

# COURSE SYLLABUS

EVPP 337-KD2

Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries

Fall 2021

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Class period: August 23 to December 13, 2021

Location: 100% ONLINE

Instructor: Dr. Paul Philippe Razafinjatovo / Back-up Instructor, to be contacted only if main instructor is sick and unable to teach: Dr. Younsung Kim ([ykih@gmu.edu](mailto:ykih@gmu.edu))

Email address: [prazafin@gmu.edu](mailto:prazafin@gmu.edu) (preferred way of contact)

Office Hours: online by appointment (Use Blackboard)

## 1- Course Description:

Environmental Policy making in Africa goes hand in hand with the efforts to promote Sustainable Development. All initiatives to address environmental issues should integrate the challenges relative to social, economic, and political dimensions. This course studies the essentials of sustainable development initiatives, explores key environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss, and analyzes the processes through which policies were developed to address them in Africa. While the development of environmental policies adopts well-established procedures, their design is shaped by various conditions. This class also studies the conditions under which environmental policies are developed in Africa.

This course is divided into three parts. The first part provides an overview of Environmental Policy Development mechanisms and their application in the context of Africa. The second part introduces the concept of sustainable development as a key component of environmental policy development in Africa. The third part focuses on important environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss that affect African countries, the relevant mechanisms, and players involved in the development of policy that addresses such issues.

## 2- Learning objectives:

The main objective of this course is to provide students with essential knowledge of the environmental policy development mechanism in developing countries. Upon completion of this course, the students receive clear understanding of how and why environmental policy is developed in developing countries with focus on Africa and what challenges are involved in this process. It is therefore important to understand some of the characteristics of developing countries that could cause these challenges. In doing so, students will study the different factors that influence the development and implementation of environmental policies in developing

countries. In addition, students will receive clear understanding of some important environmental issues and the different ways they are addressed at the national and international levels. Finally, they will receive strong oral and written communication skills that are necessary for their future studies and career.

### 3- Course instructional method

In this course, students mainly learn in three different ways. Firstly, completing the reading assignment provides students with crucial knowledge of the subjects taught in this class as highlighted by the authors of the reading materials, which are essentially scientific articles and official government documents. Moreover, the lecture slides are intended to strengthen the students' understanding of these subjects by synthesizing some important information in the materials and providing additional explanation on the subjects. Finally, students are expected to receive a strong knowledge of a particular environmental issue of their choice through proposing a research that unveils one specific aspect related to it.

This course is 100% online. All lectures, student presentations, quizzes and exams will be delivered and administered online through Blackboard and Blackboard tools. Most quizzes and exams are administered through Blackboard using Respondus Lockdown Browser and your webcam.

Upon completion of a reading assignment, students are required to complete an open-book quiz to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of some important points highlighted in the reading materials. The quiz is also expected to test the critical thinking skill of the students on the materials. In addition, closed book quizzes on both reading materials and lecture slides encompassing three different subjects are also given to students to test their understanding.

The written and oral assignments are expected to strengthen the student's knowledge and understanding of environmental policy making in Africa and to express it in a professional way either through an oral presentation or in writing. The order in which the subjects are taught in this course is set in a way that provides students with the knowledge of mechanisms and challenges involved in environmental policy making before studying their application to different environmental issues in Africa.

### 4- Writing Intensive Course

This course fulfills the "Writing Intensive Course" requirement. Therefore, the lecturer devotes class time to providing instructions to students on how to complete written assignments successfully. To do this, students should complete a minimum of 3,500 words written assignments. In addition, the instructor should provide constructive feedback on drafts. For more information about the University's writing-intensive requirement, please visit [http://wac.gmu.edu/program/wi\\_requirement](http://wac.gmu.edu/program/wi_requirement)

### 5- Course prerequisite:

Students who have completed 60 credits are accepted in this course. Please inform your instructor if you do not meet this requirement.

6- Course requirements:

This is a three-credit course. Therefore, students are expected to spend an average of ten hours per week on the work required for this course. The successful completion of this course requires that students complete their assignments on time and pass the quizzes and final exam. Students are expected:

- i. to take the open book quizzes on the syllabus and assigned reading materials.
- ii. to write two syntheses of reading materials as assigned. More information on the syntheses is provided below.
- iii. to take the closed book quizzes on specified lectures and reading materials.
- iv. to give a ten-minute (10 minutes) power point presentation with a recorded video (your face should be shown in the video) of the research proposal. The design and contents of the presentation as well as the associated guidelines are also provided in this syllabus.
- v. To complete the two drafts of the main written assignment, which is the research proposal paper (2,500 words).
- vi. to take the final written exam at the end of the semester

7- Grading breakdown:

