

## **PS138-03 POLITICS, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Spring 2012 Location: Eaton 206, 10:30am – 11:45am

Professor Nancy W. Gleason, [Nancy.Gleason@Tufts.Edu](mailto:Nancy.Gleason@Tufts.Edu)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 3:00pm – 4:00pm, or by appointment, Packard Hall: Rm 307

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This political science course covers a broad range of social and cultural factors, which can affect environmental sustainability around the world. The political ecology of many different societies will be explored and an in-depth exploration of indigenous populations will be conducted. Student will learn about Conservation Ethics and traditional ecological knowledge. The politics and policy that have emerged from these challenges will be reviewed within the context of indigenous rights, economic development, and social values.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic Integrity must be maintained at all time. Cheating, Plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration and knowingly facilitating another's dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are suspected of academic dishonesty you will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs in accordance with Tufts University's Code of Conduct. For further information please see the Student Handbook section: Code of Conduct

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

The first 15 minutes of each class will involve students reporting on relevant news they have seen since the previous class. Possible sources:

[www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com) Science/Environnement Section

<http://www.grist.org/> Environmental news & Blog

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/> Nat Geographic

<http://www.worldwatch.org/> WorldWatch Institute

### **REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Class Participation: 10%

Terms and Reading Quiz: 20%

Mid-Term Presentation: 20%

Presentation Feedback Reports: 10%

Final Paper on Case Study Analysis: 40% **Due April 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

1. Vijayendra Rao and Michael Walton (Eds), Culture and Public Action, Stanford University Press (2004)
2. Fikret Berkes, *Sacred Ecology* Second Edition, (2008)



*Sustainable mountain development involves satisfying the current needs of mountain regions and populations living downstream, while seeking to ensure the availability of natural resources into the long-term future - here, a Nepalese woman plants seedlings for fodder, fuelwood and erosion control in the Himalayan foothills*

Source: FAO/10833/F. BOTTS

[www.fao.org/docrep/004/y3549e/y3549e05.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/004/y3549e/y3549e05.htm)

**READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. **Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012: Introduction to the Course – Political Science and the Environment.** *Thursday, January 19, 2012 From Durban to Rio+20: Sustainable Development at the World Bank Rachel Kyte, Vice President of Sustainable Development, World Bank 3:50-5:20, Mugar 200, The Fletcher School - Hosted by CIERP*
2. **Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Defining our terms – Culture, Political Ecology and Environmental Degradation.**
  - a. Rao and Walton, Chapter 1 “Culture and Public Action: Relationality, Equality and Agency, and Development.” P.3-18 (**Text**) Note – SKIM
  - b. World Commission on Environment and Development. *Our Common Future.* (Brundtland Commission Report.) New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 400. 1987 – Chapters 1 and 2 <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>
  - c. Fikret Berkes, *Sacred Ecology* Chapter 1 “Context of Traditional Ecological Knowledge” pp.1-20 (**Text** - Read for key definitions only)
3. **Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012. What is Environmental Sustainability? “Sustainable Futures” Movie in class.**
  - a. Gretchen Daily, Partha Dasgupta, Bert Bolin, et al, “Food Production, Population Growth, and the Environment” 1998 (**TRUNK**)
  - b. Agenda 21 Executive Summary, Preamble, Chapter 2, 3, 4 <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/>
  - c. The 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment & Development <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/>
4. **Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. How Does Culture Matter to the Environment? The case of Haiti and the Dominican Republic**
  - a. A. Sen, “How Does Culture Matter?” Chpt 2 in Rao and Walton (**Text**)
  - b. Lawrence E. Harrison, *The Central Liberal Truth*, Oxford University Press, 2006 (**TRUNK**)
  - c. Fikret Berkes, *Sacred Ecology* Chapter 2: Emergence of the Field, p.20-47. (**Text**)
5. **Thursday February 2, 2012. Culture, the Environment and Economic Development**
  - a. Rao and Walton, Chapter 7 “Cultural Goods are good for more than their economic value.” By Klamer, pp.138-161
  - b. Mark Sagoff “The Allocation and Distribution of Resources” Chapter 3 in *The Economy of the Earth* (2008). (**TRUNK**)
  - c. The Middle East’s Tradition of Environmental Protection <http://www.greenprophet.com/2010/09/hima-environmental-protection/>
6. **Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Guest Lecture: Prof. Miguel E. Basáñez, Director Special Research and Educational Projects, The Fletcher School “Development and Values”**
  - a. Inglehart & Basáñez et al, *Changing Human Beliefs and Values*, 2010, Intro (**TRUNK**)
  - b. Harrison and Huntington. “Introduction” *Culture Matters*, 2000 (**TRUNK**)

7. **Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Precautionary Principle and Environmental Values**
  - a. Romeo F. Quijano, "Elements of the Precautionary Principle," Chapter 2 in Joel A. Tickner (Eds) *Environmental Science and Preventative Public Policy* (2003) **(TRUNK)**
  - b. Kerry Whiteside, Chapter 2 "Debating Precaution" in *Precautionary Politics*, MIT Press (2006) **(TRUNK)**
  - c. The Rio Declaration 1992  
<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163>
  
8. **Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Intergenerational Equity and Environmental Values**
  - a. Edith Brown Weiss, "Our Rights and Obligations to Future Generations" *American Journal of International Law* 1990. **(TRUNK)**
  - b. Page, Talbot. 1997. "On the Problem of Achieving Efficiency and Equity, Intergeneration ally" *Land Economics*. Vol. 73, No. 4, November 1997, pp. 580-596. **(TRUNK)**
  - c. Anthony D'Amato, "Do We Owe a Duty to Future Generations to Preserve the Global Environment?" *The American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 84, No. 1 (Jan., 1990), pp. 190-198 **(TRUNK)**
  
9. **Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Indigenous Populations and the Local Environment**
  - a. Rao and Walton, Chapter 4 - Mary Douglas, "Traditional Culture – Lets Hear No More About It" p.85-109 **(Text)**
  - b. Fikret Berkes, *Sacred Ecology* Chapter 4, "Traditional Knowledge Systems in Practice." Pp.71-96 **(Text)**
  - c. UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>
  
10. **Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Developed Societies and the Local Environment**
  - a. Simonetta Falasca-Zamponi, *Waste and Consumption*. Pages 1-32 **(TRUNK)**
  - b. Peter Ho, "Sprouts of Environmentalism in China?" Pg. 135-154 **(TRUNK)**
  - c. World Cleanup 2012 - <http://www.letsdoitworld.org/worldcleanup2012>
  
- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 – Tufts Follows a Monday Schedule. NO CLASS**  
**Last day for AS&E students (except first-year undergraduates) to DROP courses**
  
11. **Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. How Local Knowledge Develops: PART I.**
  - a. Fikret Berkes, *Sacred Ecology* Chapter 10, "How Local Knowledge Develops" pp.203-224 **(Text)**
  
12. **Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. How Local Knowledge Develops PART II.**
  - a. Fikret Berkes, *Sacred Ecology* Chapter 11, "Challenges to Indigenous Knowledge" pp.225-250 **(Text)**
  - b. People of the Coral Triangle Video: <http://vimeo.com/17419531> (11 minutes)
  
13. **Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Movie: Voices of Chichinautzin (UN University 2007)**