

EVPP 337-DL6
Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries
Fall 2021

Course/Section: EVPP 337-DL6 (100% Asynchronous Distance Education Version)	Instructor: Sudha Balajapalli (sbalaja2@gmu.edu)
Semester: Fall 2021	Website (Link to Blackboard Learning Management System): https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm- 2:30pm and by appointment	Course Builder: Dr. Younsung Kim (ykih@gmu.edu)

Course Description

Developing countries face many, daunting problems such as widespread poverty, scarce opportunities for employment, and a lack of development. Much attention in developing countries has thus given to addressing these challenges through economic growth policies that may often lead to overexploiting natural resources and lowering environmental quality. However, economic growth cannot persist indefinitely if it entails continuous degradation of natural resources and the environment.

This course is designed to help students grasp environmental and natural resource issues in developing countries, and the opportunities and limitations for better policy decisions and management.

The course will focus on climate change, sustainable development, and other environmental challenges in developing countries. Climate change is a major challenge to human civilization in the 21st century. These issues are particularly explored in the context of South Asia since climate change affects the region more heavily and ecosystem quality gets worsened rapidly. The problems covered will include deforestation, illegal poaching, food security, water and air pollution, biodiversity loss and resource conflicts inducing inter-state tensions, etc. Students will also learn about how imperialism and corruption can relate to environmental policymaking in developing countries.

Course Goals

The course is designed to help students complete the following learning objectives by the end of the semester.

- Understand environmental issues in developing countries
- Investigate geological, political, economic, and institutional factors that limit environmental protection and sustainable development in developing countries

- Explore environmental challenges in countries. Assess how international policy initiatives could help developing countries to develop environmental and conservation policies of developing countries
- Acquire excellent written communication skills

Course Delivery

The course will be conducted 100% online asynchronously. Please make sure your official GMU email address is working as it is the officially sanctioned way to communicate with me in case you have questions.

Next, make sure you are able to log into the GMU Blackboard Learning Management System website. You should be familiar with the skills required to navigate your way around the course no later than the beginning of the second week. Refer to the “Course Website Tutorial” video by clicking on the “Course Orientation” link on the main menu to view an instructor demonstration video that covers the way in which to navigate the course and use various technology tools.

The basic navigation path for the course is as follows.

1. Log into the GMU Blackboard Learning Management System
2. Select the online course (EVPP 337-DL6) from the course list
3. Go through the “Main course menu” on the very left of the screen to find important headers and sub-headers (e.g. “Welcome-Begin Here,” “Syllabus”) that will lead you to the relevant content

The course menu consists of three content areas:

- a) You will find the general course materials (e.g. “Welcome-Begin Here,” “Syllabus,” “Schedule” etc) right at the top in the “General Course Overview” Section. Make sure you are familiar with the course schedule and the due date for various assignments. Please note that **you must also provide a brief introduction of yourself on the discussion board by the end of the first week.**
- b) On the left menu bar, you will find links to lessons.
- c) Finally, there is the “Grading” and “Assistance” section for you to check you grades and request help respectively.

This is a fully online course, and you are likely to have questions regarding the sequencing of activities or usage of numerous technology tools despite the instructions given. Do not hesitate to email me for assistance! **Please do not wait until the final weeks of the course to ask for help as it will greatly impede my ability to provide assistance.**

Course Materials

All the course materials have been uploaded onto the course page on Blackboard. The materials include links to websites, documentaries, lecture videos, online games, and research papers in academic journals. **There is no standard textbook that you are required to purchase for this course.**

The course contents will be posted a week ago, and you can work on the course materials at your pace.

Assignments and Grading

The grading criteria includes the following items:

1. **Participation**, which includes contributions on discussion board, completion of quizzes and peer review of term paper draft.
2. **Three Short Writing Assignments.** There are three written assignments related to required reading articles. Each assignment will be 500 words and information can be found on Assignments.
3. **Country Case Study Paper.** You will develop a research paper on an important environmental issue in a developing country. An issue can be selected by you, while you may take the issue guided by the instructor. The issues should be relevant to the objective and themes of the course and choosing an issue in South Asia is recommended. However, upon my approval, you may choose an environmental issue in other regions. Feel free to talk to me about your country case study paper topic. There are the three submissions, proposal, draft paper, and final paper. The detailed writing guidelines will be provided.
4. The final grade will be assigned as follows:

Assignment type	Percentage
Participation (Includes contributions on discussion board, completion of quizzes and other participation-based activities (e.g., Introducing yourself, short quiz, peer review etc.)	20%
Three Short Writing Assignments (each 10%)	30%
Country Case Study Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 750 word Proposal (10%) • 1,800 word Draft version (15%) • 2,500 word Final version (25%) 	50%

Detailed instructions regarding the way in which each assignment should be completed, the due date for turning in the assignment and the technology skills required to upload the assignment on Blackboard are provided at appropriate junctures in the course.

