EVPP 337-KD3
Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries
Fall 2019

Class period: August 26 to December 16, 2019

Location: 100% ONLINE

Instructor: Dr. Paul Philippe Razafinjatovo

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Office Hours: online by appointment

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 conducting research that unveils the different aspects 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. Students receive feedbacks on their answers to guide their understanding of the materials and the subjects taught in this course.

The course lecture slides are meant to provide students with the most important points that they should know and understand. They include key information that constitutes the foundation of the subjects taught in this course. Some important aspects identified in the reading materials are also highlighted in the slides. It is meant to emphasize some crucial points that the students should get out of this course. The science that supports the development of a particular environmental policy discussed in the reading materials is, for example, reviewed in the lecture slides. A closed book quiz that encompasses both reading materials and lecture slides is given to students for each subject taught in this course.

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 class 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.

The deadlines for all assignments are on Sundays 11:59 pm while the quizzes, and exam take place on Saturdays.

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

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 their research proposal**. The design and contents of the presentation as well as the associated requirements 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-KD3 on the subject** and **only use GMU mason live email address.**

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). No late submission of assignments is accepted. The assignment is no longer available when 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 prove their ability to write academic English.

The research proposal paper is a 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. However, if a required component is covered, your point is still assessed based on its quality. 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 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 support 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 your course project. It is an essay that demonstrates the ability of the student to describe an environmental issue and propose research that aims to explore one relevant aspect. Students are asked to describe the nature and significance of the environmental issue and to propose different ways to collect and analyze **primary data** in order to investigate one aspect relevant to the issue, such as its causes or its impacts. Students may also propose to conduct various studies to learn more about the seriousness of an environmental issue (its severity or/and extent). Moreover, students can choose to study the effectiveness of existing environmental policies or their implementation to address an environmental issue in a particular location.

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. Students are expected to do their own research to choose the appropriate research methods relevant to their research need to explore an aspect associated with an environmental issue they have identified.

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 confined to the study of a local environmental issue. Restricting the scope of the research proposal to a local environmental issue will help students focus their research on it and provide an in-depth and to the point description of research methods needed to study one aspect related to it.

The research proposal is restricted to the study of one specific aspect of a local environmental issue. While students are expected to provide a clear and comprehensive description of one local environmental issue of their choice, their research proposal should only aim to explore one aspect related to it. As students concentrate on one aspect of an environmental issue in one location, they are expected to explore the different facets that help to determine it. As an example, the human health impacts of air pollution in a small town depend on the nature and extent of the pollution as well as the exposure and vulnerability of local population to it. Therefore, the research proposal consists of describing the collection and analysis of primary data related to these components in order to determine the human health impacts of the local air pollution.

If a research on one aspect of an environmental issue was conducted at a large scale, it is possible to propose a research that investigates the same aspect at a smaller (or local) scale. As an example, if a report on the causes of deforestation is available in a particular country, it is acceptable to propose a research to investigate such causes in one particular location within that country by collecting and analyzing 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 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.   Title of research proposal

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 the African continent.** The title should be relevant to **a local environmental issue** or **environmental policies** 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 economic impacts of overfishing on local fishermen in the Bugala island of the Lake Victoria". Moreover, students can explore the effectiveness of an environmental policy (national or international) or its implementation to address a local environmental issue. As an example, it is possible to study the effectiveness of the government of Kenya to implement its fisheries act to protect its marine resources at a local level. 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 your paper. However, you do not have to have complete information on your study location. It is possible 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 research area, environmental issue and related aspect you would like to explore. You can also choose to write on topics from the subjects that will be studied during this semester (see schedule below). 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 14 (first draft). Provide your research proposal **title on blackboard the day before the start of 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 aspect that you plan to explore based on this issue. It is intended to attract the attention of the reader and guide him or her 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, etc), a research objective, and 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 than yours 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 want to do your research on the social impacts of drought 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 an 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 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 either explore the causes or the social impacts of this issue and identify a more specific location.

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 helps to provide a prediction of the outcome of the

research you propose to conduct. Your hypotheses should be relevant to your research objective and determine the different elements of your research methods. You should have at least two hypotheses that are derived from the research objective. Students are encouraged 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 causes of a local environmental issue, the aspects that reveal the issue would constitute the dependent variables while the factors that may have generated these aspects 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 prevalence of 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 variables are the amount of fish catch or/and the population of certain (vulnerable) fish species while the prevalence of the different fishing methods and the nature of coastal tourism activities constitute the dependent variables. The research methodology explains how the independent and dependent variables are correlated as you test your hypotheses by analyzing the primary data you propose to collect.