Assignments	Percentage of final grade
Presentation of research proposal	15%
Synthesis of reading materials	15%
First draft of research proposal paper: 2,500 words	5%
Final draft of research proposal paper	15%
Assessments	
Open book Quizzes	15%
Closed book Quizzes	15%
Final written exam	20%

8- Letter grade percentages

Letter grade	Percentage of grade
A+	97 - 100%
A	93 - 96%
A-	90 - 92%
B+	87 - 89%
B	83 - 86%
B-	80 - 82%
C+	77 - 79%
C	73 - 76%
C-	70 - 72%
D	60 - 69%
F	<60%

#### 9- Email communication

In all your email communication with me, please include your first name and EVPP 337-KD2 on the subject and only use GMU mason live email address. I am required to reply to your email within 48 hours, but I will try my best to get back to you as soon as possible.

#### 10- Assignment submission

All assignments must be uploaded on blackboard by the deadline. Late submission is not accepted. All assignments are individual work of the student. Plagiarism, cheating, lying and copying from other students' work are not tolerated (please see honor code below). It is extremely important to meet the deadlines in this class. No late submission of assignments is accepted. The assignments are no longer available on blackboard if you miss the deadline.

#### 11- Honor Code:

Adherence to the *GMU Honor Code* is expected of all students. Students are expected to comply with the GMU honor code in completing their assignments and in their interaction with others during the class. Plagiarism, cheating and lying are the main forms of the honor code violation. Students are expected to visit the following link to avoid accidental or intentional violations and understand the consequences: <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>.

I will use a software that can detect plagiarism in your papers. Make sure to paraphrase the information you want to use from a different source. It is an online class, and most quizzes and exam are closed book. To avoid potential problems, make sure to follow the requirements relative to the use of the Respondus Lockdown Browser as you take some of your quizzes and exam when they are closed book.

#### 12- Written assignments:

The written assignments are intended to strengthen the students' writing and analytical skills. There are two different types of written assignments assigned to students in this semester: the research proposal paper and the syntheses of reading materials. In all written assignments, students are expected to demonstrate their ability to write academic English.

The research proposal paper is the written form of the research proposal presentation. However, it includes a full description of the main components of a research proposal. Students are expected to consider the feedback they receive on their oral presentation as they write their paper. Syntheses of reading materials are mainly intended to test the students' understanding of the reading materials and their critical skills. In both papers, refrain from using unnecessary quotes. You should always paraphrase the arguments you want to use from different sources.

Your written assignments are graded based on their structure and the quality of their different components. If a required component is missing, you will receive 0 point for it.

Review your paper before submitting it to avoid grammatical errors and typos. The different parts of your paper should be consistent with one another. They should reflect a clear flow of ideas from paragraph to paragraph.

One of the critical components of each paragraph of your paper is the topic sentence. Your topic sentence is the "topic" or the main idea of your paragraph. It introduces what you plan to discuss in your paragraph. It is a statement that introduces an idea or an opinion that reflects your

position (or understanding) pertaining to a particular subject. Don't forget to write it at the beginning of your paragraph and make sure the remaining sentences in your paragraph are relevant to it.

Use the help offered by GMU if you need assistance to improve your writing skills.

a. Research proposal paper (2,500 words)

The research proposal paper is the course project. It is an essay that demonstrates the ability of the student to describe an environmental issue and propose a research that aims to explore one specific aspect relevant to it. The development of an environmental policy is mainly driven by the knowledge of the causes and impacts of environmental issues. Students are asked to describe the nature and significance of the environmental issue of their choice and to propose different ways to collect and analyze primary data while investigating one specific aspect relevant to it. This aspect is only limited to a specific cause or impact of an environmental issue.

The research proposal is not a research report. It is not intended to describe the outcome of previous research relative to an environmental issue or some of its aspects, nor does it describe the research you conducted on the issue. Instead, it is a description of how you will conduct your research to explore the specific aspect (specific cause or impact) associated with the local environmental issue you have identified and selected.

The geographical scope of the research proposal is limited to a specific location within one of the African states. While an environmental issue can have different scales, the research proposal assignment is limited to the study of one aspect relevant to a local environmental issue. This restriction is intended to provide an opportunity for the students to deliver more focused and in-depth description of the issue and the research methods necessary for the study of the aspect related to it in a local village or city in Africa.

If a research on one aspect of an environmental issue has been previously conducted at a large scale, you are allowed to choose a research proposal topic that investigates the same aspect at a smaller (or local) scale. As an example, if a report on the socioeconomic causes of deforestation is available in a particular country, it is acceptable to propose a research to investigate such causes in a city or village within that country by proposing research that would collect and analyze relevant local primary data.

