

**Associated Colleges of the South Environmental Initiative
Curriculum Development Grant Proposal**

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Introduction

Goals. I intend to develop and teach a new course, *Comparative Environmental Governance*, as part of the International Studies program at Centre College. The course will be offered for the first time in spring 2007, and in addition to International Studies, it will satisfy requirements in Government, Environmental Studies, and Political Economy. I am requesting support for field research and summer work needed to complete the syllabus and develop necessary course materials.

Justification. Presently, there are no special courses in environmental policy and governance offered by any of the abovementioned programs at Centre College, so there is a clear need for creating one. Comparative Environmental Governance will contribute an important international and comparative environmental policy dimension to all four programs. The course will provide a unique focus, emphasizing interactions between public and private actors, which are now becoming widely recognized as central to effective governance not only in environmental, but also in many other policy spheres. Additionally, I hope that my work on this course will provide new collaborative and internship opportunities to Centre College faculty and students.

Match with listed priorities. This is a course in social sciences focusing on environmental policy and practice from both international and comparative perspectives. While initially taught on campus, it naturally lends itself to possible location abroad, such as in Europe, Russia, or other country/region included in comparative analysis. The course is interdisciplinary in that it bridges perspectives from international studies, political science, political economy, and environmental studies. The Environmental Studies minor at Centre has a general provision for a policy course, but, as mentioned before, no such course is currently offered. My course will fill that need. Finally, this is a new course that has not previously received funding, and as a professor, I have not been a recipient of CFD alliance grants in the past.

Project Description

Background. Developing and sustaining environmentally sound policies, domestic or international, is no easy matter, especially since environmental dangers are the cumulative effects of various factors and practices taking place in diverse settings. Moreover, the goal of environmental protection must be balanced with other social goals, such as economic well-being, which, depending upon how one thinks about it, can conflict with environmentally sound measures. Over the past few decades, national governments, public and private research institutions, and corporations have become increasingly involved in environmental governance. At the same time, a host of citizen-organized activist groups have arisen – or greatly expanded their size – with the aim of protecting the earth. It is estimated that presently there are over 100,000 NGOs working, in some capacity, for environmental causes. Perhaps more impressive than numbers, the scope and power of environmental organizations have dramatically increased, as in recent years a number of local and national groups have become transnational.

Environmental governance involves the establishment and operation of specific social institutions – or sets of rules, decision-making procedures, and programmatic activities that serve to define social practices and guide interactions of those participating in these practices. My course provides an overview of international, national, and local institutions of environmental governance. It examines the evolution of environmental legislation at the national and international levels, and offers a comparative analysis of the relationship between political, economic, social, and cultural factors on the one hand, and environmental policy on the other. It also highlights the role of public and private actors and their interactions, both within the national and transnational contexts. Course organization will ultimately reflect three cross-cutting dimensions: level of analysis (global, national), type of actors (governmental, business, private noncommercial), and environmental issue area (air and water pollution and soil degradation, global warming, protection of species, etc.). At the global level, significance of such documents as the International Conventions on Biodiversity and Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, and others will be discussed; role of key international agencies (United Nations Environmental Programme, Global Environmental Facility, World Bank, etc.), nongovernmental organizations (Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund, Friends of the Earth, etc.), and multinational corporations will be addressed. At the national level, the course will compare key environmental policies of industrialized and developing countries. It will further look at the role of principal regulatory agencies of the United States (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), European Union (European Commission and national agencies), Canada (Environment Canada), and Russia (State Committee on Environmental Protection); also, activities of major environmental groups in these countries will be discussed.

This will be a regular three-credit course, and it has already been added to the tentative class schedule for Spring 2007. Reading assignments will be based on the following texts:

Clapp, J., and P. Dauvergne, Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment, 2005.

Desai, U., ed., Environmental Politics and Policy in Industrialized Countries, 2002.

