

Politics of the Ocean

MAF 312

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45am

Bliss Hall 211

Spring 2018

Professor Elizabeth Mendenhall
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Coastal Institute 215
Office hours: Thursdays 1-3pm (or by appointment)

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the basic features of international and national ocean governance, with a focus on contemporary issues and challenges. Course content is divided into three main sections: an overview of the treaties and laws that guide ocean governance, a survey of major contemporary ocean problems, and a focused look at how climate change affects the politics of the ocean.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the basic features of the ocean governance regime
- Articulate the multiple and competing values and interests at play in ocean governance
- Understand the nature and durability of ocean governance challenges
- Explain how climate change exacerbates and adds to ocean governance challenges

Required Texts and Materials

It should be possible for students to obtain all assigned readings without needing to purchase any materials. Assigned readings will be available through the library reserve system, and/or via PDF posted on Sakai. Students are expected to bring a copy of the text on the days assigned.

Grading and Assignments:

Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm	25%
Final exam	25%
Memos on climate change	5% each (total of 3)
Research paper	15%

Grading scale		
A	=	93-100
A-	=	90-92
B+	=	87-89
B	=	83-86
B-	=	80-82
C+	=	77-79
C	=	73-76
C-	=	70-72
D+	=	67-69
D	=	60-66
F	=	below 60

Prepared Participation

The readings in this course offer a rich variety of source material and perspectives, including academic publications from the natural and social sciences, and popular media. Dealing with this diversity of material is challenging, but rewarding. Class discussion will help us do the work of processing the readings, by: drawing out the basic facts, identifying dominant and recurring ideas, naming vested interests and describing their influence, hypothesizing about problems and solutions, etc. **A prepared and engaged student will take notes during lectures, and have annotated readings to reference during class discussion.**

Quizzes

There will be 10 quizzes throughout the semester; 5 will be map quizzes of key locations, 5 will be key terms in oceanography and ocean governance. The format will vary, and include filling out maps, matching, and short answers. The topics of quizzes will be given to students in advance.

Midterm and Final

The midterm and final exams will follow the same format. One week before the test, the instructor will provide a study guide with 10 essay questions. The test will consist of 5 of those questions, and students will have to answer 3.

Climate change memos

Students will write three short (1-2 page) memos on how climate change affects the ocean. One memo each for sea level rise, ocean acidification, and ocean warming. Memos should reference course readings (4/17, 4/19) + two extra readings for each topic (at least one academic source). Each memo should cover the impacts of the particular aspect of climate change on (a) the ocean, (b) human activities in the ocean, and (c) international law of the ocean. **Due on Friday 4/20 by 5pm.**

Research Paper

This paper will define and describe a particular problem in ocean governance, and then propose and evaluate a potential solution to that problem. This paper is open topic, but students are expected to meet with the instructor to discuss paper topics, approaches, and sources. Papers should be 5-8 pages (double space, 12 pt. font), and include sufficient scholarly citations. The research paper should show evidence of research capabilities and use of available literature and documentation, should be well written, and should indicate a considerable degree of thought by the student. **Rough draft due 4/5 at 9:30am, final draft due 5/1 by 5pm.**

Course Policies

Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact me as early in the semester as possible so that we may arrange reasonable accommodations. As part of this process, please be in touch with Disability Services for Students Office at 302 Memorial Union, Phone 401-874-2098.

All submitted work must be your own. If you consult other sources (class readings, articles or books from the library, articles available through internet databases, or websites) these **MUST** be properly documented, or you will be charged with plagiarism and will receive an F for the paper. In some cases, this may result in a failure of the course as well. In addition, the charge of academic dishonesty will go on your record in the Office of Student Life. If you have any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, visit the following websites: the URI Student Handbook, and Sections 8.27.10 – 8.27.21 of the University Manual (web.uri.edu/manual/). Any good writer's handbook as well as reputable online resources will offer help on matters of plagiarism and instruct you on how to acknowledge source material. If you need more help understanding when to cite something or how to indicate your references, **PLEASE ASK**.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class. Occasionally, students may miss class activities due to illness, severe weather, or sanctioned University events. It is the policy of the University of Rhode Island to accord students, on an individual basis, the opportunity to observe their traditional religious holidays. Students must inform the instructor of expected excused absences in order to discuss options for missed classes or examinations. See Sections 8.51.11 – 8.51.14 of the University Manual for policy regarding make-up of missed class or examinations.

