

STPEC 491H
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Spring 2009

Prof. James Boyce
816 Thompson Hall
Office hours: Mon 4:00-5:00 or by appointment
Email: boyce@econs.umass.edu

READINGS:

Books:

These four books are available at Amherst Books (8 Main St., Amherst). They are also on reserve at the W.E.B. DuBois Library.

- Betsy Hartmann and James K. Boyce, *A Quiet Violence: View from a Bangladesh Village*. San Francisco: Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1983. [AQV]
- James K. Boyce, *The Political Economy of the Environment*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2002.
- James K. Boyce and Barry G. Shelley, eds., *Natural Assets: Democratizing Environmental Ownership*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2003. [NA]
- James K. Boyce, Sunita Narain, and Elizabeth A. Stanton, eds., *Reclaiming Nature: Ecological Restoration and Environmental Justice*. London & New York: Anthem Press, 2007. [RN]

Other readings:

Unless otherwise noted, the following readings are available on e-reserve at <http://ereserves.library.umass.edu/>. The password is stpec491.

- Baer, Paul, Tom Athanasiou and Sivan Kartha (2008) 'The Right to Development in a Climate-Constrained World: The Greenhouse Development Rights Framework – Executive Summary,' Berlin: Heinrich Boll Foundation. Available at http://regserver.unfccc.int/seors/attachments/file_storage/7t1rvdaa0japk8k.pdf.
- Boyce, J.K. (2008) 'Is Inequality Bad for the Environment?' in R.C. Wilkinson and W.R. Freudenberg, eds., *Research in Social Problems and Public Policy, Vol. 15: Equity and the Environment*. Amsterdam, Elsevier.
- Fearnside, Philip (2007) 'The Fractured Landscape,' *The American Prospect*, September, pp. A11-13.

- Frank, Robert H. (2000) 'Why Is Cost-Benefit Analysis So Controversial?' *Journal of Legal Studies* 29: 913-930.
- Hartmann, B. (1995) *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs: The Global Politics of Population Control*. Boston: South End Press, Ch. 2.
- Sen, A. (1994) 'Population: Delusion and Reality', *New York Review of Books*, Sept. 22, pp. 62-71.
- Salon.com (2008) 'Do We Need Population Control?' A debate with Paul Ehrlich, Matthew Connelly, and Robert Engelman, 17 September. Available at http://www.salon.com/env/feature/2008/09/17/population_control/.
- Kay, Jane Holtz (1997) *Asphalt Nation* (Berkeley: University of California Press), Chs. 6 & 18.
- New Zealand Treasury (2005) *Cost Benefit Analysis Primer*. Available at <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/guidance/costbenefitanalysis/primer>.
- Pastor, Manuel *et al.* (2006) 'Environment, Disaster, and Race After Katrina,' *Race, Poverty, and the Environment*, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 21-26.
- Summers, Lawrence (1992) 'Let Them Eat Pollution', *The Economist*, February 8, p. 66.
- Mann, Charles (2004) *Diversity on the Farm* (New York: Ford Foundation, and Amherst: Political Economy Research Institute). Available at: <http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/Mann.pdf>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There are three requirements for the course:

- (1) Paper #1 - due Feb. 23.
- (2) Paper #2 - due May 6.
- (3) Active participation in class discussions plus responses to discussion questions posted on SPARK.

SCHEDULE*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
PART I: INTRODUCTION		
Jan. 26	Course overview	---
Jan. 28	Political Economy & the Environment	Boyce <i>RSPPP</i> 2008 Boyce <i>Pol Econ Envt</i> Chs. 1-2
PART II: ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: VIEW FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH		
Feb. 3, 5	Case study: View from a Bangladesh village	Hartmann & Boyce <i>AQV</i>
Feb. 9, 11	Population and Reproductive Rights	Sen 1994 Hartmann 1995 Salon.com 2008
Feb. 18	The “Environmental Kuznets Curve”	Boyce <i>Pol Econ Envt</i> Ch. 5 Summers 1992 Harper & Rajan in <i>RN</i>
Feb. 23, 25	Case Study: Tropical Deforestation <i>Film: Murder on the Amazon</i>	Fearnside 2007 Hall in <i>RN</i>
PART III: “SOME ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS”: VIEW FROM THE USA		
Mar. 2, 4	Benefit-Cost Analysis	New Zealand Treasury 2005 Frank 2000
Mar. 9	Power and Social Decisions	Boyce <i>Pol Econ Envt</i> Chs. 4 & 6
Mar. 11	Environmental Justice	Pastor in <i>NA</i> Pastor in <i>RN</i>