While there are multiple ways to write a research proposal, a specific format is required in this assignment to encompass all important components. A research proposal is composed of different parts. Although it is often used to secure funding for a project, budgeting is not required. The use of pictures is not allowed as they tend to occupy too much space in your paper. The different parts of your paper should be in harmony with one another. The title of your research proposal should be consistent with your research objective and your research methodology. The main parts of a research proposal paper should include:

- Title page (separate page),
- Introduction,
- Research methodology,
- Conclusion and
- References (APA format).

### i. Research proposal title

The title reflects the topic or subject matter of your essay and it should not be too broad. The topic should be specific enough to include the aspect you propose to explore in a location within a country in the African continent. The title should be relevant to a local environmental issue in Africa, e.g. “The study of economic impacts of e-waste in Agbogbloshie, Ghana”. It may also be possible to narrow down your title by including specific activities and involved parties relevant to an environmental issue, e.g. “The social impacts of overfishing on local fishermen in the Bugala island of the Lake Victoria”.

It is not acceptable to take a title that is already studied or too broad (too difficult to explore). For example, the study of social impacts of climate change in Africa is a topic that may have been studied and does not have a local scope. Don't forget that you must propose to collect primary data in your research proposal, i.e., going to the field to collect them.

While you are free to choose your topic based on the above requirements, make sure you find enough materials that support the writing of your paper. However, you do not have to have a complete knowledge of your study location. It is recommended to study how a research in one location is applied to your study location. Make sure you do your own research to identify what research methods are applicable to the local environmental issue and the specific aspect you would like to explore. The title accounts 5% of your paper total grade.

You are required to come up with a research proposal title as soon as possible as I must approve it before the start of week 3. In addition, the research proposal should be presented and discussed in weeks 5 to 7 and the research proposal paper completed in week 13 (first draft). Provide your research proposal title on blackboard in week 2.

### ii. Introduction

The introduction is the first section of your paper. It introduces the local environmental issue that you chose to describe, and the specific aspect that you plan to explore based on this issue. It is intended to attract the attention of the reader and guide him to understand what to expect in the remaining part of your paper. It carries 35 % of your research proposal paper total grade. It should include at least the description of the local environmental issue (location, nature, extent, significance, stakeholders, impacts (or causes), etc.), a research objective, and two hypotheses.

The description of the local environmental issue should be supported by relevant facts and figures. The significance of the issue and the importance of your research area can be highlighted by stating the potential costs of inaction. Make sure not to describe the results of the research you plan to conduct in your Introduction. As an example, if you choose to do your research on the cause of an environmental issue, you can describe the impacts of the issue and its severity (or extent) in the Introduction. However, you can talk about the result of a research similar to what you plan to do if that research was conducted at a larger scale or at a different location. As an example, you can talk about the social impacts of drought in the Sahel region in your Introduction if you propose to do your research on the same subject in a village (or city) in Niger, which is part of that region.

The statement of the objective of your paper or presentation is crucial in the Introduction. As it is a research objective it should aim to explore or investigate a specific aspect relevant to the local environmental issue that you chose. For example, your objective can be to explore the economic causes of deforestation in a village in Tanzania. You should only have one research objective exploring only one specific aspect relevant to the local environmental issue. Your objective should be consistent with your title. If the title is not specific enough to infer your research area, your objective should do so. As an example, if your title is the depletion of fish stock in a Kenyan river, your objective may be to explore the social/economic causes of this issue or to study its social impacts in a location that borders this river.

Hypotheses are part of the main components of your Introduction. They refer to an educated guess, expressed by a statement that shows a correlation between dependent and independent variables. This correlation describes a prediction of the outcome of the research you propose to conduct. Your hypotheses should be relevant to your research objective and consistent with the different elements of your research methods. You should have two hypotheses that are derived from the research objective. Students are expected to identify the variables (dependent and independent) that make up the hypotheses by doing some research on potential correlated aspects relevant to the research objective. If your research objective is to explore the social causes of a local environmental issue, the aspect that would indicate the issue would constitute the dependent variables while the factors that may have generated the issue represent the independent variables. As an example, the issue of overfishing may be expressed by a significant decline in fish catch over time or the depletion of certain (vulnerable) fish species in a local coastal area. The significant catch of juvenile fish and degradation of fish habitats caused by the use of destructive fishing methods and unsustainable tourism activities are potential factors that may lead to both decline in fish catch and loss of certain species. In this case, the dependent variable is the amount of fish catch or/and the level of population of certain (vulnerable) fish species while the number of fishermen using destructive fishing methods is the independent variable. The research methodology is a process that seeks to study the correlation between the independent and dependent variables by testing your hypotheses through the collection and analysis of primary data. One of the variables in a hypothesis should be related to the environment.