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 four specific questions helps you provide a comprehensive description of your research methodology. These questions include: what method is relevant to your research? what primary data do you need? why is your research method relevant to your data? and how do you collect and analyze your data?

Firstly, the research methodology should describe the research methods that you propose for your research by providing some information about their nature, their objective and the types of primary data that may be collected and analyzed through their use. You are welcome to use natural or social science in your research methods based on your research objective. As an example, the use of cost-benefit analysis is an economic research tool that can be used in social science while population ecology is a branch of natural science that helps to understand the dynamics of species population. At this stage, the explanation of the research methods is limited to its description and its application to a known case. It should not refer to your research project as you will have the chance to explain why these methods are relevant to the data you need. Instead, you can provide some examples of the use of the proposed research methods in other research cases. Since you are expected to collect primary data, it is not acceptable to propose desk research to collect secondary data as your main research method.

Secondly, the research methodology describes the primary data that you need based on your variables identified in your hypotheses. You are welcome to use social and natural data. Social data are data that can be collected through the use of research methods associated with social science while natural data are collected with the use of natural science. As an example, average income level of a fishing community is social and economic data while the health of coral reefs along the shore of Kenya is natural data. Moreover, you are required to propose the collection of measurable (quantitative) data in your research in order to determine the correlation between the variables. However, spatial data are also acceptable to test your hypotheses. It is important to emphasize that the research proposal should mainly collect primary data. You are therefore expected to describe the original data that you plan to collect and analyze.

Thirdly, you should describe the reason why your research methods are relevant to the (primary) data that you need. The choice of your research methods is mainly related to the data you plan to collect and analyze. However, you can also choose relevant factors that support the choice of your research methods. As an example, 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.

Finally, you should describe how you will collect and analyze your data. This step may be part of the research method that you have chosen. 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 participants and equipment that you plan to use for your research may also be described in your research methodology.

The analysis of your data is the 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 System (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 research, your 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 a good quality paper.

b. **Synthesis of reading materials**

A synthesis is a piece of writing drafted through the lens of key aspects highlighted in the reading materials. Not only does the synthesis demonstrate the student's knowledge of the reading materials, but also his 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, discussing some key aspects that are commonly highlighted by the reading materials and analyzing them based on student's prior knowledge or understanding of these aspects in order to adopt a new perspective. In light of this, students are required to identify three common key aspects that are highlighted in the materials. The key aspects are statements that reflect the opinions or positions that are commonly shared by the authors of the different materials or important phenomena highlighted by them. **Each key aspect 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: Introduction, main body and conclusion. Please use headings and subheadings to show clearly 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 **short** summary of the materials in a paragraph to show your knowledge and understanding. Fourthly, you should clearly state the objective of your paper. Finally, you should provide a statement that tells the different parts of the main body of your paper, which are the three key aspects that you plan to discuss.

ii. Main body (use the key aspects as subheadings)

Since you should at least discuss three key aspects, this section is composed of at least three paragraphs. The discussion of a key aspect is a paragraph that not only explains its meaning, 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, a brief explanation of the key aspect, comparisons of the authors' viewpoints on the key aspect, and **your own opinion** on these viewpoints. **Use the name of authors** as you compare their viewpoints (not the title of the reading materials). Make sure the arguments you use in the discussion support 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 aspects. 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 the way you propose to produce and analyze scientific data that help to address it. It should be given during weeks 5 to 7 and last **ten minutes**.

When you give your oral presentation, please **dress professionally** as if you give your presentation in a conference. In your video using Kaltura Capture, screen and webcam (with your camera), record yourself as you present your power point slides. 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. 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**. Do never copy and paste from your research

proposal paper. 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 questions (what, why and how questions)** in your paper**,** and the conclusion includes a short **summary, expected results, policy alternatives or recommendations**. 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 must 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.
Each student is required to upload the video both as assignment and on the discussion board.

14- Quiz:

There are two different types of quiz. While the open-book quizzes are graded they are mainly intended to guide students to 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. However, they may 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. However, the closed book quizzes only open 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 you know and understand the key concepts highlighted in the lecture slides and reading materials.

Download the blackboard respondus lockdown browser as you will use it in 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

timed and close-book. You use Respondus Lockdown Browser as you 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 aspects 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 meant 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)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download)
- 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/
English Language Institute at http://eli.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)

First day of the week	Week#/Topics/Reading materials/Assignment/Assessment

August 26th	**Week 1**
	
	Topics:
	- Syllabus
	- Environmental Issues.
	
