

Credit Weighting: .50**Pre-/Co-Requisites:****Restrictions:****INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Name: Dr. Lauren Sneyd
Email: lsneyd@uoguelph.ca
Office Location: TBD

GENERAL DETAILS

Concerns about resource scarcity and global environmental change have renewed fears that environmental degradation may be leading to unsustainable patterns of resource use, human displacement and environmentally induced conflict. This course explores the validity of these claims, examining the domestic, international and global dimensions of environmental governance and resource conflict, as well as stakeholder perspectives on resource politics. It starts by exploring the notion that the environment has been re-framed as a security threat that now stands (rather uncomfortably) alongside 'traditional' security issues, such as terrorism, deterrence, and national defence. To understand these transitions, the course then explores the central theories and concepts that have been used in the study of resource scarcity and environmental conflict, including relative deprivation, group identity conflicts, environmental displacement, food insecurity, rentier state theory and the resource curse. Finally, it aims to understand the ways in which local, national and international institutions may address existing and future threats to national, international and human security.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this 12-week course, students will be able to master and engage in the following analytical questions:

- What is environmental security and how does it differ from conventional notions of national, international and human security? How are national and international policy discourses defining environmental security? What are the arguments for and against framing the environment as a national security issue?
- What factors are driving environmental conflict? What is the resource curse and how does it affect violence, conflict and corruption? What is the likelihood that environmental factors will lead to future conflicts?
- To what extent is the environment a driver of human migration? What are the implications for national sovereignty, state capacity and definitions of asylum and citizenship?
- How may international institutions and agreements address environmental security concerns? How may national and sub-national institutions adapt to environmentally induced conflicts? How may international institutions and agreements assist vulnerable countries and societies in this process?

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Leading and facilitating seminar; participation; book review assignment; term paper presentation; final term paper.

REQUIRED READING

Selected articles and chapters.

book review assignment: Patel, Raj and Jason Moore (2017) *A History of the World in Seven Cheap Things: A Guide to Capitalism, Nature and the Future of the Planet*. Oakland: University of California Press.