Classroom conduct

Students are expected to treat faculty and fellow classmates with dignity and respect. Students are responsible for being familiar with and adhering to the published “Student Code of Conduct” which can be accessed in the University Student Handbook. If you must come in late, please do not disrupt the class.

Academic Support Services

This is a challenging course. Success requires that you keep pace with the work, understand course concepts, and study effectively. The Academic Enhancement Center helps URI students succeed through three services: Academic Coaching, Tutoring, and The Writing Center. To learn more about any of these services, please visit web.uri.edu/aec or call 401-874-2367 to speak with reception staff.

The Writing Center is for “all writers, all disciplines, at all levels, and all stages of writing.” If possible, call ahead for an appointment (401-874-2367). Drop-in tutorials are often available. You may make repeat appointments, requesting the same tutor each time if you wish. See their Web Page: web.uri.edu/aec/writing/ for tips on how to make the best of your Writing Center visit.

Quiz #1

Locate

Øresund
Adriatic Sea
North Sea
Black Sea
Baltic Sea
Gulf of Guinea
Gulf of Aden
Persian Gulf
Marmara Sea
Red Sea

Quiz #2

Define (short answer): bathymetry, pelagic, littoral, estuary, delta

Quiz #3

Locate

Caribbean Sea
South China Sea
East China Sea
Barents Sea
Beaufort Sea
Bering Sea
Sargasso Sea
Caspian Sea (not a sea)
Bay of Bengal
Gulf of St. Lawrence

Quiz #4

Locate + define limits

Territorial Sea
Contiguous Zone
Exclusive Economic Zone
Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
Internal Seas

Quiz #5

Define: UNCLOS, IWC, IMO, ISA, ITLOS, CLCS, ICJ
What year(s) were negotiations for UNCLOS I, II, and III?

Quiz #6

Locate

Panama canal
Suez canal
Fram Strait
GIUK
Malacca Strait
Strait of Gibraltar
Strait of Hormuz
Cape of Good Hope
Cape Horn
Bosporus Strait

Quiz #7

Define (matching): anadromous, sessile, eutrophication, hypoxia, anoxia, eurybathic, nekton, oligotrophy, chemosynthesis, benthic

Quiz #8

Short answer

Name 3 'flag of convenience' states
Name 2 major ship building countries
Name 3 major fishing countries
Name 2 countries that engage in whaling

Quiz #9

Locate

Countries: Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, China, Japan
Islands: Spratlys, Paracels, Senkaka/Diaoyu

Quiz #10

Define: pycnocline, halocline, thermocline, albedo, thermohaline circulation

Introduction

1/23 – Succeeding in this class/semester

Mueller, Pam A., and Daniel M. Oppenheimer. “The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking.” *Psychological Science* 25, no. 6 (June 2014): 1159–68.

Introductions

Syllabus review

Topics for discussion:

- Broad relevance – skill building
- Reading for retention
- Active listening (note taking)
- Participation in discussion
- Study strategies
- Resources on campus
- Student/professor relationship
- What to do when you’re struggling

1/25 – Ocean or oceans?

Quiz #1

Martin W. Lewis “Dividing the Ocean Sea.” *The Geographical Review* 89.2 (April 1999): 188–214.