Desai, U., ed., Ecological Policy and Politics in Developing Countries: Economic Growth, Democracy, and Environment, 1998.

Harrington, W., Morgenster, R., and T. Sterner, eds., Choosing Environmental Policy: Comparing Instruments and Outcomes in the United States and Europe, 2004.

Porter, G., and J. Brown, Global Environmental Politics, 3rd ed., 2000.

Rosenbaum, W., Environmental Politics and Policy, 6th ed., 2005.

Wapner, P., Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics, 1998.

Young, O., ed., Global Governance: Drawing Insights from the Environmental Experience, 1997.

Activities. The difficulty of creating a broad-themed course like this lies in the significant amount of work required to select and integrate the most relevant and appropriate sources: environmental policy literature is a vast and rapidly growing field. At the same time, developments in environmental governance continue to outpace research, and most interesting information is often found on the Internet. Environmental agencies, policy analysis and advocacy organizations, and many environmental groups of

different types and sizes, constantly disseminate information on-line. Reviewing and sorting this information will be my first task.

In addition to researching readily available sources, I intend to interact with several international and national agencies mentioned above, as well as major national and transnational environmental groups. Relationships between public and private actors are at the heart of the process of environmental governance, and I hope to make my focus on these relationships the central feature of the entire course. Interactions between government agencies and NGOs can take different forms, from lobbying to expert advice, to subcontracting services. Some of them are highly formalized (such as regular advisory committee meetings, etc.), but many are quite informal, yet no less important (for instance, direct or indirect lobbying). Field research will allow me access to internal communications of these agencies and groups – organizational directives, memoranda, meeting notes, etc. – that are not usually available to the general public, or accessible on-line. I plan to visit several international and national agencies, such as Global Environmental Facility, World Bank, U.S. Environmental Agency (Washington), European Commission, Environment Council (Brussels), Environment Canada (Ottawa), Russian State Committee on the Protection of the Environment (Moscow), as well as 3-4 major environmental organizations in each, the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Russia.

Timetable. Between June 10 and 30, 2006, I plan to complete preliminary work on the syllabus, identify and contact appropriate agencies and organizations, and arrange my field visits. Depending on ticket pricing and availability, trips to Washington, Ottawa, Moscow, and Brussels will take place sometime between July 1 and August 15, 2006. The rest of the fall will be devoted to preparing class materials (final syllabus, lecture notes, PowerPoint presentations, etc.)

Budget. I am requesting \$3000 to help cover, in part, the following:

1. Airfare (roundtrip Lexington, KY – Brussels, Belgium) – \$900, hotel (Brussels, 4 nights at \$120/night) – \$480, food (Brussels, 4 days at \$40/day) – \$160;
2. Airfare (roundtrip Lexington, KY – Ottawa, Canada) – \$450, hotel (Ottawa/Toronto, 4 nights at \$100/night) – \$400, food (Ottawa/Toronto, 4 days at \$30/day) – \$120;
3. Airfare (roundtrip Lexington, KY – Washington, D.C.) – \$350, hotel (Washington, 4 nights at \$100/night) – \$400, food (Washington, 4 days at \$30/day) – \$120;

Local transportation in Brussels, Ottawa/Toronto, Washington (bus, metro) – \$80;
Digital voice recorder – \$100; photocopying, fax – \$50.

Total: \$3610

Disclosure statement. My trip to Moscow will be covered by funds from a pending Centre College Faculty Development grant. This funding is intended to support a separate two-week field trip for research on Russian environmental NGOs, which will also allow me to accomplish my project objectives.

Evaluation and Dissemination

Success of the project will be determined by the extent to which results of my summer and field activities are incorporated in the final syllabus. These results, including materials and resources (narrative, documents, interview summaries, PowerPoint slides), will be posted on a specially developed website hosted at Centre College. In addition, the final report and the syllabus for the Comparative Environmental Governance course will be made available for posting on CFD website.

