

IR 336
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

2004 Spring Semester

Instructor : Dr. AYŞEGÜL KİBAROĞLU

Course Description :

Environmental problems have become prominent in national and international politics because of growing concern with the prospects and implications of human-induced environmental degradation. Although a number of issues pertaining to environmental degradation attracted worldwide attention during the height of the Cold War period, tight security agenda of most political scientists barely allowed such issues to surface in their scholarly writings. However, with the removal of the Cold War tension from the international political arena, not only the concept of national/international security has started to be revisited by a group of scholars, but also emerging issues like environmental change and its implications for international security started to gain prominence in academia. This development has unavoidably led to a considerable scholarly debate endowed with rich analytical and normative discourse as well as empirical evidence. The debate attained an ever-increasing momentum which provided students of international relations with a clear map of the areas of consensus and principal disagreements as well as concerns that need to be addressed in the years ahead. Hence, this course aims at introducing the students to an emerging field of interest like environmental security. Accordingly, the course is so designed to provide the students with a set of principal questions that should tackle their minds during the semester such as:

- ...What is the relationship between environment and international security?
- ...What are the basic arguments FOR considering the environment as a security issue?
- ...What are the major arguments AGAINST considering environment as a security issue?
- ...What are the significant empirical cases which support the major arguments FOR considering the environment as a security issue? ARENAS FOR CONFLICT!
- ...What are the other cases which support the arguments against considering environment as a security issue? AREAS FOR COOPERATION!

Weekly Program and the Reading Material :

Week 01: Introduction to the Course & General Discussion on the Syllabus.

Week 02 Major Changes in the Environment: “Emergence of Environmental Politics.”

...Gareth Porter and Janet Welsh Brown, "The Emergence of Global Environmental Politics," Chapter 1 of *Global Environmental Politics*, Boulder: Westview Press, 1996, pp. 1-31.

Weeks 03-04: Arguments FOR Considering the Environment as a Security Issue: "Redefining security." (Part I)

...Jessica Mathews, "Redefining Security," *Foreign Affairs*, 1989, 68: 162-177;
...Norman Myers, "Environmental Security: How it Works," Chapter 2 of *Ultimate Security*, New York: Norton&Company, 1993, pp. 17-34.
...Eric Stern, "The Case for Comprehensive Security" in *Contested Grounds* (eds.) D. Deudney and R. Matthew, SUNY, 1999.

Week 05: Arguments FOR Considering the Environment as a Security Issue: "Redefining security." (Part II)

...Michael Renner, "Transforming Security," in Lester Brown (ed.), *State of the World*, 1997, pp. 115-131;
...Peter H. Gleick, "Environment, Resources, and International Security and Politics," in Eric Arnett (ed.) *Science and International Security: Responding to a Changing World*, Washington D.C.: AAAS, 1990, pp. 501-523.

Weeks 06-07: Arguments AGAINST Considering Environment As a Security Issue: "Drawbacks of Considering Environment Within the Context of Security." (Part I)

...Daniel Deudney, "The Case Against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 1990, 19: 461-476;
...Ronnie Lipschutz and John Holdren, "Crossing Borders: Resource Flows, the Global Environment, and International Security," *Bulletin of Peace Proposals*, 1990, 21: 121-133.

Weeks 08-10: A closer examination of the case studies which represent the likelihood of conflict due to the environmental change and resource scarcities: "Arenas for Conflict."

...Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, "On the Threshold: Environmental changes as Sources of Acute Conflict," *International Security*, 1991, 16: 43-83;
...Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidences From Cases," *International Security*, 1994, 19: 5-40;
... Thomas Homer-Dixon, "Threshold of Turmoil: Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict" in *Contested Grounds* (eds.) D. Deudney and R. Matthew, SUNY, 1999.
...Valerie Percival and Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, "**The Case of Rwanda**," 1999.
...Kimberley Kelly and Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, "**The Case of Gaza**," 1999.
...Valerie Percival and Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Scarcity and Violent Conflict: **The Case of South Africa**," *Journal of Peace Research*, May 1998, 35: 279-297.
...Peter Gizewski and Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, "**The Case of Pakistan**," 1999.
...Steve Lonergan, "Water and Conflict: Rhetoric and Reality" in *Environmental Conflict* (eds.) P. Diehl and Nils Ptter Gleditsch, Westview Pres, 2001.

Week 11-12: Arguments AGAINST Considering Environment As a Security Issue: “Drawbacks of Considering Environment Within the Context of Security.” (Part II)

...Marc Levy, “Is the Environment a National Security Issue?” *International Security*, 20: 35-62, 1995;

...Nils Petter Gleditsch, “Armed Conflict and the Environment: A critique of the Literature,” *Journal of Peace Research*, May 1998, 35: 381-400

...Wenche Hauge and Tanja Ellingsen, “Beyond Environmental Scarcity: Causal Pathways to Conflict,” *Journal of Peace Research*, May 1998, 35: 299-317.

... Simon Dalby, “Threats from the South? Geopolitics, Equity, and Environmental Security” in *Contested Grounds* (eds.) D. Deudney and R. Matthew, SUNY, 1999.

Weeks 13-14: Taking from the last part on, the course will also incorporate concluding discussions about the issues that need to be addressed in the years to come. Building on the interconnectedness of environmental issues, the expansion of economic interdependence, the involvement of international organizations, and the development of international environmental issues, all of which create conditions amenable to cooperative strategies will be devoted special attention: “Areas for Cooperation.”

...Karen Litfin, “Constructing Environmental Security and Ecological Interdependence,” *Global Governance*, 1999, 5:359-377.

...Ken Conca, “Environmental Cooperation and International Peace, in Paul Diehl and Nils Petter Gleditsch (eds.) *Environmental Conflict*, Westview Press, 2001.

...Jack Goldstone, “Demography, Environment, and Security” in *Environmental Conflict* (eds.) P. Diehl and Nils Petter Gleditsch, Westview Press, 2001.

...Bjorn Lomborg, “Resource Constraints and Abundance” in *Environmental Conflict* (eds.) P. Diehl and Nils Petter Gleditsch, Westview Press, 2001.

Course Requirements : There are basically two requirements that should be fulfilled successfully by the students:

... The first requirement is, the students are expected to prepare a verbal presentation to give in class on one of the weekly readings. After giving a brief summary of the article/chapter, presentations must also cover the main arguments of the writer along with the critiques of the student on the paper. Presentations will not last longer than 10-15 minutes. Presentation and Class Attendance as well as active participation in class discussion will count for 50% of students’ final grade. For a fruitful discussion, students will be expected to have completed their weekly readings before coming to the classroom;

...The second requirement is taking the Final Examination that will count for 50% of students’ overall grade.

... Final Exam will feature essay questions that draw to a large extent on the class readings.