* The dates indicated are subject to change.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Mar. 23, 25	Case Study: Hurricane Katrina <i>Film: When the Levees Broke</i>	Pastor <i>et al.</i> 2006
Mar. 30, Apr. 1	Ground Transportation <i>Film: Taken for a Ride</i>	Kay 1997
PART IV: RECLAIMING NATURE: STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING NATURAL ASSETS		
Apr. 6	Natural Assets: An Introduction	Intro in <i>NA</i> Intro in <i>RN</i> Kurien in <i>RN</i>
Apr. 8, 13	Property Rights and Society	Friedman in <i>NA</i> Dixon in <i>NA</i>
Apr. 15	Land Stewardship	Peña in <i>NA</i> Amanor in <i>RN</i> Rosa <i>et al.</i> in <i>RN</i>
Apr. 21, 22	Agricultural Sustainability	Mann 2004 Boyce <i>et al.</i> in <i>RN</i>
Apr. 27, 29	Environmental Certification <i>Film: Buyer be Fair</i>	Conroy in <i>RN</i>
May 4, 6	Combating Global Warming	Narain & Riddle in <i>RN</i> Boyce & Riddle 2007 Baer <i>et al.</i> 2008
May 11, 13	Paper #2 presentations	

PAPER # 1 ASSIGNMENT

Compare and contrast the class structure in the village of Katni in Bangladesh (described in *A Quiet Violence*) to the class structure in your own hometown.

DUE DATE: February 23.

PAPER #2 ASSIGNMENT

Your term paper should be about the political economy of a local environmental issue in a place with which you are personally familiar, generally either your home town or here in the Pioneer Valley.

Interviews with individuals who are engaged with this issue – including local officials, environmental activists, concerned citizens, and private-sector businesses – should constitute the primary source of information for your paper. Quotations and data obtained from interviews should be properly referenced, citing the interviewee’s name (unless anonymity has been requested), institutional affiliation, and the date and location of the interview.

Secondary sources may include newspaper and magazine articles, documents produced by governmental agencies and non-governmental entities, television and radio reports, etc. All such sources should be properly referenced, following the footnote and bibliography formats to be provided in class. All direct quotations (including any quotes obtained from web-based materials) should appear within quotation marks with the source fully cited, following the avoidance-of-plagiarism guidelines to be distributed in class.

Your paper should be roughly 15 pages in length, double-spaced (in 12-point font). It should be organized as follows:

- 1. Introduction:** Briefly describe the environmental issue that your paper will analyze, and how you became aware of it.
- 2. Benefits:** Describe the individuals, groups, or classes who benefit (or benefited in the past), as producers or consumers, from the economic activity that has created this environmental problem. What forms do these benefits take (e.g., higher profits, lower prices for consumers)? Attempt to assess the economic magnitude of the benefits received (i.e., in dollar terms).
- 3. Costs:** Describe the individuals, groups, or classes who bear the resulting environmental costs. What forms do these costs take (e.g., effects on health, property values, quality of life)?

Attempt to assess the economic magnitude of these costs (again in dollar terms).

4. Political economy: Why are the beneficiaries able to impose environmental costs on others? Has their ability to do so changed over time (for example, as a result of community pressures or government policies)? How and why?

5. What is to be done? In light of your research, what (if anything) do you think can and should be done differently to address this environmental issue?

DUE DATE: May 6.