

# NATURAL RESOURCES AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Department of Political Science  
Rutgers University-Camden, Spring 2010

Professor: Dr. J. Kehl  
Office: #110 at 401 Cooper Street  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00pm-1:10pm and by appointment  
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*Natural Resources and International Security*, 50:790:427:01, MW 2:50pm-4:10pm, BSB 117.  
Suggested pre-requisite courses: Introduction to International Relations, Comparative Politics.

## Course Description

Access to vital natural resources, particularly oil and water, has a profound impact on national and international politics. Violent conflicts over natural resources disrupt energy supply, distort economic development, weaken governments, and threaten international security. Scholars of international politics have found that states with valuable natural resources are four times more likely to experience war (Collier and Hoeffler 2000, 2005). Yet strategies for resolving resource disputes are underdeveloped. With looming resource scarcity and increasing energy demands, international powers engage in fierce competition to control natural resources. Ongoing violence and volatile *hot spots* demand new explanations and more effective dispute resolution.

The course *Natural Resources and International Security* examines the political aspects, newest explanations, and strategies for conflict resolution regarding global petroleum politics, energy security, hydro politics, water wars, gun runners, gold smuggling, blood diamonds, and the secret financial networks of terrorist groups, which hold most of their assets in gold and diamonds. The course concludes with a discussion of the most urgent and most violent resource disputes, and the variables that will determine the future of conflict and cooperation.

## Required Reading

Bannon, Ian; Collier, Paul (Editors). 2003. *Natural Resources and Violent Conflict: Options and Actions*. Washington D.C.: The World Bank.

Shiva, Vandana. 2002. *Water Wars: Privatization, Pollution, and Profit*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

Campbell, Greg. 2004. *Blood Diamonds: Tracing the Deadly Path of the World's Most Precious Stones*. Boulder and Cambridge, MA: Westview Press, Perseus Books.

## Course Web Site

Enrolled students can access the class web site through Sakai at < <https://sakai.rutgers.edu> > to find the syllabus and other resources for the course.

## Course Requirements and Grade Apportionment

1. Written Quiz 1: Knowledge Acquisition and Critical Analysis	.....	15 %
2. Written Quiz 2: Knowledge Acquisition and Critical Analysis	.....	15 %
3. Written Quiz 3: Critical Analysis and Applied Knowledge	.....	20 %
4. Active and productive participation in class	.....	10 %
5. Final Written Exam: Synthesis and Analysis	.....	40 %
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	Total	100%

## Department Learning Objectives

This course has been developed to contribute to the Department of Political Science's Learning and Assessment Objectives, which focus on improving analytical skills.

The Learning and Assessment Objectives are listed below as per the new university requirements:

Goal: Knowledge Acquisition. Objective: Students should be able to demonstrate they have acquired a body of knowledge specific to the courses they have taken.

Goal: Critical Thinking. Objective: Students should be able to assess the quality of information available, be able to critically evaluate conflicting information, and be able to draw logical conclusions from information and discussions.

Goal: Quality of Expression. Objective: Students should be able to communicate effectively, understand proper citation, avoid plagiarism, and produce original and creative analyses.

Goal: Applied Knowledge. Objective: Students should be able to understand the importance and relevance of course topics, and be able to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations.

## University and Course Policies

Disability Policy: Please let Dr. Kehl and the Dean of Students or the Rutgers Learning Center know if you have a specific disability. I will make all necessary accommodations so that your learning, writing, and testing needs may be appropriately met.

Late Paper and Exam Policy: Late papers and exams will be marked down one grade for every day they are tardy. Extensions must be approved by Dr. Kehl before the original due date.

