

Syllabus

Global Biodiversity Governance

EVPP 475/ EVPP 575

Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Spring 2020

16.30-19.10 on Thursdays



Introduction

Welcome to the course *Global Biodiversity Governance (EVPP 475/EVPP 575)*. Biodiversity governance implies that all actors in society - government, business, and civil society - have a role in conservation. This course discusses the mechanisms and frameworks contemporary steering of the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Instructor

Dr. Rhema Bjorkland

Email: RBjorkla@gmu.edu

Phone: (706) 201-5584

Office hours: on appointment

Course Prerequisites

Having taken a minimum of one (environmental) social science course or with permission of the instructor.

Course Description

This course studies global biodiversity governance from a conservation science and policy perspective. The course will introduce the platforms and instruments, public and private policies, that support biodiversity governance and the relationship between these mechanisms. The course will briefly overview the regime and governance literature and major theoretical constructs. The course content includes an examination of empirical examples, including intergovernmental policy frameworks and private instruments including certification standards such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). Main activities include lectures, student-led discussions, and a simulation of an intergovernmental negotiation.

You will also be invited to (further) develop their own views on contemporary governance issues, through the preparation of a concept outline and proposal for a paper that combines theoretical and empirical aspects of governance. Students registered for EVPP 575 will extend this proposal into a written paper. In this paper you will practice applying policy-relevant social science concepts (e.g., policy effectiveness, stakeholder participation, power relations).

Course Relationship to Existing Programs

The course can be taken by any student meeting the prerequisite demands but is especially designed to be part of the following undergraduate and graduate programs. Please check with your advisor on the relevance to your specific program.

Environmental Science and Policy, M.S., all concentrations, but especially:

- Conservation Science and Policy (COSP)
- Environmental Science and Policy (EVSP)
- Environmental Management (EVMG)

Environmental Science and Public Policy, Ph.D.

Environmental and Sustainability Studies, B.A.

Environmental Science, B.S., all concentrations, but especially:

- Conservation (CNSV)
- Human and Ecosystem Response to Climate Change (HERC)

Global and Environmental Change, B.S.

Biology, B.S.

Environmental Policy minor
Sustainability Studies minor

Credits

3 credits

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

This course will examine international public and private biodiversity-related governance from a conservation science and policy perspective. After this course students are expected to be able to:

1. Identify the main governance theories
2. Explain empirical examples of global biodiversity governance
4. Debate different approaches to governance
5. Give their opinion on the impact of the various governance regimes on mitigating biodiversity loss

Educational Activities Associated with this Course

The course includes the following activities:

- Preparation for and attending lectures
- Leading one discussion/review session
- Participation in general group discussion and simulation

The content will be provided through literature, lectures, group discussions, and a simulation exercise. During the second part of the course, the focus will be on applying the learned material by preparing a proposal for a paper and, for EVPP 575 students, expanding the proposal into a paper.

Governance theory is presented through academic literature (see learning materials). Students are expected to read these papers before the lectures. The publications are also introduced and discussed during the lectures. These discussions are meant to develop an understanding of the literature (learning outcome 1), provide an opportunity to discuss different visions of governance in order to (further) develop your own views of the issues (learning outcomes 4 and 5), and practice the application of a theoretical analysis (learning outcome 3). Most of the empirical examples (learning outcome 2) will be introduced through lectures and the simulation exercise. Of course, the literature also discusses empirical examples, and several publications in the literature list (especially the additional reading) are meant to prepare you for these more empirical topics.

The development of the paper includes 3 steps: 1) a short idea note presenting your ideas for the paper; 2) a proposal for the paper; and 3) **for EVPP 575 registrants, an additional assignment: writing and presenting a paper based on the proposal.**

You will apply the theoretical approaches introduced in the literature to analyze an empirical case (learning outcome 3), and you will present and make the argument for your own vision on governance (learning outcome 5 for EVPP 575 students: you will receive further instructions on the written assignment during the course).

Assessment Strategy

In principle, all activities of the course are mandatory and participation in all lectures is a prerequisite for passing the course. One meeting can be missed due to illness or unforeseen circumstances if you inform the instructor by email before the scheduled meeting. Students should come to class ready to participate in all activities and produce assignments on the due dates. Each student will be assigned to lead one discussion on his/her treatment of the short assignment. Details will be provided during the first meeting of the course.

