

Global Commons: Moving Past Conflict and Toward Creativity in Using Resources (DWA 295) – Spring 2012

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Class Time: T-Th, 5:00-6:25
Class Location: Johnson 201
Office hours: Tues 3:15-4:15 and by appt

OVERVIEW

Regulating the use of shared, depletable resources—or common pool resources—is a challenge in politics at all scales, from international to local. The resources concerned range from the global climate to rural irrigation systems, forests to apartment complexes, fisheries to the Internet. People of all nationalities, wealth levels, and occupations negotiate with their neighbors about how to use local common pool resources even as their governments engage each other over the same questions at a larger scale. This course provides students with an introduction to various approaches scholars and communities (loosely defined) have taken to understanding common pool resources and to proposing and creating sustainable management plans for them. Over the course of the semester, students will acquire a more nuanced and complete understanding of the challenges associated with regulating common resources and an awareness of the multiplicity of ways in which regulation has been accomplished peacefully and sustainably.

A first section of the course introduces concepts of private and common property and previews challenges associated with regulating use of the latter. In a second section, the course reviews theories about how successful, resource-sustaining management practices are devised. These include explanations related to bargaining and economic analyses, law, institutional design, and informal norms. Equipped with these analytic tools, we will proceed to examine challenges and successes associated with the regulation of various types of common resources.

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom conduct: I expect you to attend class regularly, to complete the assigned readings on time, and to participate in class discussion. Participation is highly prized (see how grades will be calculated below). You should plan to participate in discussion every week, whether by asking questions or offering your thoughts and analysis. Please arrive in class on time and turn off your cell phone. Computers and other electronic devices should be used only for class-relevant purposes. Please do not make audio or video recordings of class sessions.

Academic integrity: All work that you present orally or submit in writing for this class must be your own, or that of your group in case of a group assignment.

Students with disabilities: Accommodations: Students with documented disabilities who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Students who experience significant physical or mental impairments can contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Thoughts on how to read: You should come to class with a sense of the strengths and weaknesses of each reading on its own terms, and in relation to the other readings for the week. Some questions to consider in each reading are: What is the paper's main claim or argument? Is it convincing? What are the strengths and limitations of the evidence offered? Is there additional evidence that would be helpful in deciding whether to accept the paper's claims?

These books are available for purchase in Bookstore:

1. Ellickson, Robert C. 1991. *Order without Law: How Neighbors Settle Disputes*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
2. Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

And this book is available as a PDF for free download at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10287.html>

3. National Research Council. 2002. *The Drama of the Commons*. Edited by Elinor Ostrom, Thomas Dietz, Nives Dolsak, Paul C. Stern, Susan Stonich and Elke U. Weber. Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

Grading break-down

Attendance & participation	25%
In-class presentation	30%
Term Paper	45%

Definition of grades

A: Work of excellent quality	(A: 94% and up;	A-: 90% and up)	
B: Work of good quality	(B+: 87% and up;	B: 84% and up;	B-: 80% and up)
C: Work of fair quality	(C+: 77% and up;	C: 74% and up;	C-: 70% and up)
D: Work of minimum passing quality (above 64%)			
F: Failure to meet minimum standards (64% and below)			

Group presentation: Students will form groups to guide one session of class starting in the 10th week of the semester. Groups will select two or more additional readings for the class, make a 15-25 minute presentation to launch the class session, and then help guide the class discussion.

Term paper: Students will write a 12- to 15-page research paper on a topic of their own choosing that incorporates an analysis of a particular resource management scheme. Students must discuss their topic with the Instructor by **March 22**. **Final papers are due in class on May 1**.

Additional term paper details:

- The paper should be neat, free of spelling and grammatical errors, double-spaced, in a standard font and font size, page numbered, with 1-inch margins, and should use appropriate citation practices. You may use any recognized citation standard (e.g. MLA, APA, etc.).
- Late papers will not be accepted except by *prior* arrangement for unusual circumstances.