Academic Integrity Policy: All of your work must be original. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a zero (0 points or F grade) for the assignment and the initiation of university protocol.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is essential to your successful completion of this course. The participation grade will be apportioned one-third for attendance, one-third for active participation in class discussions, and one-third for the quality of your contribution and responses to questions regarding the materials for which you are responsible. Excused absences must be approved by Dr. Kehl before the date of the absence.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 20	Introduction to Natural Resources and International Security
Monday, January 25	Oil, Water, Blood and Diamonds  Reading Due: Chapter 1 “Natural Resources and Conflict” in <i>Natural Resources and Violent Conflict</i>
Wednesday, January 27	Natural Resources and International Security: Scarcity and Conflict; Abundance and the Resource Curse  Reading Due: Chapter 2 “The Natural Resource Curse” in <i>Natural Resources and Violent Conflict</i>
Monday, February 1	Oil and Violent Conflict  Reading Due: Chapter 3 “Who Gets the Money? Reporting Resource Revenues” in <i>Natural Resources and Violent Conflict</i>
Wednesday, February 3	Oil and the Three War Scenario  Reading Due: Chapter 4 “Where Did It Come From? Commodity Tracking Systems” in <i>Natural Resources and Violent Conflict</i>
Monday, February 8	Illicit Resources, Illegal Drugs, and Gun Runners for Drug Cartels  Reading Due: Chapter 5 “Follow the Money: The Finance of Illicit Resource Extraction” in <i>Natural Resources and Violent Conflict</i>
Wednesday, February 10	Quiz 1
Monday, February 15	1. Lecture and discussion 2. Alternative format  Reading Due: Chapter 6 “Getting It Done: Instruments of Enforcement” in <i>Natural Resources and Violent Conflict</i>
Wednesday, February 17	1. Lecture and discussion 2. Alternative format  Reading Due: Chapter 7 “Attracting Reputable Companies to Risky Environments” in <i>Natural Resources and Violent Conflict</i>  Reading Due: Chapter 8 “Dampening Price Shocks” in <i>Natural Resources and Violent Conflict</i>

Monday, February 22	Water Wars  Reading Due: Introduction Chapter “Converting Abundance into Scarcity” in <i>Water Wars</i>
Wednesday, February 24	Water Scarcity and Conflict in the Middle East Cases of Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen  Reading Due: Chapter 1 “Water Rights: the State, the Market, the Community” in <i>Water Wars</i>
Monday, March 1	Climate Change and the Emergence of New Water Conflicts Case of Mekong River  Reading Due: Chapter 2 “Climate Change and the Water Crisis” in <i>Water Wars</i>
Wednesday, March 3	Fighting for Control over Water Resources  Reading Due: Chapter 3 “The Colonization of Rivers: Dams and Water Wars” in <i>Water Wars</i>
Monday, March 8	1. Quiz 2  2. Lecture and discussion 3. Alternative format
Wednesday, March 10	1. Lecture and discussion 2. Alternative format
Monday, March 15	Spring Break
Wednesday, March 17	Spring Break
Monday, March 22	International Financial Institutions and Corporate Control of Water  Reading Due: Chapter 4 “The World Bank, the WTO, and Corporate Control Over Water” in <i>Water Wars</i>
Wednesday, March 24	Water and Food Security: Case of Australia  Reading Due: Chapter 5 “Food and Water” in <i>Water Wars</i>

Monday, March 29	Water Governance  Reading Due: Chapter 6 “Converting Scarcity into Abundance” in <i>Water Wars</i>
Wednesday, March 31	Virtual Water  Reading Due: Chapter 7 “The Sacred Waters” in <i>Water Wars</i>
Monday, April 5	Blood Diamonds  Reading Due: Prologue, “Impact: The Price of Diamonds” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>  Reading Due: Chapter 1 “From Pits of Despair to Altars of Love” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>
Wednesday, April 7	Diamond Smuggling and Gun Runners for Diamond Cartels  Reading Due: Chapter 2 “Diamond Junction: A Smuggler’s Paradise” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>  Reading Due: Chapter 3 “The Gun Runners” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>
Monday, April 12	1. Quiz 3  2. Lecture and discussion 3. Alternative format: Blood Diamond
Wednesday, April 14	1. Lecture and discussion 2. Alternative format: Blood Diamond
Monday, April 19	International Diamond Financial Networks  Reading Due: Chapter 4 “Death by Diamonds” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>  Reading Due: Chapter 5 “The Syndicate” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>
Wednesday, April 21	Financial Networks of Terrorists and Connection to al Qaeda, Part 1  Reading Due: Chapter 6 “Waging Peace: Taking the Conflict out of ‘Conflict Diamonds’” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>  Reading Due: Chapter 7 “The Way Station, Next Stop, Liberia” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>

Monday, April 26	Financial Networks of Terrorists and Connection to al Queda, Part 2  Reading Due: Chapter 8 “The Base: Osama’s War Chest” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>
Wednesday, April 28	Last class session for <i>Natural Resources and International Security</i>  Reading Due: Chapter 9 “The Rough Road Ahead” in <i>Blood Diamonds</i>
Monday, May 3	Exam review 2:50pm-4:10pm
Wednesday, May 12	<b>Final Exam</b> 9:00am-12:00pm