### iii. Research methodology

The research methodology is the most important part of your paper as it describes the different ways you will conduct your research based on your research objective and hypotheses. It accounts 35 % of the total research proposal paper grade. As your research aims to explore the correlation between independent and dependent variables, it is intended to collect and analyze data relevant to these variables in order to test your hypotheses. The research methods that you chose are therefore relevant to the data that you need and the way you plan to analyze them to test your hypotheses. Answering five specific questions helps you provide a comprehensive description of your research methodology. These questions include: what research methods do you choose? what primary data do you need? why are your research methods relevant? how do you collect your data? and how do you analyze them to test your hypotheses?

Firstly, the choice of the research methods depends on the variables identified in the research hypotheses. Students are expected to provide a general description of known specific research methods that are intended to study the variables. While students are not required to fully understand the use of these methods, they are expected to provide a general description of such methods by explaining some important aspects such as their nature, their objective and the types of primary data that may be collected and analyzed through their use. You are welcome to choose research methods used in natural or social science based on your research objective and variables. As an example, an economic impact assessment is a research method used in social science to study the economic impacts of overfishing, while fish stock assessment is a research method in natural science that helps to understand the abundance and distribution of fish population. The general description of the research methods may also include an example of their use in a particular research conducted in a different location. This part of the research methodology should not refer to your research project (and area) as you will have the chance to explain why these methods are relevant to the data you need.

Secondly, the required data are mainly primary data and should depend on the variables identified in your hypotheses. These primary data are data that you plan to collect in the field. You are welcome to propose the collection of social and natural data. As an example, average income level of a fishing community is social and economic data while the abundance of healthy coral reefs along the shore of Kenya is natural data. Moreover, you are required to propose the collection of measurable (quantitative) data, which are necessary to determine if there is a correlation between the variables. However, spatial data are also acceptable and recommended to test your hypotheses. It is important to emphasize that the research proposal should mainly collect primary data. At this stage, you are expected to identify and describe the original data that you plan to collect and analyze.

Thirdly, the explanation of the pertinence of the research methods identified earlier briefly describes why they are relevant to the (primary) data that you need. You can explain that the research methods produce the same data that you plan to collect and that they can also be used to analyze them.

Fourthly, you should describe how you will collect your data. This step may be part of the research method that you have identified earlier. As an example, if underwater survey is the research method that you choose to study the health of the marine ecosystem, the method for collecting data related to this method may consist of counting the number of certain fish species or taking sample of corals to learn about their health. Likewise, if water quality assessment is the research method, collecting water sample and living aquatic organisms may help determine the quality of the water. Some information about the research duration, participants, and equipment that you plan to use may also be described in this part of your research methodology.

Finally, the analysis of your data is the final process that you propose to test your hypotheses. You may propose to compare data collected from different sites in order to test your hypotheses. Data collected from two different locations that may have similar physical, social and economic conditions may be compared to identify some similarities and differences relevant to the variables in your hypotheses. In addition, you may use different analytical tools to analyze

your data. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is an example of tool that can be used to analyze spatial data. While it is not required to fully understand the use of an analytical tool, students are encouraged to make their own research to inquire about how the tool was used elsewhere in order to provide a sufficient description of their research methodology. Statistical tool is an important way to analyze data. However, students are only required to propose their statistical analysis at the sample level (not population). In other words, the use of inferential statistics is not within the scope of this course.

#### iv. Conclusion

The conclusion carries 20% of your paper total grade. It includes the restatement of your hypotheses, a summary of the different parts of your paper, what you might expect from your proposed research, your own opinion, and policy alternatives that would address the issue based on your expectations. Policy alternatives incorporate various policies that the Government may need to develop to address the issue based on the potential outcomes of the research. Use different policy instruments when necessary.

#### v. References

The references should follow the APA citation format. Do not forget to include in-text citations throughout your paper. Two references should be published materials (peer-reviewed) from scientific journals. You should have at least six (6) references that may include official government documents. You can also use United Nations, International Organizations and Non-Government Organizations official reports and policies. You should use all listed references in your text, using proper in-text citations (APA format). The references account 5% of the total grade of your paper.

#### vi. Format

Your research proposal assignment should be in word document (.doc or .docx), double spaced except the references, page numbered, and in Times New Roman 12 points. No pictures are permitted in the paper. Please do not use pdf!

#### vii. Miscellaneous

You will write the research proposal in two drafts - first and final. The first draft will receive the comments you need to write your final draft. However, both drafts are graded. Therefore, write the first draft as though it is your final. You are given plenty of time to write your first draft, so make use of that time to submit an excellent quality paper.