Daniel R. Headrick, “The Discovery of the Oceans” (pgs. 11-20 only), *Power Over Peoples: Technology, Environments, and Western Imperialism, 1400 to the Present*. Princeton University Press, 2010

Part I: Governing the Ocean

1/30 – Territorial Seas

Philip E. Steinberg, “Ocean-space and Merchant Capitalism” (pgs. 68-89), *The Social Construction of the Ocean*. Cambridge University Press, 2001

Tommy Koh, “The Origins of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea,” 29 *Malaysian Law Review* 1-17 (1987)

2/1 – Freedom of the Seas

Quiz #2

Anand, R. P., “Introduction” (pgs. 1-8), *Origin and Development of the Law of the Sea: History of International Law Revisited*. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff; [distributed in the U.S. by] Kluwer Boston, 1983.

Philip E. Steinberg, “Ocean-space and Merchant Capitalism” (pgs. 89-109), *The Social Construction of the Ocean*. Cambridge University Press, 2001

2/6 – Pax Britannica, Piracy, and Privateering

Thomson, Janice E. *Mercenaries, Pirates, and Sovereigns: State-Building and Extraterritorial Violence in Early Modern Europe*. (pgs. 21-26, 43-54, 69-77, 107-118) Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 1994.

US Department of State, “Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations”

Barbary Wars, 1801–1805 and 1815–1816

The Amistad Case, 1839

United States Maritime Expansion across the Pacific during the 19th Century

The Blockade of Confederate Ports, 1861–1865

Mahan’s *The Influence of Sea Power upon History: Securing International Markets in the 1890s*

2/8 – UNCLOS

Quiz #3

Sumit Majumdar, “Institutions for International Co-Operation: An Analysis of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference and Convention.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 25, no. 48/49 (December 1, 1990): 2681–85.

Glennon, Michael J. “Sometimes a Great Notion.” *Wilson Quarterly* 27, no. 4 (Autumn 2003).

2/13 – US and UNCLOS

US Commission on Ocean Policy, “Primer on Ocean Jurisdictions: Drawing Lines in the Water” (pgs. 70-73)

Wright, Thomas. “Outlaw of the Sea: The Senate Republicans’ UNCLOS Blunder.” *Foreign Affairs* (August 2012): 3 pages

Smith, Leland Holbrook. “To Accede or Not to Accede: An Analysis of the Current US Position Related to the United Nations Law of the Sea.” *Marine Policy* 83 (September 2017): 184–93.

Part II: Case Studies in Ocean Politics

2/15 – Flags of Convenience

Quiz #4

Tony Alderton and Nik Winchester, “Globalisation and de-regulation in the maritime industry,” *Marine Policy* 26, no. 1 (2002): 35-42

Negret, Carlos Felipe Llinás. “Pretending to Be Liberian and Panamanian; Flags of Convenience and the Weakening of the Nation State on the High Seas.” *Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce* 47, no. 1 (January 2016): 1–28.

2/20 – Fisheries

Finley, Carmel. *All the Boats on the Ocean: How Government Subsidies Led to Global Overfishing*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2017: “Introduction: Political Roles for Fish Populations” (pgs. 1-12)

DeSombre, Elizabeth R, and J. Samuel Barkin. *Fish*. Oxford: Wiley, 2013: “Introduction” (pgs. 1-23) and “Structure of the Fishing Industry” (pg. 50-78)

Ted Talk by Daniel Pauly, “The ocean’s shifting baseline” (9 minutes)
https://www.ted.com/talks/daniel_pauly_the_ocean_s_shifting_baseline

2/22 – Fisheries: Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

Quiz #5

Barkin, J. Samuel, and Elizabeth R. DeSombre. “Regulatory Capture” (pgs. 63-86) *Saving Global Fisheries: Reducing Fishing Capacity to Promote Sustainability*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2013.

Blasiak, Robert. “Balloon Effects Reshaping Global Fisheries.” *Marine Policy* 57 (July 2015): 18–20.