	- 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 Year Book 2014. Emerging issues in our environment Pages 13-16; 25-28 and 43-46
	-YouTube video material: E-Waste Hell (17 minutes)
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd_ZttK3PuM
	-**Download the following software from the course page in blackboard**
	   - Download Respondus Lockdown Browser
	   - Download Kaltura
	Assignment: Complete the reading assignment and watch the assigned video
	Assessment: Due Sunday September 01st at 12:59 pm
	   - Complete the **open-book quiz on syllabus, reading materials week 1 and assigned video**

September 2nd	**Week 2:**
	
	Topic: Environmental Science
	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
	Assignment due on Saturday September 7th at 12:59 PM:
	   - **Reading assignment**
	   - **Post the title of your research proposal** on BB
	   - Post your statement on BB to confirm that you read the syllabus
	
	Assessment: **Due Sunday September 08th at 12:59 PM**
	   - Scheduling research proposal presentation
	   - Complete the **open-book quiz** on reading materials and lecture slides of week 2

September 9th	**Week 3**
	
	Topic 1: Environmental Policy process
	Reading materials:
	   - IDS Working Paper 89. Understanding Environmental Policy Process: A Review. Keeley and Scoones. Pages 3-6
	   - Understanding policy processes: a review of IDS research on the environment. Pages 7-14
	   - Integrated Policy Making for Sustainable Development. A reference manual. UNEP. Pages 14-20.
	   - Lecture slides week 3
	Topic 2: Environmental Policy in Africa
	Reading materials:
	   - An introduction to the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. IUCN, 2004 (pages 1-16)
	https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/EPLP-056.pdf
	
	Deadline: **Sunday September 15th at 12:59 PM**
	   - **Assignment:**
	Complete read assignment and write the 1st Synthesis of reading materials of week 3 (only use the materials in week 3 for this assignment).
	   - **Assessment: Open-book quiz** on lecture slides of week 3

September 16th	**Week 4:**
	
	Topic: Regional and national Environmental Policy:
	Reading materials:
	    - Regional convergence in environmental policy arrangements: A transformation towards regional environmental governance for West and Central African ports?
	    - How African cities lead: Urban policy innovation and agriculture in Kampala and Nairobi
	
	Assignment: Complete reading assignment
	Assessment due on Saturday September 21st at 12:59 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 test. Use Respondus Lockdown and your webcam! Only one attempt is permitted. The quiz is available for 24 hours from September 20th at 01:00 pm to September 21st at 12:59 pm and can be taken for **fifteen minutes**. Make sure to be fully ready before taking it.
	
	Assessment due on Sunday September 22nd at 12:59 pm: **Open book quiz** on reading materials of **week 4**

September 23rd	**Week 5:**
	
	Assignment for 1st group students only: Due September 25th at 12:59 PM
	    - Post your presentation of research proposal on blackboard (BB)
	    - Post your presentation on relevant class discussion page on BB
	Class assignment:
	    - **For all students:** Post your questions on your colleagues' presentation (deadline for posting September 26th at 12:59 pm)
	    - **For 1st group students**: Respond to questions you received on your presentation by September 29th at 12:59 pm

September 30th	**Week 6:**
	
	Assignment for 2nd group students only: Due October 2nd at 12:59 PM
	    - Post your presentation of research proposal on blackboard (BB)
	    - Post your presentation on relevant class discussion page on BB
	Class assignment:
	    - **For all students:** Post your questions on your colleagues' presentation (deadline for posting October 3rd at 12:59 pm)
	    - **For 2nd group students**: Respond to the questions you received on your presentation by October 5th at 12:59 pm.

October 7th	**Week 7**
	Assignment for 3rd group students only: Due October 9th at 12:59 PM
	- Post your presentation of research proposal on blackboard (BB)
	- Post your presentation on relevant class discussion on BB
	Class assignment:
	- **For all students:** Post your questions on your colleagues' presentation (deadline for posting October 10th at 12:59 pm)
	- **For 3rd group students**: Respond to the questions you received on your presentation by October 12th at 12:59 pm)
October 14th	**Week 8** **RECESS NO CLASS**
October 21st	**Week 9** **Topic: Thematic Environmental policy- Marine Policy** **Reading materials**: - Marine Policy Overview: Hoagland and Ticco, 2001 http://www.whoi.edu/science/MPC/dept/meetings/Luce_presentations/MarinePolicyOverview.pdf - 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 - Social impacts of marine protected areas in South Africa on coastal fishing communities - Lecture slides week 9 **Assignment due on Saturday October 26th at 12:59 PM** - **Complete your reading assignment and write your 2nd SYNTHESIS OF READING MATERIALS of week 9 (only use the materials in week 9 to write it).** **Assessment due on Sunday October 27th at 12:59 PM** - **Class activity**: Complete the **open-book quiz** on lecture slides of week 9