The following are the minimum requirements for passing the course:

1. Presence during lectures (no grade, but prerequisite to pass)
2. Handing in 4 short assignments on the literature
3. Idea and proposal development
4. Written assignment and presentation (EVPP 575)

Learning outcomes		Short assignments	Proposal and written assignment
1	Identify the main governance theories and summarize current critical issues in the field	X	
2	Explain empirical examples of global biodiversity governance	X	
3	Theoretically analyze an empirical case		X
4	Debate different approaches to governance		X
5	Give their opinion on governance		X

Grading Criteria

Assignment	Percentage Contribution to the Total Grade	
	EVPP 475	EVPP 575
In-class participation and discussion	15%	10%
4 short assignments on the literature	40%	25%
Idea note for the written assignment	15%	10%
proposal for the written assignment	30%	20%
final paper	-	25%
Presentation	-	10%
TOTAL	100%	100%

The grading differs for the 475 and 575 levels of the course. Scores will be summed to a 0–100 scale. **A curve will not be applied.** The minimum grade to pass for all elements is 60%. The conversion into letter grades (A–D, F) is shown below:

Letter Grade - EVPP 475	Letter Grade - EVPP 575
A (100-93%)	A (100-90%)
A- (92-90%)	
B+ (89-86%)	B (89-80%)
B- (85-83%)	
B (82-80%)	
C (79-70%)	C (79-70%)
D (69-60%)	D (69-60%)
F (<60%)	F (<60%)

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is not accepted. Students are required to be familiar and comply with the requirements of the GMU Honor Code. The software program SafeAssign will be used to check for originality when appropriate.

Disability accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <https://ds.gmu.edu/>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity	Literature (Supp. = additional, not required)
Jan. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to the course, regime and governance literature Introduction short assignments on literature Explanation idea note, proposal & written assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Van Kersbergen and Van Waarden (2004) Young (2002) Stoker (1998)
Jan. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Regime literature and Integrative Governance Hand in assignment 1: Regime literature (through Blackboard) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gehring and Oberthür (2009) Jóhannsdóttir et al. (2010) Mitchell (2003) Paavola et al. (2009) (Supp)
Feb. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture governance literature, the concept of discourse & main global discourses Hand in assignment 2: Governance literature (through Blackboard) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abbott and Snidal (2010) Arts and Buizer (2009) Lapeyre et al. (2014)
Feb. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The practice of intergovernmental negotiations Guest lecture: international freshwater regimes and biodiversity (Dr. Ronald Bjorkland, Birchgrove Environmental Solutions LLC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blasiak et al. (2016) Hermosa et al. (2016) (Supp)
Feb. 20	<p>NO CLASS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand in idea note for written assignment (Blackboard discussion board & 1 printed copy for instructor in instructor's mailbox in ESP office on 3rd floor of David King Hall) 	
Feb. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of idea notes (group and individually) Hand in assignment 3: Legitimacy and participation literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reed (2008)
March 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: The concepts of legitimacy & participation Lecture: Conservation, tourism, and certification partnerships Guest Lecture: Biodiversity and governance in the Arctic (Dr. Roberto Delgado, National Science Foundation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young (2010) Visseren-Hamakers (2013) Supplemental readings as recommended by guest lecturer
March 12 & March 19 Spring Break		
March 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Concept of power; global and regional fisheries management Guest lecture: Dr. Gerardo Ceballos (UNAM, Mexico) Assignment 4: Power literature due 3/23 Hand in proposal (on Blackboard discussion board) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shackeroff and Campbell (2007) Crona and Bodin (2010)

Date	Topic/Activity	Literature (Supp. = additional, not required)
April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue power and legitimacy discussions • Feedback and discussion of proposals 	
April 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Science-Policy interfaces • Introduction to the simulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beck et al. (2014) • Larigauderie and Mooney (2010) • Diaz et al. (2019) (Supp)
April 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International negotiations (Ms. Andrea Ewart, Develop Trade Law LLC) • Hand out simulation roles and exercise 	
April 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simulation (formal negotiations) and reflection on simulation 	
April 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations and individual discussions (virtual office hours) 	
May 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations and individual discussions (virtual office hours) 	
May 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations (EVPP 575) • Discussion (All members) • Hand in final paper (EVPP 575) 	