2/27 – Fisheries: IUU fishing

Don Liddick, “The Dimensions of a Transnational Crime Problem: The Case of IUU Fishing,” *Trends in Organized Crime* 17, no. 4 (2014): 290-312

Ian Urbina, “Palau vs. the Poachers,” *The New York Times*, February 17, 2016

Ian Urbina, “A Renegade Trawler, Hunted for 10,000 Miles by Vigilantes,” *The New York Times*, July 28, 2015

3/1 – International Whaling Commission

Quiz #6

Chasek, Pamela S., David Leonard Downie, and Janet Welsh Brown. “Whaling” (pgs.188-196) *Global Environmental Politics*. Sixth edition. Dilemmas in World Politics. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2014.

DiCenso, Matt. “Trouble on the High Seas: A Need for Change in the Wake of Australia v. Japan.” *Boston College International and Comparative Law Review* 39, no. 3 (2016): 13–27.

Ted Talk by Asha de Vos, “Why you should care about whale poo” (6 minutes)

https://www.ted.com/talks/asha_de_vos_why_you_should_care_about_whale_poo

3/6 – International Maritime Organization

Aldo Chircop, “The International Maritime Organization” in *Oxford Handbook of the Law of the Sea* (pgs. 416-438)

3/8 – [Mid-semester feedback session + review]

9:30-10:15: structured feedback hosted by Office for Advancement of Teaching and Learning

10:15-10:30: students ask instructor specific questions about study guide content

SPRING BREAK

3/20 – [MIDTERM]

3/22 – International Seabed Authority

Quiz #7

Harrison, James. “Implementing Agreements” in *Making the Law of the Sea: A Study in the Development of International Law*. (pgs. 85-99) Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Charles Schmidt, “Going Deep: Cautious Steps toward Seabed Mining,” *Environmental Health Perspectives* 123, no.9 (2015): 234-241

3/27 – Marine Pollution

Kirk. “Science and the International Regulation of Marine Pollution.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the Law of the Sea*, edited by Rothwell R. Donald and Alex G. Oude Elferink. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2015. (pgs. 516-535)

International Maritime Organization video “The London Convention” (4 minutes)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7KCRtwKknk>

International Maritime Organization, description of MARPOL
<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-%28MARPOL%29.aspx>

NPR’s Diane Rehm, “the Environmental Outlook: Rising Levels of Garbage in the World’s Oceans,” November 4, 2014

https://dianerehm.org/shows/2014-11-04/the_environmental_outlook_rising_levels_of_garbage_in_the_world_s_oceans

3/29 – Labor

Quiz #8

Terry, William C. “Flags of Convenience and the Global Cruise Labour Market,” in *Cruise Ship Tourism* (2017): 72-85

Ian Urbina, “Stowaways and Crimes Aboard a Scofflaw Ship,” *The New York Times*, July 17, 2015

Peter Gwin, “The Ship-Breakers,” *National Geographic*, May 2014

Urbina, Ian. “‘Sea Slaves’: The Human Misery That Feeds Pets and Livestock.” *The New York Times*, July 27, 2015.

4/3 – Piracy

Bento, Lucas. “Toward an International Law of Piracy Sui Generis: How the Dual Nature of Maritime Piracy Law Enables Piracy to Flourish.” *Berkeley Journal of International Law* 29, no. 2 (2011): 399–455.

Boot, Max. “How Piracy Was Defeated in the Past and Can Be Again.” *Foreign Affairs*, July 2009.

4/5 – Rough Draft Paper Exchange

[Students do not need to come to class]

Students will be assigned groups of 2-3 people, in advance, and given a feedback form. Students must email each other rough drafts of their paper BEFORE 9:30am, including instructor on email chain. During the usual class time, students should spend 20-30min reading each other's papers. Before 11am, students should return feedback form to each other, including instructor on email chain.

