

ENVS 42: Course Syllabus

Professor Webster

Course Goals

This course is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of environmental policy and politics in Africa, with particular focus on the Namibian context. We will study three main types of issues: Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mining, and Water and Climate Change. However, students may also choose to do independent research on wildlife management and policy given that they will get sufficient background information on this topic in ENVS 40. Each module of this course is designed to provide a quick overview of the biophysical attribute of the topic covered, then delve into current management practices and then finally tackle some of the complex political aspects of governance more broadly. Colonialism and economic development are a constant background for these issue-specific lessons.

Note that while our goals will stay the same, the schedule may be subject to change depending on the availability of speakers and other activities.

Course Plan

Each main type of issue will be covered in a module of approximately 1 week, though we will spend longer on Fisheries & Aquaculture and less time on Water & Climate because the latter is discussed throughout the program. There are a few activities for this course that will occur early in the program, when we are in Johannesburg and Windhoek, but otherwise we will stay in Swakopmund, on the Namibian coast, taking day trips to nearby towns such as Walvis Bay, Hentiesbait, and Spitzkop/Arandis.

Plan to be at least as busy with scheduled activities as you would be taking a regular 3 course load on campus. A “typical” day will include a 1-2 hr lecture/tour (from local experts/stakeholders) in the morning and another in the afternoon. Depending on the amenities at the location we are visiting, we will either give you a long lunch (2-3) hrs to explore, shop, do errands, etc., or a short lunch so that we can get back to our home base by 3-4pm. There are only a few planned activities in the evenings. About 1/3 of the days will be “full” of activities, where you can expect to be out and about for the entire day, sometimes including dinner. Schedule details can be found in the next section.

We will keep you busy but you will also have a good amount of unscheduled time. You can and should use some of this time to have fun and explore on your own but be sure to leave yourself a good chunk in which to review the prep materials the day before each activity and to expand on what you’ve learned with your own research. We should have internet access and access to Dartmouth’s library resources while in Swakop. We did not schedule activities on days when major assignments are due (research and writing days),

but it will be best if you plan ahead, take good notes especially on topics that you may research for projects, and go beyond the assigned readings to learn about these topics independently.

Our main focus is on the management of natural resources and related political economic conditions. This means that we will be learning about some highly sensitive issues. As you interact with others—whether in structured or unstructured time—be considerate and respectful but also remain mindful that the people you are talking to may feel much more passionately about these topics than you do. These feelings may not always be evident, so go slowly and try to listen much more than you speak. We are NOT authorized to undertake any research with human subjects, so while you are welcome to engage in private conversations and cite information provided by speakers in your essays, this should not be construed or represented as “research”.

Pre-Course Media

Required

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_storyLinks to an external site.

List of Optional Resources (updated periodically)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hh_bf_I7gCIAbF8i5wdlj9vPIOK9rEZn_pcwXS-tYQ4/edit?usp=sharingLinks to an external site.

E-mail the prof to suggest additions to this list. Include info on how to find the resource and how it relates to program material.

Expectations

Readings/Media/Activity Prep (20 pts)

We've tried to maximize active learning in this course, but traditional readings and other media are still an important source of context, methods, and other relevant information. You are expected to read/watch/listen to all assigned materials in a timely manner and to be prepared to discuss these materials as we engage in field trips or other activities. The schedule is very full, so plan ahead to make sure you can get everything done.

Everyone is expected to be fully present and respectful in all organized activities. To facilitate active participation, for each activity day, everyone must post one original, substantive, and interesting question that is 1) based on the day's assigned preparatory readings/media and 2) related to one of the planned activities for that day. These questions will be reviewed by the prof and the prep leader for the day. Everyone gets 3 freebies on questions, or 3 days when you do not have to post (but you still have to review the prep material). When taking a freebie day, just put “freebie” into the text entry on Canvas. Questions will be graded pass/fail; most questions will pass but any

that are already answered in the prep materials or have been covered in prior parts of the course will not pass.

Note that with three freebies, the activity prep questions only add up to 15 points, so that last 5 points are awarded for participation in the course as a whole.

