

POL346H; Winter 2006
Environmental Conflict and Security
University College, Room 163
Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:00-1:30 p.m., plus additional hours each week on a varying schedule. All meetings by appointment only. Contact Ashllie Claassen at 416-978-2485 or admin@trudeaucentre.ca.

Note: Whenever possible, if you want to discuss matters related to the course, please try to see me in person. If a meeting is not possible, you can contact me by e-mail. However, e-mail should not be seen as an alternative to a meeting, nor should it be used as a means to receive private tutorials or explanations of material covered in lectures you missed.

Overview

This course examines the relationship between human-induced environmental stress and national and international security, with a special focus on the likelihood of environmentally related violence in the developing world. It also introduces students to some technical aspects of global environmental change.

Format and Requirements

The course meets for one two-hour class each week. Each class will begin with a lecture, followed by significant time for questions and discussion. Debate is encouraged.

Students will have an opportunity to provide an informal written evaluation of the course on February 8.

First in-class test:	25 percent (February 15)
Second in-class test:	25 percent (April 12)
Research paper:	40 percent (Due March 29, at the beginning of class)
In-class participation:	10 percent

Topics for the research paper will be provided by the end of January. The paper should be a maximum of 3000 words (about 12 pages), not including references.

Rules and Regulations

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY.

Registration in the course constitutes your agreement to the following rules.

- You must submit your paper by the beginning of class on the due date. The late submission penalty is 2 percent per day, weekends and holidays included. To be fair to students who hand in their essays on time, if you hand in your essay once class has begun, I consider it to have been handed in late. There is no grace period, and no allowance for computer problems, printer problems, late buses or trains, etc.
- You may submit papers early or late, but if you put them in my mailbox or slide them under my door, I will consider it to have been submitted on the day I discover it. It is best to hand them to me directly.
- You may not submit papers by fax or e-mail.
- In general, I do not grant extensions, unless you have an acceptable reason that is adequately supported, such as a medical emergency that is documented by a detailed and signed doctor's report. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week of the assignment due date.
- Multiple assignments coming due at the same time, or midterms in other courses, do NOT constitute "acceptable reasons" for an extension. If you have several assignments due at the same time, you should plan ahead so that you finish some of them early.
- You must properly acknowledge the words or ideas of the published works of another individual. If you do not, you are committing plagiarism — a serious academic offense. If you are at all uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, or what are acceptable forms of citation and referencing, please consult me.
- Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Required Texts

Thomas Homer-Dixon, *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1999).

Daniel H. Deudney and Richard A. Matthew eds., *Contested Grounds: Security and Conflict in the New Environmental Politics* (Albany, New York: State University of New York Press, 1999).

Course reader. POL346H: Environmental Conflict and Security.

The books are available for purchase at the Toronto Women's Bookstore, located at 73 Harbord Street (on the south side, one block west of Spadina). The course reader is available for purchase at The Copy Place, 720 Spadina Avenue (on the west side, just south of Bloor).

Lecture Topics and Readings by Week

Week 1 (January 11): **Introduction**

Readings:

- Homer-Dixon, "Introduction" and "Overview," Chapters 1 and 2 in *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence*, 3-27.
- Jessica Tuchman Mathews, "Redefining Security," *Foreign Affairs* 68, No. 2 (Spring 1989): 162-177. Course reader.
- Daniel H. Deudney, "Bringing Nature Back In: Geopolitical Theory from the Greeks to the Global Era," Chapter 2 in Deudney and Matthew, eds., *Contested Ground*, 25-61.
- Robert D. Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," *The Atlantic Monthly* 273, No. 2 (February 1994): 44-76. Course reader.

Weeks 2 and 3 (January 18 and 25): **Core Argument**

Readings:

- Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Scarcity," "Interactions and Social Effects," and "Violence," Chapters 4, 5, and 7 in *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence*, 47-72, 73-103, 133-168. Do not read the appendices to Chapters 5 and 7.

Week 4 (February 1): **Friendly Critiques and Amendments**

Readings:

- Daniel H. Deudney, "Environmental Security: A Critique," Chapter 8 in Deudney and Matthew, eds. *Contested Ground*, 187-223.
- David Fidler, "Transnational Threats to National Security: Daniel Deudney's Case against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security," draft paper for the Princeton Project on National Security (Princeton University, 2005).
- Colin Kahl, "Plight, Plunder, and Political Ecology," draft of Chapter 1 from *States, Scarcity, and Civil Strife in the Developing World* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006).

Week 5 (February 8): **Population Growth and Demographic Stress**

Informal in-class evaluation

Readings:

- Population Action International, *Why Population Matters*, (Washington, DC: 1997). Course reader.
- Richard Cincotta, Robert Engelman, and Daniele Anastasion, *The Security Demographic: Population and Civil Conflict after the Cold War* (Washington: D.C.: Population Action International. 2003), available at: <http://www.populationaction.org/resources/publications/securitydemographic/index.html>.
- Jack A. Goldstone, "Demography, Environment and Security," Chapter 5 in Paul F. Diehl and Nils Petter Gleditsch, *Environmental Conflict* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2001), 84-108. Course reader.
- Betsy Hartmann, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken? A Critique of the Project on Environment, Population and Security," Chapter 2 in Nancy Peluso and Michael Watts, eds., *Violent Environments* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2001), 39-62. Course reader.