#### b. Synthesis of reading materials

A synthesis is a piece of writing drafted through the lens of key themes highlighted in the reading materials. Not only does the synthesis demonstrate the student's knowledge of the reading materials, but also his or her ability to analyze them. Students learn best by making connections between their prior knowledge and the subjects they learn in class. The main purpose of the synthesis is to make these connections by identifying and discussing some key

themes that are commonly highlighted by the reading materials and analyzing them based on student's prior knowledge or understanding of these themes in order to adopt a new perspective. In light of this, students are required to identify three common key themes that are highlighted in the materials. The key themes are statements or arguments that reflect the opinions or positions, commonly shared by the authors of the reading materials. An example of key theme would be: "The development of an environmental policy adopts several approaches". A key theme is a sentence, not a subject. In your paper, each key theme should be discussed in a paragraph separately. The synthesis is an essay composed of five to six paragraphs. Like any essay, it is divided into three main parts: an introduction, a main body, and a conclusion. Please use headings and subheadings to clearly show the different parts of your paper.

i. Introduction (one to two paragraphs)

The Introduction includes five items. Firstly, it introduces and provides a brief explanation of the main topic (or subject) that is relevant to the reading materials. Secondly, it introduces the titles of the reading materials that are synthesized in this paper. Thirdly, it should provide a brief summary of the materials in a paragraph to show your knowledge and understanding : Write at least four sentences for each material. Fourthly, you should clearly state the objective of your paper. Finally, you should provide a statement that expresses the different parts of the main body of your paper, which are the three key themes that you plan to discuss.

ii. Main body (use a subheading relevant to your theme)

Since you should at least discuss three key themes, this section is composed of at least three paragraphs. The discussion of a key theme is a paragraph that not only describes it, but also compares and analyzes the different opinions of the authors of the reading materials pertaining to it. At least, the discussion includes a topic sentence, which is the statement of the key theme, followed by its brief explanation in your own words and comparisons of the authors' viewpoints on it, and your own opinion on these viewpoints. Use the name of the authors as you compare their viewpoints (not the title of the reading materials) on the theme. Make sure the arguments you use in the discussion are exclusively relevant to your topic sentence.

iii. Conclusion

The conclusion is a paragraph that summarizes the synthesis and states the lessons learned and new perspectives of the student. As the semester progresses, the students should have read several articles and mastered some concepts in environmental science and policy. It is recommended that students show the new perspectives they drew out of past synthesis assignments while writing new syntheses by establishing some links between past and new key themes. In this way, the students can monitor their progress in learning new subjects taught in this class.

iv. Format

There is no limit on the number of pages of the synthesis, but it has to be a single-spaced paper. Typically, the weekly synthesis is about two to three pages at the beginning of the semester, but it can be longer by the end of the first half of the semester. Again, use only word document (.doc or .docx), and Times New Roman 12 points. Do not use pdf!

### 13- Oral assignment: Presentation of the research proposal (individual work)

The presentation of the research proposal is intended to strengthen the presentation skills of the students. It presents only the most important information in the research proposal paper. Your research proposal is a research project and your goal is to convey some information that highlights an environmental issue and propose a research to study one specific aspect (cause or impact only) related to it. The presentation should be given during weeks 5 to 7 and last ten minutes.

When you give your oral presentation, please dress professionally as though you give it in a conference. In your video, using Kaltura, record yourself as you present your power point slides screen with your computer camera (webcam). Make sure your face is shown as you give your presentation. Make eye contact with your webcam (as if you do it to your audience). Don't wear hat and anything that you would not wear while giving a presentation in a conference. Be professional!

You are also graded based on the clarity and contents of your presentation. Introduce yourself, be enthusiastic, greet your audience, make eye contact by looking at your webcam, speak up and show your interest and knowledge of your topic.

Use Microsoft power point only for your presentation. Refrain from putting too much information on your slides, just use bullet points. Your presentation does not necessarily include everything in your research proposal paper. However, it should highlight the Introduction, research methodology and conclusion. While the Introduction should at least include facts and figures, research objective and hypotheses, the research methodology should address the five questions (what1, what2, why and how1 and how2 questions) in your paper, and the conclusion includes a short summary, expected results, and policy alternatives. Use only relevant pictures. Please see the instructions relevant to the research proposal paper to learn about these required items. To upload, click on write submission and then mashups to select the Kaltura media that you made. You also need to upload your power point slides in the same submission tab.

In this assignment, not only do you have to upload your PowerPoint slides with video, but you also ask questions on your colleagues' presentations, and answer those you receive on your presentation. The objective here is to test how you answer questions pertaining to your presentation and ask relevant questions on your colleagues' presentations. Therefore, the presentation grade is also based on the quality of your answers and questions.

Duration of the presentation: 10 minutes.

The video presentation must be uploaded in two different ways on blackboard. Each student is required to upload the video both as assignment and on the discussion board.

