

Course Syllabus

International Dialogue on Forestry Issues

Semester Year

Course Title:	International Dialogue on Forestry Issues
Credits:	3 credits

Instructor Name:	M. Hosny El Lakany
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	Hosny.ellakany@ubc.ca
Office Location:	
Office Hours:	

Course Description

This course addresses the origins, development and current status of international policy debate related to natural resources management in general and forests in particular. It attempts to expose some aspects of the practices and discourses of international regulations that shape, advance, however sometimes complicate, international debates. The international political and policy institutions that directly and indirectly dealing with global forest issues; political interests driving the policy developments, organization, and behavior; decision making processes and dispute and conflict resolution at international levels will be analyzed.

The course is designed to inform students who are concerned with global forestry issues as well as professionals who are, or endeavor to be, engaged in forestry related international activities as a career.

Course Prerequisites

Participants are expected to have completed a university degree in Forestry or related fields before entering this course.

Course Format

This course is designed to be taken as an open, online course. The resources can be accessed by anyone/anytime. Participants will learn through a self-directed learning approach. All course activities are self-directed and will not be graded. There will be no instructor-student communications.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students will be acquainted with the complex issues that influence the international forestry debate. The course would create a common foundation and provide appropriate knowledge for those who are already, or plan to be, involved in international forestry activities.

Through a discussion of global forest governance and diplomacy, students will be informed about the mandates and activities of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with international environmental, economic, and social forestry issues with a focus on organizations associated with the United Nations, as well as other global and regional bodies.

Students will further learn about international laws in general and those dealing specifically with natural resources as well as the science and art of international diplomacy, negotiation and bargaining and the general principles governing the intergovernmental negotiation processes.

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Discuss the complex issues that influence the international forestry debate.
2. Communicate with the intergovernmental organizations concerned with forestry
3. Describe the international forestry diplomacy and negotiation of global agreements
4. Explain the global conventions governing forests and other natural resources
5. Participate in inter-governmental negotiations concerned with forest, if needed.
6. Investigate the developments in the international forestry dialogue

Course Materials

As the course covers a broad range of topics there will be no single textbook. An Introduction, Outline and Reference material are provided for each Module in advance, while the actual lectures will be delivered via video with accompanying power point illustrations. A package of advance reading material related to each Module will be posted on the course website

Course Schedule

As this is a self-directed online course, you can complete the topics and modules at your own pace. The speed at which you progress through the course will depend on a number of factors, including how well you can understand English, how much you already know about forest management, and how familiar you with the materials.

Start Week	Module/Unit	Core Ideas	Learning Activities
Module 1: Forests on the Global Stage			
1	Topic 1 Why are forests of global concern?	Introduction to global forestry and history of the concept of SFM in the global context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review course introduction information View required video lecture and videos Read recommended readings. Answer self-reflection questions
2	Topic 2 Sustainable Forest Management	Theories and concepts of global SFM policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review course introduction information View required video lecture and videos Read recommended readings. Answer self-reflection questions
3	Topic 3 Global effective policies to promote SFM	From international agreements to national application of SFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review course introduction information View required video lecture and videos Read recommended readings. Answer self-reflection questions Do self-directed Module 1 quiz
Module 2: Diplomacy and negotiation of intergovernmental conventions and multi-lateral agreements			
4	Topic 4 Regulatory Frameworks and Types of Multi-lateral Agreements	Overview of global regulatory frameworks for multi-lateral agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review course introduction information View required video lecture and videos Read recommended readings. Answer self-reflection questions
5	Topic 5	Types of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review course introduction

	General Principles Governing the Negotiation Process, Negotiation in Practice, and Forest Diplomacy	inter-governmental agreements on Natural resource policies and their negotiation diplomacy	information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View required video lecture and videos • Read recommended readings. • Answer self-reflection questions
6	Topic 6 Non-legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests (NLBI on Forests), International Arrangements on Forests, and National Forest Laws in support of SFM	Review of the process of formulation the Non-legally binding instrument on forests, its major contents and relation to national implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review course introduction information • View required video lecture and videos • Read recommended readings. • Answer self-reflection questions • Do self-directed Module 2 quiz
Module 3: Intergovernmental Conventions Related to SFM and International Actors			
7	Topic 7 Intergovernmental Conventions and Instruments Relevant to Forests	The art and science of inter-governmental negotiation and diplomacy related to forests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review course introduction information • View required video lecture and videos • Read recommended readings. • Answer self-reflection questions
8	Topic 8 Mandates and Activities of Forestry-Related International Organizations (Part 1)	Introduction to intergovernmental organizations with emphasis on UN agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review course introduction information • View required video lecture and videos • Read recommended readings. • Answer self-reflection questions
9	Topic 9 Mandates and Activities of Forestry-Related	Introduction to research institutions and non-governmental organizations addressing global forestry issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review course introduction information • View required video lecture and videos • Read recommended readings.

	International Organizations (Part 2)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer self-reflection questions • Do self-directed Module 3 quiz
Module 4: National to international linkages and the road ahead			
10	Topic 10 Global Policy Issues Affecting the Sustainable Management of Forests (Part 1)	Review of global policy issues affecting the sustainable management of forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review course introduction information • View required video lecture and videos • Read recommended readings. • Answer self-reflection questions
11	Topic 11 Global Policy Issues Affecting the Sustainable Management of Forests (Part 2)	Additional updates on the current global forestry-related issues on the international stages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review course introduction information • View required video lecture and videos • Read recommended readings. • Answer self-reflection questions
12	Topic 12 Recent Developments in Global Issues and Processes Related to Forests (2014-2015)	Update on forestry issues under global discussions on forests. Time set aside to work on completing your overall reflections on all contents of this course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review course introduction information • View required video lecture and videos • Read recommended readings. • Answer self-reflection questions • Do self-directed Module 4 quiz

Course Structure

Because of the evolving nature of the International Forest Policy debate and frequently changing national and international priorities, this course is organized in four Modules each is comprised of three lectures. Each module consists of online video lectures, videos, readings, reflection questions, and a module quiz.

MODULE I: FORESTS ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Topic 1: Forests of Global Concern

- Topic 2: Sustainable Forest Management
- Topic 3: Global Forest Management Policies

MODULE II: DIPLOMACY AND NEGOTIATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- Topic 4: Regulatory Frameworks and Types of Multi-lateral Agreements
- Topic 5: General Principles Governing the Negotiation Process, Negotiation in Practice and Forest Diplomacy
- Topic 6: Non-legally Binding Instrument on Forests (NLBI on Forests), International Arrangements on Forests, and National Forest Laws in support of SFM

MODULE III: INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS RELATED TO SFM AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL FACTORS

- Topic 7: Intergovernmental Conventions and Instruments Relevant to Forests
- Topic 8: Mandates and Activities of Forestry-related International Organizations (Part 1)
- Topic 9: Mandates and Activities of Forestry-related International Organizations (Part 2)

MODULE IV: NATIONAL TO INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES AND ROAD AHEAD.

- Topic 10: Global Policy Issues Affecting the Sustainable Management of Forests (Part 1)
- Topic 11: Global Policy Issues Affecting the Sustainable Management of Forests (Part 2)
- Topic 12: Recent Developments in Global Issues and Processes Related to Forests (2014-2015)

Student Evaluation

As this course is taken independently, you will not gain any official credits. You can assess your learning and understanding of the material through the self-administered quizzes that you will find associated with each module.

Course Technical Requirements

There are no special technical requirements for taking this course other than being able to access Internet.