4/10 – Sea Power

Haines, Steven. "Sea-Power." In *Routledge Handbook of Ocean Resources and Management*. Eds. Hance D. Smith, Juan Luis Suarez de Vivero, and Tundi S. Agardy (2015): pgs. 381-395

Michael Byers. "Policing the High Seas: The Proliferation Security Initiative," *The American Journal of International Law* 98, no. 3 (2014): 526-545

"The See-Through Sea." *The Economist*, June 7, 2016

4/12 – Territorial Disputes: Arctic, South/East China Seas

Quiz #9

Dutton, Peter. "Three Disputes and Three Objectives." *Naval War College Review* 64, no. 4 (Autumn 2011): 42–67.

James Kraska, "Sovereignty at Sea." *Survival* 51, no. 3 (2009): 13-18

Norris, Andrew J., and Patrick McKinley. "The Central Arctic Ocean-Preventing Another Tragedy of the Commons." *Polar Record* 53, no. 01 (January 2017): 43–51.

"Frozen Conflict; The Arctic." *The Economist*, December 20, 2014.

Climate Change and the Ocean

One-week assignment – write three short (1-2 page) memos on how climate change affects the ocean. One memo each for sea level rise, ocean acidification, and ocean warming. Memos should reference course readings + two extra readings for each topic (at least one academic source). Each memo should cover the impacts of the particular aspect of climate change on (a) the ocean, (b) human activities in the ocean, and (c) international law of the ocean. Due on Friday 4/20 by 5pm

4/17 – Climate Change: Sea-level rise

[NO CLASS – Professor at conference]

Schofield, Clive, and David Freestone. “Options to Protect Coastlines and Secure Maritime Jurisdictional Claims in the Face of Global Sea Level Rise.” In *Threatened Island Nations: Legal Implications of Rising Seas and a Changing Climate*, edited by Michael B. Gerrard and Gregory E. Wannier, 141–66. Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Comaroff, Joshua. “Built on Sand: Singapore and the New State of Risk.” *Harvard Design Magazine*, Fall/Winter 2014.

Interactive CNN Article, Greenland and Global Warming
<http://www.cnn.com/interactive/2017/11/world/greenland-global-warning/>

NPR’s Diane Rehm Show, “Environmental Outlook: Rising Sea Levels,” July 3, 2012
<https://dianerehm.org/shows/2012-07-03/environmental-outlook-rising-sea-levels>

4/19 – Climate Change: Warming and Acidification

[NO CLASS – Professor at conference]

Elizabeth Kolbert, “The Darkening Sea,” *The New Yorker* (2006): 66-75

Stephens, Tim. “Warming Waters and Souring Seas: Climate Change and Ocean Acidification.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the Law of the Sea*, edited by Donald R. Rothwell, Alex Oude Elferink, Karen N. Scott, and Tim Stephens, 777–98. Oxford University Press, 2015.

NPR’s Diane Rehm Show, “Environmental Outlook: Update on Coral Reef Bleaching and Possible New Remedies,” May 4, 2016
<https://dianerehm.org/shows/2016-05-04/the-environmental-outlook-update-on-coral-reef-bleaching-and-possible-new-remedies>

4/20 – Climate change memos due @ 5pm

4/24 – Climate Change: Geo-engineering

Aaron Strong, John Cullen, and Sallie Chisholm, “Ocean Fertilization: Science, Policy, and Commerce,” *Oceanography* 22, no. 3 (2009): 236-261

Global Ocean Commission, “Policy Options Paper #2: Climate change, ocean acidification, and geo-engineering,” (2013): 1-11

4/26 – BBNJ

Quiz #10

Andrew Merrie et. al, “An ocean of surprises – Trends in human use, unexpected dynamics and governance challenges in areas beyond national jurisdiction,” *Global Environmental Change* 27 (2014): 19-31

Sielen, Alan B. “Sea Change: How to Save the Oceans.” *Foreign Affairs*, April 2014.

Marciniak, Konrad Jan. “New Implementing Agreement under UNCLOS: A Threat or an Opportunity for Fisheries Governance?” *Marine Policy* 84 (October 2017): 320–26.

5/1 – Research paper due by 5pm

5/8 – Final Exam (8-11am)