### 14- Quizzes:

There are two different types of quiz. While the open-book quizzes are graded they are mainly intended to guide students as they identify some key information in the reading materials and direct their attention to some important points relevant to this course. Students are required to read carefully their reading materials to prepare for the open book quizzes. The closed book quizzes are however intended to assess the students' knowledge and understanding of the course materials. They generally include multiple choice questions with single or multiple answers.

They may also consist of short or long-answer questions. Occasionally, I will ask you to write a short essay. Students are given plenty of time to take the quiz as it is available for four days, but it is timed once it is open. Once started the open book quizzes can be taken for one hour. The closed book quizzes are only available for 24 hours. The lecture slides and materials from which the quiz is taken are mentioned. How to prepare for the closed book quizzes? Make sure to know and understand the key concepts highlighted in the lecture slides and reading materials and review the relevant open book quizzes.

Download the blackboard respondus lockdown browser as you will use it to take your closed book quizzes and exam.

#### 15- Exam:

The exam will take place at the end of the semester. It is a comprehensive exam, i.e., it covers everything that was taught during the semester. Study carefully the lecture slides and review some important points highlighted in the reading materials to prepare for your exam. You should also review the past quizzes to get prepared for it. The exam is just like a longer quiz. It is a timed and closed book and you have to use Respondus Lockdown Browser to take it. Make sure to follow carefully the instructions relative to the use of this browser. As an example, you should stay within the frame throughout your quizzes or test. Failure to do so will result in grade F in this course.

#### 16- Reading materials:

The reading materials are carefully chosen to provide students with the framework and up-to-date information of the different subjects taught in this class. They are meant to be carefully read. Take notes as you read and highlight the key themes or main points in different parts of the articles. That will help you get a big picture of the materials and write your syntheses.

#### 17- Lecture Power Point slides

The course power point presentation is intended to provide students with the most important points that they should know and understand. They include key information that constitutes the backbone or foundation of the subjects taught in this course. Some key aspects in the reading materials are also highlighted in the slides. It is meant to emphasize some crucial points that the students should get out this course. After reading the materials and all the slides, students are asked to study the questions in the slides and to check their knowledge and understanding.

#### 18- Technology Requirements

The technology requirements for this online course are listed below:

Hardware:

- A Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and a fast, reliable broadband Internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL).
- Recommended computer monitor and laptop screen size be 13-inches or larger for optimum visibility of course material.

- A webcam for taking quizzes and exam using Respondus Lockdown Browser and for student presentations.

Software:

- Web browser (See Blackboard Support for supported web browsers)
- Blackboard Courses (Log into <http://mymason.gmu.edu>, select the Courses Tab)
- Blackboard Collaborate (select from the course menu)
- Flash Player (free download)
- Microsoft Office (purchase)
- Respondus Lockdown Browser (from blackboard)
- Kaltura (from blackboard)

19- Student support resources

Here are some important GMU website links that may help students succeed in their studies:

University Catalog at <http://catalog.gmu.edu/>

University Policies at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>

Counseling and Psychological Services at <http://caps.gmu.edu/>

Learning Services at <http://caps.gmu.edu/learningservices/>

University Career Services at <http://caps.gmu.edu/learningservices/>

University Writing Center at <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

20- Course Schedule (tentative) – Dates and times in this syllabus are in Korean Standard Time Zone (KST).

First day of the week	Week#/Topics/Reading materials/Assignment/Assessment
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 1</u></p> <p>Topics:            - Syllabus            - Environmental Issues.</p> <p>Reading materials:            -Syllabus            -Lecture slides week 1            -Africa Environment Outlook 3: Our Environment, Our Health: A summary for Policy Makers. UNEP, 2013 (Pages 5 to 22)            - UNEP Yearbook 2014. Emerging issues in our environment Pages 13-16; 25-28 and 43-46            -YouTube video material: E-Waste Hell (17 minutes)</p> <p>Assignments:            - Complete the reading assignment and watch the assigned video            - Download the following apps from the course page in blackboard           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondus Lockdown Browser</li> <li>• Kaltura</li> </ul> </p> <p>Assessment: Due on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm            - Complete the open-book quiz 1 on syllabus and reading materials week 1 and assigned video (complete assignment before taking this quiz):            Syllabus quiz PART 1</p>
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 2</u></p> <p>Topic: Environmental Science</p> <p>Reading materials:            - Conservation social science: Understanding and integrating human dimensions to improve conservation. Bennett et al, 2017            - Science and conservation: A history of natural and political landscapes. Stephen Bocking, 2018            - Lecture slides week 2</p> <p>-YouTube video material: Respondus with Webcam Hints (10 minutes)</p> <p>Assignment due on Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM:            - Complete your reading assignment            - Post the title of your research proposal on BB (go to assignment)            - Post your statement on BB to confirm that you read the syllabus</p> <p>Assessment: Due Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM            - Complete the open-book quiz 2 on reading materials and lecture slides of week 2            - Complete the closed book quiz on Respondus Lockdown Browser use:            Syllabus quiz PART 2</p>