Grade ranges:

A+ = 98 up	B+ = 88-89	C+ = 78-79
A = 92-97	B = 82-87	C = 73-77
A- = 90-91	B- = 80-81	C- = 71-72, etc.

Course Policies and Other Information

Late/Missed Assignments

I will enforce the deadlines for assignments strictly. If you submit your assignments within 72 hours after the deadlines, you will lose 10% of your grade. After then, your assignment will not be accepted. However, I will make an exception for students with genuine medical or personal problems that get in touch with me at least 2 days before the due date.

General Education Requirements and Learning Outcomes

All undergraduates seeking a baccalaureate degree at George Mason University must complete the University General Education requirements. Additional requirements for specific degree programs can be found in the [University Catalog](#) in each college or school chapter.

Writing Intensive Course Requirement

As part of the university's commitment to student writers in all undergraduate programs, at least one upper-division course in each major has been designated as fulfilling the "writing intensive" (WI) requirement. While other courses in the major may require written projects, teachers of the designated WI courses will devote class time to instruction on how to complete assignments successfully, assign and grade a minimum of 3,500 words, provide constructive feedback on drafts, and allow revision of at least one graded assignment. See the description of each major for the specific course or courses that fulfill the WI requirement.

Required: an approved course in the major

EVPP 337 (Global Affairs)

Source: <http://provost.gmu.edu/gened/general-education-requirements/>

Technological Requirements

Since this course is completely online, there are certain logistical requirements that you must ensure in order to successfully complete it. First, you will need a relatively stable computer with access to a reliable internet connection. This is especially important as a significant component of the course includes watching documentaries on relevant issues. Second, you must have a good speaker (whether embedded in your laptop/headphone or external) to hear my lecture videos. Third, you will also need a good microphone in order for me to understand you during an online meeting. And fourth, you need a word processor (Windows, Open office, your choice really) to complete the writing assignments. **Please do not submit papers in the pdf format as I find it difficult to insert comments. Other formats are acceptable but will need my prior approval.**

Plagiarism Statement

Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving that person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes; a simple listing of books and articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in an academic setting. Student writers are often confused as to what should be cited. Some think that only direct quotations need to be credited. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers' own insights or findings from their

own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge. What constitutes common knowledge can sometimes be precarious; what is common knowledge for one audience may not be so for another. In such situations, it is helpful, to keep the reader in mind and to think of citations as being "reader friendly." In other words, writers provide a citation for any piece of information that they think their readers might want to investigate further. Not only is this attitude considerate of readers, it will almost certainly ensure that writers will never be guilty of plagiarism. (Statement of English Department at George Mason University)

Plagiarism and the Internet

Copyright rules also apply to users of the Internet who cite from Internet sources. Information and graphics accessed electronically must also be cited, giving credit to the sources. This material includes but is not limited to e-mail (don't cite or forward someone else's e-mail without permission), newsgroup material, information from Web sites, including graphics. Even if you give credit, you must get permission from the original source to put any graphic that you did not create on your web page.

Shareware graphics are not free. Freeware clipart is available for you to freely use. If the material does not say "free," assume it is not. Putting someone else's Internet material on your web page is stealing intellectual property. Making links to a site is, at this time, okay, but getting permission is strongly advised, since many Web sites have their own requirements for linking to their material.

(Virginia Montecino)

Source: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>

Honor Code

This course will be conducted in accordance with the GMU Honor Code, and all students are expected to abide by it. The GMU Honor Code, as found in the University Catalog, is as follows: To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work. (catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=1039&returnto=search#Honor)

Details concerning the university's Honor System and Code can be found in the University Catalog (accessible online at the link above).

Students with Disabilities

Differently abled students should approach the instructor or the course coordinator through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474.

Where to Get Help: Students encountering difficulties in the course can either approach the instructor or the Counseling Center at (703) 993-2380

Course Coordination

This course is coordinated by Dr. Younsung Kim (ykih@gmu.edu), associate professor of the department of Environmental Science and Policy.

Course Schedule

A detailed schedule can be found in “Schedule for Lessons” tab of the Blackboard course. Please note that with the tight timeline of summer session, course schedule might be slightly changed with the pre-announcements.