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Spring 2003

Global Perspectives on Sustainable Development

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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

JOHN WHITEHEAD SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Professor Jacques Fomerand

Spring 2003

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This course examines the evolving concept and practice of sustainable development within the broader context of changing global politics. The syllabus is divided into four sections: Concepts, theories and approaches; Actors and processes, Sector issues/case studies and Looking into the Future.

Format of the seminar

The success of a graduate seminar depends on the sustained participation of students. All student are thus expected to attend every class session. Students who may be unavoidably prevented from attending a particular meeting are asked to notify the instructor in advance. Active participation in class discussions is a requirement. Sessions will be organized around student led discussions of the weekly readings. Each student is expected to make a ten minute oral presentation to kick off the discussion. The presentation should briefly summarize the readings (i.e., key arguments, methods, theoretical underpinnings, etc..) and offer a critique/commentary on their strengths and weaknesses. Discussions leaders will be asked to provide one or two discussion questions which will serve as a springboard for the seminar's review of the particular issue under review.

Research Paper

Students will submit a research paper of approximately 20 pages (double spaced) on an issue relating to the subject matter of the course. Each student will give a ten minute presentation summarizing the key questions their paper seeks to address and describing their research methodology. Presentations will be scheduled during sessions 4 and 5. They will be based on a two page research proposal containing also a preliminary bibliography. These papers must be made available to the entire class prior to the presentations. Papers will be graded on writing and style, accuracy and completeness of footnotes and bibliography, quality of research and analysis, and logic of the argument. Reflection on policy options is strongly encouraged. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Grading

Grades will be determined as follows: research paper (60%); oral presentations/two page proposal (20%); and class participation (20%).

Office hours

To be announced during the first session. The instructor will also be available by appointment.

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Required readings

All students are expected to purchase the following books

World Commission on Environment and Development. *Our Common Future* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987).

Gareth Porter & Janet Welsh Brown (eds.). *Global Environmental Politics* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1996).

Hans van Ginkel, Brendan Barrett, Julius Court and Jerry Velasquez (eds.). *Human Development and the Environment*. (Tokyo: The United Nations University Press, 2002).

Michael Edwards, "Civil Society and Global Governance," in Ramesh Thakur and Edward Newman. *New Millennium, New Perspectives. The United Nations, Security and Governance*. (Tokyo: The United Nations University Press, 2000. Pp. 205-219 (to be distributed).

United Nations University. *UNU Report. International Environmental Governance. The Question of Reform. Key Issues and Proposals. Preliminary Findings*. Mimeo, 2002 (To be distributed)

Joe Sills. *The Role of the United Nations in Forming Global Norms. ACUNS International Relations and the United Nations Occasional Papers, No. 2, 2002*.

SEMINAR OUTLINE

Session 1: Introduction to the course.

Part 1: Concepts, theories and approaches

Session 2 and 3

Introduction to sustainable development: political, social and economic implications

Read: Our Common Future, foreword, Ch. 1 and 2
Porter and Brown, Ch. 1
Van Ginkel et al. Ch. 1-3

Sessions 4 and 5

Students presentations/Research proposals

Part 2: Actors

Session 6

States, non state actors and International Organizations

Read: Porter and Brown, pp. 31-41, pp. 50-66
Michael Edwards, "Civil Society and Global Governance," in Ramesh Thakur and Edward Newman. *New Millennium, New Perspectives. The United Nations, Security and Governance*. (Tokyo: The United Nations University Press, 2000. Pp. 205-219 (to be distributed).
Norm setting of ACUNS

Part 3: Sectoral issues and case studies

Session 7

Poverty/employment

Read: Cornia in van Ginkel et al. Ch. 5

Session 8

Population and urbanization

Read: *Our Common Future*, Ch. 4 and 9
Van Ginkel and al., Ch. 4, 10

Session 9

Food security

Read: *Our Common Future*, Ch. 5
Van Ginkel et al., Ch. 14

Session 10

Natural resources: land, water, energy

Read: *Our Common Future*, Ch. 7
Van Ginkel et al., Ch. 11-13, 15

Session 11

Global trade, technology and the environment

Read: Porter and Brown, C. 4
Van Ginkel et a., Ch. 6

Part 4: Looking into the future

Session 12

Global environmental governance

Read: Van Ginkel et al., Ch. 8-9, 16-17
United Nations University. *UNU Report. International Environmental Governance. The Question of Reform. Key Issues and Proposals. Preliminary Findings.* Mimeo, 2002 (To be distributed)

Session 13

Conclusions/Proposals for Common/Action

Read: Porter and Brown, Ch. 5
Our Common Future, Ch. 12
Van Ginkel et al., Ch. 4