

**Sustainable Development**  
**Graduate Program in International Affairs**  
**Spring semester, 2008**  
**Instructor: Marilyn Power**

**Required Text**

Jonathan M. Harris, *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*, Second edition;

Additional readings will be available on-line and on e-reserve.

**Syllabus**

1. Introduction: Economists on global warming, valuing the present/valuing the future (1 class)  
Nicholas Stern, *Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change*, "Summary of Conclusions" (Google under Stern Review);  
Thomas C. Schelling, "Climate Change: the Uncertainties, the Certainties, and What They Imply About Action," *The Economists' Voice* Vol.4 Issue 3 (July 2007) (Google);  
Joseph E. Stiglitz, "A New Agenda for Global Warming," *The Economists' Voice* Vol. 3 Issue 7, (July 2006);  
Paul Klemperer, "Awkward Questions on Behalf of Our Children," *Financial Times*, May 11, 2007, p.15 (ProQuest).
  
2. Sustainable development: conflicting definitions, conflicting strategies (1 class)  
Harris, ch. 1,2;  
Robert M. Solow, "Sustainability: An economist's perspective" (e-reserve);  
John Bellamy Foster, "Organizing Ecological Revolution", *Monthly Review*, Oct. 2005 (ProQuest);  
Terry L. Anderson and Laura E. Huggins, "Economic growth—the essence of sustainable development", *Reason*, Jan. 2004 (ProQuest);  
Choy Yee Keong, "Sustainable Development—An Institutional Enclave", *Journal of Economic Issues*, Dec. 2005 (ProQuest);
  
3. The heart of the debate: managing the commons (1 class)  
Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons" (available on Google);  
Jules Pretty, "Social Capital and the Collective Management of Resources", *Science*, Dec. 12, 2003;  
Blake D. Ratner and Alberto Revera Gutierrez, "Reasserting Community: The Social Challenge of Wastewater Management in Panajachel, Guatemala", *Human Organization*, Spring 2004;  
John Kurien, "The Blessings of Commons: Small-Scale Fisheries, Community Property Rights, and Coastal Natural Assets." Political Economy Research Institute, 2004 (Google).

**Theoretical Approaches**

4. Environmental Economics (2 classes)

Harris, ch.3-6;  
Ronald Coase, "The Problem of Social Cost" (selected passages) (reader).

5. Ecological Economics (2 classes)

Harris, ch.7-9;  
The Precautionary Principle ([psrast.org/precaut.htm](http://psrast.org/precaut.htm); or Google)  
Frank Ackerman and Kevin Gallagher, "Getting the Prices Wrong: The Limits of Market-based Environmental Policy", Global Development and Environment Institute Working Paper 00-05, Oct. 2000 (Google);  
Stephen Farber et al, "Linking Ecology and Economics for Ecosystem Management," *BioScience*, Feb. 2006 (use PDF).

6. Political Economics of the Environment (2 classes)

Karl Marx, *Capital*, Vol. 1, ch.7 section 1; ch.15, section 10 (e-reserve);  
Dennis Soron, "Ecology, Capitalism, and the Socialization of Nature", *Monthly Review*, Nov. 2004;  
Bina Agarwal, "The Gender and Environment Debate: Lessons from India", *Feminist Studies*, 1992, pp.119-158;  
Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, ch.4,7 (e-reserve).

**Topics in Sustainable Development**

7. Population (1 class)

Harris, ch. 10;  
Sen, ch. 9 (e-reserve);  
James Oldham, "Rethinking the Links: A Critical Review of Population-Environment Programs", Political Economy Research Institute working paper, Feb. 2006 ([umass.edu/peri/popenvt.htm](http://umass.edu/peri/popenvt.htm)).

8. Global warming: mitigation, adaptation, and alternative fuels

Marilyn Power, "The Economics of CO2 Mitigation: the Stern Review and Its Critics," working paper, summer 2007;  
National Geographic, "Biofuels";  
Other readings TBA in this very current debate.

9. Mining: the case of gold

McNeill, ch.2;  
New York Times series on THE COST OF GOLD:  
Jane Perlez and Kirk Johnson, "Behind Gold's Glitter", Oct. 24, 2005;  
Jane Perlez and Lowell Bergman, "Tangled Strands in Fight Over Peru Gold Mine", Oct. 25, 2005;  
Jane Perlez and Raymond Bonner, "Below a Mountain of Wealth, a River of Waste", Dec. 27, 2005;  
Kirk Johnson, "A Drier and Tainted Nevada May Be Legacy of a Gold Rush", Dec. 30,

2005.

See also Web site: No Dirty Gold Campaign.

Jeremy Richards, "Rosia Montana: a case study in sensitive mining development in Romania", *Mining Environmental Management*, Jan. 2005 (Google);

Mark Lange, "How one mine could save a Romanian town," *Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 6, 2006 (ProQuest);

Canadian Business Association in Romania Press Releases (reader);

"Update from Alburnus Maior", *MiningWatch*, Jan. 27, 2006 (Google).

10. International agencies and sustainable development: greening the World Bank?

Harris, ch. 19,20;

Anonymous, "The Global Challenge: Strategies for the World Bank Group", *Harvard International Review*, Fall 2005;

Michael Goldman, "Imperial Science, Imperial Nature: Environmental Knowledge for the World (Bank)" in Sheila Jasanoff and Marybeth Long Martello, ed., *Earthly Politics*, pp.55-80 (reader);

Peter Luetchford, "Brokering Fair Trade: Relations between Coffee Cooperatives and Alternative Trade Organizations—A View from Costa Rica" in David Lewis and David Mosse, ed., *Development Brokers and Translators*, pp.127-148 (reader).

11. Alternatives: the natural assets approach

Krista Harper and S. Ravi Rajan, "International Environmental Justice: Building the Natural Assets of the World's Poor" Political Economy Research Institute, U. of Massachusetts, Amherst, working paper #87, 2004.