Course schedule & Reading assignments

<u>Part 1: Concepts and history</u>		(Weeks 1-3)
Jan 24, 26	Introduction	
Jan 31, Feb 2	Intro continued	
Feb 7, 9	Historical examples of commons	
<u>Part 2: Tools and concepts for solving collective action problems</u>		(Weeks 4-8)
Feb 14, 16	Basics of cooperation	
Feb 21, 23	Norms as institutions, institutions as institutions	
Feb 28, Mar 1	The complicated relationship between norms and law	
Mar 6, 8	Institutional “design principles”, linked social-ecological systems	
Mar 20, 22	Where do norms and cooperative behavior come from?	*Paper topic*
<u>Part 3: Challenges, opportunities, specific resources, new commons</u>		(Weeks 9-14)
Mar 27, 29	Institutional change and failure, cultural challenges	
Apr 3, 5	Does degradation lead to violence?	
Apr 10, 12	Land-based resources	
Apr 17, 19	Big, “formal” institutions	
Apr 24, 26	Climate change	
May 1, 3	New commons	*Paper due*

Part 1: Concepts and History

Wk 1	Jan 24, 26	Introduction
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. <i>Science</i> 162 (3850): 1243-1248. • ———. 1998. Extensions of "The Tragedy of the Commons". <i>Science, New Series</i> 280 (5364): 682-683. • Berkes, F., D. Feeny, B.J. McCay, and J.M. Acheson. 1989. The Benefits of the Commons. <i>Nature</i> 340: 91-93. • The Digital Library of the Commons’s webpage “Research on the Commons, Common-Pool Resources, and Common Property” at http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/contentguidelines. 		
Wk2	Jan 31, Feb 2	Introduction continued (concepts, new commons)
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage – Public v. Private goods • Webpage – 4 types of goods (Public, Private, Toll, Common pool) • Ellickson, Robert C. 1993. Property in Land. <i>The Yale Law Journal</i> 102 (6): 1315-1400. Excerpts. • Bollier, David and Jonathan Rowe. 2006. <i>The Commons Rising: A Report to Owners from the Tomales Bay Institute</i>. Minneapolis, MN: Tomales Bay Institute. • Hess, Charlotte. 2008. "Mapping the New Commons." Presented at the 12th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, England. Read pp. 1-13. 		

Wk 3 Feb 7, 9 Historical examples of commons

- Netting, Robert McC. 1972. Of Men and Meadows: Strategies of Alpine Land Use. *Anthropological Quarterly* 45 (3): 132-144. **(13)**
- Norberg, Kathryn. 1988. Dividing Up the Commons: Institutional Change in Rural France, 1789-1799. *Politics and Society* 16: 265-286. **(22)**
- North, Douglass C. and Robert Paul Thomas. 1971. The Rise and Fall of the Manorial System: A Theoretical Model. *The Journal of Economic History* 31 (4): 777-803. **(27)**

Part 2: Tools & concepts for solving collective action problems

Wk4 Feb. 14, 16 Basics of cooperation

- Kollock, Peter. 1998. Social Dilemmas: The Anatomy of Cooperation. *Annual Review of Sociology* 24: 183-214. **(29)**
- Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, Chapters 1 and 2 – “Reflections on the Commons” and “An Institutional Approach to CPR Self-governance” (pp. 1-57). **(57)**

Wk 5 Feb. 21, 23 Norms as institutions, Institutions as institutions

- Ellickson, *Order without Law*, Introduction, Ch1, Ch2 (pp. 1-39) **(40)**
- Isaac, Jeffrey C. et al. 2010. "Beyond the Tragedy of the Commons: A Discussion of *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*." *Perspectives on Politics* 8 (2):569-93. **Read excerpts.**

Wk6 Feb 28, Mar 1 The complicated relationship between norms and law

- Ellickson, *Order without Law*, Ch3-Ch6 (pp. 40-120). **(81)**

Wk7 Mar 6, 8 Institutional “design principles”, Linked social-ecological systems

- Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, “Ch 3 – Analyzing Long-Enduring CPRs” (pp. 58-102). **(45)**
- Walker, Brian, and David Salt. 2006. *Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World*. Washington, DC: Island Press. **Read Ch2 and Case 2**, pp.28-52. **(25)**

Wk8 Mar 20, 22 Where do norms and cooperative behavior come from?