October 28th	<u>**Week 10**</u>
	
	Topic: Sustainable Development
	Reading materials:
	    - Sustainable Development and Planetary Boundaries, Rockstrom and Sachs, 2013
	    - Watch video on Youtube: The Age of Sustainable Development by Jeffrey Sachs, 2015
	    - Accompanying slides
	    - Safe operating system for humanity
	    - Lecture slides week 10
	
	Assessment due on Sunday November 3rd at 12:59 PM
	Complete the **open-book quiz** on reading materials and lecture slides of week 10

November 4th	<u>**Week 11**</u>
	
	Topic: Sustainable Development and the role of the United Nations
	Reading materials:
	    - 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
	    - Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals. Guide to stakeholders. Sustainable Development Solutions Network. December 2015. Chapter 1
	    - MDG Report 2015. Goal 7
	    - Lecture slides week 11
	
	Assignment due on Saturday November 9th at 12:59 PM: FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL PAPER
	Post the first draft of your research proposal paper on BB
	
	Assessment due on Sunday November 10th at 12:59 PM
	Complete the **open-book quiz** on reading materials and lecture slides of week 11

November 11th	**Week 12**
	
	Topic: Thematic Sustainable Development: Distant-Water Fisheries
	Reading materials:
	   - China's distant water-fisheries in the 21st century
	   - Fishing for Answers: Understanding Drivers and Environmental Impacts of China's Distant Water Fishing Fleet By Katie Lebling
	   - Financing EU Distant Water Fishing in Developing countries. Contribution from the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements. Béatrice Gorez.
	   - Fishing Moratoria and Securing Turfs: Creating opportunities for future marine resource abundance in the face of scarcity in Western Africa. Anastasia Telesetsky
	   - Lecture slides week 12
	
	Assignment: Complete your reading assignment
	
	Assessment due on Saturday November 16th at 12:59 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 November 15th at 01:00 pm to November 16th at 12:59 pm and can be taken for **fifteen minutes**. Make sure to be fully ready before taking it.
	
	Assessment due on Sunday November 17th at 12:59 pm: **Open book quiz** on reading materials and lecture slides of **week 12**

November 18th	**Week 13**
	
	Topic: Climate Change and its impacts
	Reading materials:
	   - African voters indicate lack of support for climate change policies
	   - Climate Change 101- The science and Impacts
	   - Climate system-An overview
	   - Climate and Africa
	   - Lecture slides week 13
	
	Assignment: Complete your reading assignment
	
	Assessment due on Sunday November 24th at 12:59 PM
	Complete the **open-book quiz** on reading materials and lecture slides of week 13

November 25th	**Week 14**
	Topic: Deforestation in Africa
	Reading materials:
	    - The Challenge of deforestation in Tropical Africa: Reflections on its principal causes and solutions
	    - Deforestation in Madagascar: Consequences of Population Growth and Unsustainable Agricultural Processes
	    - The dragon and the giraffe: China in African forests
	    - Lecture slides week 14
	
	Assignment: Complete your reading assignment
	
	Assessment due on Sunday December 1st at 12:59 PM
	Complete the **open-book quiz** on reading materials and lecture slides of week 14

December 2nd	**Week 15**
	Topic: Biodiversity loss
	Reading materials:
	    - What is biodiversity? Fact Sheet, UNEP 2010.
	    - Biodiversity loss and its impact on humanity. Cardinale *et al.,* 2012.
	    - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning: Current knowledge and future challenges. Loreau et al., 2001
	    - State of Biodiversity in Africa 2010. UNEP
	    - Lecture slides
	Assignment: Complete your reading assignment
	
	Assessment due on Saturday December 8th at 12:59 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 test. Use Respondus Lockdown and your webcam! Only one attempt is permitted. The quiz is available for 24 hours from December 07th at 01:00 pm to December 8th at 12:59 pm and can be taken for **fifteen minutes**. Make sure to be fully ready before taking it.
	
	Assessment due on Sunday December 9th at 11:59 pm: **Open book quiz** on reading materials and lecture slides of **week 15**

December 9th	**Week 16** **EXAM PREPARATION SESSION: NO CLASS**
December 15-16th	**Week 17** **Due: FINAL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL PAPER to be posted on blackboard by DECEMBER 16TH at 12:59 PM** **Online FINAL EXAM on DECEMBER 15-16TH** 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 December 15th at 01:00 pm to December 16th at 12:59 pm and can be taken for thirty to 45 minutes. Make sure to be fully ready before taking it.

N.B.: This syllabus is subject to change