources: The Case of Rwanda

1. Valerie Percival and Thomas Homer-Dixon, "The Case of Rwanda."
<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/pcs/eps/rwanda/rwanda1.htm>
2. Leif Ohlsson, "How environmental scarcity paved the way for genocide in Rwanda," Chapter 4 in Environmental Scarcity and Conflict: A Study of Malthusian Concerns, Ph.D. Thesis, (Göteborg, Sweden: Department of Peace and Development Research, Göteborg University, 1999), 76-85
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/6584515/Genocide-In-Rwanda>
3. James K Gasana, "Natural Resource Scarcity and Violence in Rwanda," in Richard Matthew, Mark Halle and Jason Switzer, eds., Conserving the Peace: Resources, Livelihoods and Scarcity (Winnipeg, Manitoba)
http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2002/envsec_conserving_4.pdf

Oct. 5 Movie: Blue Gold – World Water Wars

<http://truthfromthetap.com/blue-gold-world-water-wars-2008-a-fact-check/>

Oct. 10 Water and Conflict

1. Diehl and Gleditsch, Chapter 6 "Water and Conflict: Rhetoric and Reality" by Steve C. Lonergan pp.109-124 *
2. Pacific Institute's Water Conflict Chronology:
<http://www.worldwater.org/chronology.html> Environment and Security Water Conflict Chronology (PDF) compiled by Peter Gleick, updated October 2006.

Oct. 12 Further discussion of the movie and water readings

Oct. 17 Land Use Rights and Conflict

1. The Case of Land Use and Sudan's Conflict:
http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1413&fuseaction=topics.event_summary&event_id=272851
2. Philip Hirsch, Khamla Phanvilay, and Kaneungnit Tubtim, Nam Ngum, Lao PDR: Community-based natural resource management and conflicts over watershed resources" http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-27967-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

Oct. 19 Writing Assignment #2 Due

Oct. 24 Kimberly Kelly and Thomas Homer-Dixon, "The Case of Gaza" available at: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca/pcs/eps/gaza/gaza1.htm>

Oct. 26 Forests and Conflict: the Case of Suriname
Suriname National Forest Policy Report

THE REDUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT

Oct. 31 Reducing Environmental Conflict Part I

1. Diehl and Gleditsch, Chapter 8, “Deocracy and the Environment”, by Manus Midlarsky, pp. 155-178 *

2. Diehl and Gleditsch, Chapter 9, “The Limits and Promise of Environmental Conflict Prevention,” Rodger Payne, pp.179-198 *

Nov. 2 Movie on Conflict and Natural Resources

Nov. 7 Reducing Environmental Conflict Part II

1. Pruitt and Kim “The Intervention of Third Parties” Chapter 11 in Social Conflict, pp.226-256 **

Nov. 9 Increasing Environmental Cooperation Part I

Nov. 14 Increasing Environmental Cooperation Part II

Nov. 16 Writing Assignment #3 due

Nov. 20-25 NO CLASSES – Fall Break

Nov. 28 TBD

Nov. 30 TBD

Dec. 5 Exam 2

Grading Policy

Participation in class discussions is the primary indicator of effort in the course and those students that participate will receive higher grades on average than students that do not participate. Additionally, students will write three short papers (at 3-4 pages, double-spaced 10-12 point font, 1 inch margins). There will also be 2 exams. Both exams will be in essay format and turned in via e-learning.

The final grade will be weighted as follows:

Class Attendance & Participation	20%
Exams	50%
Writing Assignments	30%

Course & Instructor Policies

Students must regularly check UTD email, and responsible for any class assignments made via email. Even if a sent message is returned to sender due to a full mailbox, students are still responsible for the content of the message.

Students should inform the professor via email of any necessary absences, and should provide documentation if the absence is to be excused. All students are expected to take the exams according to schedule unless arrangements are made IN ADVANCE. Make-up exams are rarely granted and then only in extraordinary circumstances, always at the discretion of the professor. Anyone missing any midterm exams for any unexcused reason may replace that zero with the grade from the final exam.

If a student wishes to challenge a grade on any written assignment they must do so in writing. The student should specify the grade they think is deserved and supporting documentation for that assertion. Appeals must be made within one week of receiving the graded assignment.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.