AC/SC Essays (2x, 15 pts = 30 pts total)

For the first two modules of the course, you will need to use the AC/SC framework described in the Webster (2015) reading to explain the current state of a subset topic that you select. For your Fisheries and Aquaculture Essay, you could select one of the fisheries or cultured species that we studied, including by-catch species. You may also choose a charismatic marine species that is not harvested in fisheries but be aware that this may require more independent research (that said, this would be a good choice for anyone who wants to work on wildlife management for their final project). For your Mining & Energy Essay, you can write about one of the minerals that we covered or about artisanal mining for gemstones generally or about a type of renewable energy being produced in Namibia. For both essays, first develop a topic-specific version of Figure 1.10, then write up a more detailed description (1000 words max). You do not need to go all the way back into history but may need to consider the recent past to capture some of the action cycle dynamics. You may draw heavily on what we've learned through course activities but should plan to do some additional research on-line. All sources must be cited, including anything covered by speakers or learned from stakeholders, UNAM students, etc., so plan to take decent notes. You can also review the requirements for citing personal communications here: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

Debate Prep/Performance (20 pts total)

Early in the course we will meet with students from the UNAM Sam Njoma campus to decide on a set of debate rules and questions. Debate topics will be drawn from our course material but should specifically focus on their intersection with climate change. Dartmouth students will work in groups with at least one UNAM student (this may be subject to change). Toward the end of the course we will return to UNAM to hold the debate. Before the debate itself, each group of Dartmouth students should research and write up their arguments on their selected topic, paying attention to factual evidence, the political perspectives of their audience, and the persuasiveness of their rhetoric (15 pts). On the day of the debate, the Dartmouth students will have time to amend their plans in consultation with the UNAM students before we hold the debate itself (5 pts).

Management Treadmill Paper (30 points total)

Select one of the issues you've learned about on the FSP so far and document its full management treadmill using Webster's AC/SC Framework. Topics could include management of fisheries, seals or some other marine species, governance of mining (though not uranium, since this is covered in your Webster (in prep) reading), water conservation, or climate change mitigation measures. You may also choose to write about wildlife management and conservation, which you learned about in Dr. Bolger's class, if you are willing to do the extra work to learn the necessary fundamentals. To keep things fair, all students must select a topic that is different from the issue they wrote about in their AC/SC essay. Rules for sources and citations are the same as for all other written components of the course. For large topics, students may form groups in consultation with Dr. Webster. 3,000 words maximum per student, not including references. Figures and other illustrations are encouraged.

Communication, etc.

For information on Accessibility, Title IX, Learning Support, Health Services, etc., please see the Guarini Handbook (<http://www.dartgo.org/ocphandbook>[Links to an external site.](#)), website (<https://guarini.dartmouth.edu/preparing-go/while-away>), and other materials provided by the institute. Since we will be abroad and undertaking a concentrated learning experience, it is even more important to maintain open communication with your professor and TAs to ensure that we can proactively prevent problems that might affect your learning experience.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Sep 13, 2023	Assignment Cullinan Mine	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 15, 2023	Assignment Windhoek Activities	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 1, 2023	Assignment Brandberg Mountain Mining	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 4, 2023	Assignment Fisheries Day 1 + Rhinos	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 5, 2023	Assignment Fisheries Day 2	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 6, 2023	Assignment Fisheries Day 3	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sat Oct 7, 2023	Assignment Fisheries Day 4	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 8, 2023	Assignment Fisheries Day 5	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 9, 2023	Assignment Fisheries Day 6	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 10, 2023	Assignment Aquaculture	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 12, 2023	Assignment Mining 1	due by 11:59pm
Sat Oct 14, 2023	Assignment AC/SC Fisheries & Aquaculture Essay	due by 11:59am
Sun Oct 15, 2023	Assignment Water 1 (+ Gemstone Mining)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 16, 2023	Assignment Energy (+ Mining)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 17, 2023	Assignment Mining 2	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 18, 2023	Assignment Water 2	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 19, 2023	Assignment AC/SC Mining & Energy Essay	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Water 3	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 20, 2023	Assignment UNAM Debate Prep --Phosphate Mining	due by 12:59pm
	Assignment UNAM Debate Prep--Seals	due by 12:59pm
	Assignment Climate Change	due by 11:59pm
Sat Oct 21, 2023	Assignment Debate	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Participation	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Oct 23, 2023	Assignment Management Treadmill Paper	due by 9:59pm