Week 6 (February 15): **In-Class Test**

February 22: **Reading week**

Week 7 (March 1): **Debate: Neo-Malthusians vs. Economic Optimists**

Readings:

- Homer-Dixon, "Two Centuries of Debate," Chapter 3 in *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence*, 28-48.
- Julian L. Simon, "What are the Real Population and Resource Problems?" "Population Growth, Natural Resources, and Future Generations," and "The Ultimate Resource," Introduction, Chapter 28, and Conclusion in *Simon, The Ultimate Resource 2* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996), 3-17, 399-409, and 578-89. Course reader.
- Bjørn Lomborg, "Resource Constraints or Abundance?" Chapter 7 in Diehl and Gleditsch, eds., *Environmental Conflict*, 125-152. Course reader.

Week 8 (March 8): **Nonlinearity, Complexity, Values, and the Limits to Adaptation**

Readings:

- Homer-Dixon, "Ingenuity and Adaptation," Chapter 6 in *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence*, 107-126.
- C. S. Holling, "An Ecologist View of the Malthusian Conflict," Chapter 4 in Kerstin Lindahl Kiessling and Hans Landberg, eds., *Population, Economic Development, and the Environment* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), 79-103. Course reader.
- D. Ludwig, R. Hillborn, C.J. Walters, "Uncertainty, Resource Exploitation, and Conservation: Lessons From History," *Science* 260, no. 5104 (April 2, 1993): 17 and 36. Course reader.
- Charles Victor Barber, *The Case of Indonesia, Project on Environmental Scarcities, State Capacity, and Civil Violence* (University of Toronto and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1997). Available at: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca/pes/state/indon/indonsum.htm>.

Week 9 (March 15): **Debate: The Neo-Marxist/Distributionist Critique**

Readings:

- Nancy Lee Peluso, and Michael Watts, "Violent Environments," Chapter 1 in Peluso and Watts, eds., *Violent Environments*, 3-38. Course reader.
- Simon Dalby, "Threats from the South? Geopolitics, Equity, and Environmental Security," Chapter 7 in Deudney and Matthew, eds. *Contested Ground*, 155-187.
- "Exchange: Thomas Homer-Dixon, Nancy Peluso, and Michael Watts on *Violent Environments*," in Environmental Change & Security Project Report, Issue 9 (Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center, 2003): 89-96. Available at: <http://www.homerdixon.com/download/exchange.pdf>.

Week 10 (March 22): **Debate: Correlation, Mechanism, and Methodology**

Readings:

- Homer-Dixon, "Appendix: The Causal Role of Environmental Scarcity" and "Appendix: Hypothesis Testing and Case Selection," appendices to Chapters 5 and 7, in *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence*, 104-106 and 169-176.
- Nils Petter Gleditsch, "Armed Conflict and the Environment," Chapter 12 in Diehl and Gleditsch, eds., *Environmental Conflict*, 251-272. Course reader.
- Daniel M. Schwartz, Tom Deligiannis, and Thomas Homer-Dixon, "The Environment and Violent Conflict," Chapter 13 in Diehl and Gleditsch, eds., *Environmental Conflict*, 273-294. Course reader.
- Colin H. Kahl, "Population Growth, Environmental Degradation, and State-Sponsored Violence: The Case of Kenya, 1991-93," *International Security* 23, No. 2 (Fall 1998), 80-119. Course reader.
- Henrik Urdal, "Ecoviolence? Evidence for Neo-Malthusian Concerns, 1950-2000," paper prepared for the 2003 Joint Sessions Meeting, ECPR, 2003. Available at: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/events/jointsessions/paperarchive/edinburgh/ws9/Urdal.pdf>.

Week 11 (March 29): **Debate: Rwanda**

Research papers due at the beginning of class

Readings:

- Valerie Percival and Thomas Homer-Dixon, "The Case of Rwanda." Available at: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca/pcs/eps/rwanda/rwanda1.htm>.
- 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), 80-144. Course reader.
- 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: International Institute of Sustainable Development, 2002) 199-246. Course reader.

Week 12 (April 5): **Debates: Chiapas, Water, and Greed**

Readings:

- Philip Howard and Thomas Homer-Dixon, "The Case of Chiapas." Available at: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca/pcs/eps/chiapas/chiapas1.htm>.
- Aaron Bobrow-Strajn, "Between a Ranch and a Hard Place: Violence, Scarcity, and Meaning in Chiapas, Mexico," Chapter 7 in Peluso and Watts, eds., *Violent Environments*, 155-185. Course reader.
- Steve C. Loneragan, "Water and Conflict: Rhetoric and Reality," Chapter 6 in Diehl and Gleditsch, eds., *Environmental Conflict*, 109-124. Course reader.
- Kimberley Kelly and Thomas Homer-Dixon, "The Case of Gaza." Available at: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca/pcs/eps/gaza/gaza1.htm>.
- Paul Collier, "Doing Well out of War: An Economic Perspective," Chapter 5 in Mats Berdal and David M. Malone, eds., *Greed and Grievance: Economic Agendas in Civil Wars* (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. 2000) 91-111. Course reader.
- João Gomes Porto, "Contemporary Conflict Analysis in Perspective," Chapter 1 in Jeremy Lind and Kathryn Sturman, eds., *Scarcity and Surfeit: The Ecology of Africa's Conflict* (Pretoria, South Africa: The Institute of Security Studies, 2002) 1-50. Course reader.

Week 13 (April 12): **Second in-class test**