<p>September 6<sup>th</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 3</u></p> <p>Topic 1: Environmental Policy making process  Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDS Working Paper 89. Understanding Environmental Policy Process: A Review. Keeley and Scoones. Pages 3-6</li> <li>- Understanding policy processes: a review of IDS research on the environment. Pages 7-14</li> <li>- Integrated Policy Making for Sustainable Development. A reference manual. UNEP. Pages 14-20.</li> <li>- Lecture slides week 3</li> </ul> <p>Topic 2: Environmental Policy in Africa  Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An introduction to the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. IUCN, 2004 (pages 1-6)</li> </ul> <p>Deadline: Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assignment:  Complete reading assignment and write the 1<sup>st</sup> SYNTHESIS OF READING MATERIALS of week 3 (only use the materials in week 3 for this assignment).</li> <li>- Assessment: Complete Open-book quiz 3 on lecture slides of week 3</li> </ul>
<p>September 13<sup>th</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 4:</u></p> <p>Topic: Regional and national Environmental Policy:  Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional convergence in environmental policy arrangements: A transformation towards regional environmental governance for West and Central African ports?</li> <li>- How African cities lead: Urban policy innovation and agriculture in Kampala and Nairobi</li> </ul> <p>Assignment: Complete reading assignment  Assessment 1 due on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm: CLOSED-BOOK QUIZ 1 on lecture and reading materials assigned in weeks 1, 2 and 3  N.B: It is a timed and closed book quiz. Use Respondus Lockdown Browser and your webcam! Only one attempt is permitted. The quiz is available for 24 hours from 00:01 am to 11:59 pm on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> and can be taken for fifteen minutes. Make sure to be fully ready before taking it.</p> <p>Assessment 2 due on Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm: Open book quiz 4 on reading materials of week 4</p>

September 20 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 5:</u></p> <p>Assignment for students in 1<sup>st</sup> group only: Due Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59 PM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit your presentation of research proposal (slides) and video on blackboard (BB) as assignment</li> <li>• Post your presentation on relevant class discussion page on BB</li> </ul> <p>Assignment for all students (including 1<sup>st</sup> group students): Post your questions on your colleagues' presentation (deadline for posting Thursday September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59PM) on class discussion</p> <p>Additional assignment for 1<sup>st</sup> group students: Respond to questions you received on your presentation by Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM.</p>
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 6:</u></p> <p>Assignment for students in 2<sup>nd</sup> group only: Due Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit your presentation of research proposal (slides) and video on blackboard (BB) as assignment</li> <li>• Post your presentation on relevant class discussion page on BB</li> </ul> <p>Assignment for all students (including 2<sup>nd</sup> group students): Post your questions on your colleagues' presentation (deadline for posting Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM)</p> <p>Additional assignment for 2<sup>nd</sup> group students: Respond to questions you received on your presentation by Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59PM.</p>
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 7</u></p> <p>Assignment for 3<sup>rd</sup> group students only: Due Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit your presentation of research proposal (slides) and video on blackboard (BB) as assignment</li> <li>• Post your presentation on relevant class discussion page on BB</li> </ul> <p>Assignment for all students (including 3<sup>rd</sup> group students): Post your questions on your colleagues' presentation (deadline for posting Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM)</p> <p>Additional assignment for 3<sup>rd</sup> group students: Respond to questions you received on your presentation by Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM.</p>

October 11 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 8</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECESS NO CLASS</p>
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 9</u></p> <p>Topic: Thematic Environmental policy- Marine Policy</p> <p>Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marine Policy Overview: Hoagland and Ticco, 2001 <a href="http://www.whoi.edu/science/MPC/dept/meetings/Luce_presentations/MarinePolicyOverview.pdf">http://www.whoi.edu/science/MPC/dept/meetings/Luce_presentations/MarinePolicyOverview.pdf</a></li> <li>- Policy Implications in the Management of Kenya’s Marine Protected Areas. Economic Valuation and Policy Priorities for Sustainable Management of Coral Reefs. Pages 205-210</li> <li>- Social impacts of marine protected areas in South Africa on coastal fishing communities</li> <li>- Lecture slides week 9</li> </ul> <p>Assignment due on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete your reading assignment and write (and post) your 2<sup>nd</sup> SYNTHESIS OF READING MATERIALS of week 9 (only use the materials in week 9).</li> </ul> <p>Assessment due on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete the open-book quiz 5 on lecture slides of week 9</li> </ul>
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 10</u></p> <p>Topic: Sustainable Development</p> <p>Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainable Development and Planetary Boundaries, Rockstrom and Sachs, 2013</li> <li>- Watch video on Youtube: The Age of Sustainable Development by Jeffrey Sachs, 2015</li> <li>- Accompanying slides</li> <li>- Safe operating system for humanity</li> <li>- Lecture slides week 10</li> </ul> <p>Assignment: Complete your reading assignment</p> <p>Assessment due on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Complete the open-book quiz 6 on reading materials and lecture slides of week 10</p>