- Ellickson, *Order without Law*, Ch7-Ch9 (pp. 123-166). **(44)**
- Richerson, Peter J., Robert Boyd, and Brian Paciotti. 2002. "Ch 12 – An Evolutionary Theory of Commons Management." In *The Drama of the Commons*, eds. Elinor Ostrom et al. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.
- Fehr, Ernst and Herbert Gintis. 2007. Human Motivation and Social Cooperation: Experimental and Analytical Foundations. *Annual Review of Sociology* 33: 43-64. **(22)**

Part 3: Challenges, Opportunities, Specific Resources

Wk 9 Mar 27, 29 Institutional Change & Failure, Cultural challenges

- Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, “Ch 4: Analyzing Institutional Change” (pp. 103-142).
- - - - - , “Ch 5: Analyzing Institutional Failures and Fragilities” (pp. 143-181). **(79)**
- Berry, Sara. 1989. "Social Institutions and Access to Resources." *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 59 (1):41-55. **(15)**

- Cleaver, Frances. 1998. "Incentives and Informal Institutions: Gender and the Management of Water." *Agriculture and Human Values* (15):347-260. **(14)**
- Meinzen-Dick, Ruth and Leticia Nkonya. 2005. Understanding Legal Pluralism in Water Rights: Lessons from Africa and Asia. Paper read at International workshop on African Water Laws: Plural Legislative Frameworks for Rural Water Management in Africa, at Johannesburg, South Africa (26-28 June). **(12)**

Wk 10 Apr 3, 5 Does degradation lead to violence?

- Gleditsch, Nils Petter, and Henrik Urdal. 2002. Ecoviolence? Links between Population Growth, Environmental Scarcity, and Violence. *Journal of International Affairs* 56 (1): 283-302. **(20)**
- Homer-Dixon, Thomas F. 1994. Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict. *International Security* 19 (1): 5-40. **(35)**
- **[Optional]** Homer-Dixon, Thomas F., and Marc A. Levy. 1995. Correspondence: Environment and Security. *International Security* 20 (3): 189-198. **(10)**
- United Nations Environment Programme. 1998. Vital Water Graphics: An Overview of the State of the World's Fresh and Marine Waters, 2nd ed. Nairobi: UNEP. **Read Ch.4, "Water & Political Conflicts"**, comprised of 6 graphics + text. <http://www.unep.org/dewa/vitalwater/rubrique31.html>
- **Student-selected readings**

Wk 11 Apr 10, 12 Land-based resources

- Acheson. 2000. "Clearcutting Maine: Implications for the Theory of Common Property Resources." *Human Ecology* 28 (2):145-69. **(25)**
- Berge, Erling, and Amy R. Poteete. 2002. "Managing Wilderness Resources: Forest, Shrubland, and Grassland." In *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems*. Oxford, UK: UNESCO - EOLSS Publishers. **(26)**
- Livingstone, Ian. 1986. "The Common Property Problem and Pastoralist Economic Behaviour." *The Journal of Development Studies* 23 (1):5-19. **(15)**

Wk 12 Apr 17, 19 Big, "formal" institutions

- Buchanan, Allen, and Robert O. Keohane. 2006. "The Legitimacy of Global Governance Institutions." *Ethics and International Affairs* 20 (4):405-37. **(33)**
- Oran R. Young. 2002. "Chapter 8 – Institutional Interplay: The Environmental Consequences of Cross-Scale Interactions." In *The Drama of the Commons*, eds. Ostrom et al. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.
- **Student-selected readings**

Wk 13 Apr 24, 26 Climate Change

- Keohane, Robert O., and David G. Victor. 2011. "The Regime Complex for Climate Change." *Perspectives on Politics* 9 (1):7-23. **(17)**
- **Student-selected readings**

Wk 14 May 1,3 New Commons

- Hess, Charlotte, and Elinor Ostrom. 2005. "Introduction: An Overview of the Knowledge Commons." In *Understanding Knowledge as a Commons: From Theory to Practice*, eds. C. Hess and E. Ostrom. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 3-26. **(24)**
- **Student-selected readings**