<p>November 1<sup>st</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 11</u></p> <p>Topic: Sustainable Development and the role of the United Nations</p> <p>Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future. Gro Harlem Brundtland. Oslo, 20 March 1987. Part 1 Chapters 1 and 2</li> <li>- Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals. Guide to stakeholders. Sustainable Development Solutions Network. December 2015. Chapter 1</li> <li>- MDG Report 2015. Goal 7</li> <li>- Lecture slides week 11</li> </ul> <p>Assignment: Complete your reading assignment</p> <p>Assessment due on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM Complete the open-book quiz 7 on reading materials and lecture slides of week 11</p>
<p>November 8<sup>th</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 12</u></p> <p>Topic: Thematic Sustainable Development: Distant-Water Fisheries</p> <p>Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- China's distant water-fisheries in the 21st century</li> <li>- Fishing for Answers: Understanding Drivers and Environmental Impacts of China's Distant Water Fishing Fleet by Katie Lebling</li> <li>- Fishing Moratoria and Securing Turfs: Creating opportunities for future marine resource abundance in the face of scarcity in Western Africa. Anastasia Telesetsky</li> <li>- Lecture slides week 12</li> </ul> <p>Assignment: Complete your reading assignment</p> <p>Assessment due on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm: CLOSED-BOOK QUIZ 2 on lecture and reading materials assigned in weeks 9, 10 and 11 N.B: It is a timed and closed-book test. Use Respondus Lockdown and your webcam! Only one attempt is permitted. The quiz is available for 24 hours from 00:01 am to 11:59 pm on November 13<sup>th</sup> and can be taken for fifteen to thirty minutes. Make sure to be fully ready before taking it.</p> <p>Assessment due on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm: Complete the Open book quiz 8 on reading materials and lecture slides of week 12</p>

<p>November 15<sup>th</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 13</u></p> <p>Topic: Climate Change and its impacts  Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate Change 101- The science and Impacts</li> <li>- Climate system-An overview</li> <li>- Climate and Africa</li> <li>- Lecture slides week 13</li> </ul> <p>Assignment 1: Complete your reading assignment  Assignment 2: FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL PAPER due on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM. Post your assignment on BB by the deadline</p> <p>Assessment due on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 PM  Complete the open-book quiz 9 on reading materials and lecture slides of week 13</p>
<p>November 22<sup>nd</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 14</u></p> <p>Topic: Deforestation in Africa  Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Challenge of deforestation in Tropical Africa: Reflections on its principal causes and solutions</li> <li>- Deforestation in Madagascar: Consequences of Population Growth and Unsustainable Agricultural Processes</li> <li>- The dragon and the giraffe: China in African forests</li> <li>- Lecture slides week 14</li> </ul> <p>Assignment: Complete your reading assignment</p> <p>Assessment due on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM  Complete the open-book quiz 10 on reading materials and lecture slides of week 14</p>

November 29 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 15</u></p> <p>Topic: Biodiversity loss Reading materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is biodiversity? Fact Sheet, UNEP 2010.</li> <li>- Biodiversity loss and its impact on humanity. Cardinale <i>et al.</i>, 2012.</li> <li>- State of Biodiversity in Africa 2010. UNEP</li> <li>- Lecture slides</li> </ul> <p>Assignment: Complete your reading assignment</p> <p>Assessment due on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm: CLOSED-BOOK QUIZ 3 on lecture and reading materials assigned in weeks 12, 13 and 14 N.B: It is a timed and closed book quiz. Use Respondus Lockdown and your webcam! Only one attempt is permitted. The quiz is available for 24 hours from 00:01 am to 11:59 pm on December 4<sup>th</sup> and can be taken for fifteen to thirty minutes. Make sure to be fully ready before taking it.</p> <p>Assessment due on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm: Complete Open book quiz 11 on reading materials and lecture slides of week 15</p>
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 16</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">EXAM PREPARATION SESSION: NO CLASS</p>
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 17</u></p> <p>Due: FINAL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL PAPER to be posted on blackboard by Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Online FINAL EXAM on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> only. The exam is comprehensive, timed and closed book. Please use Respondus Lockdown and your webcam. Only one attempt is permitted. The exam is available for 24 hours from 00:01 am to 11:59 pm on December 13<sup>th</sup> and can be taken for thirty to 45 minutes. Make sure to be fully ready before taking it.</p>

N.B.: This syllabus is subject to change