Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Master in Sustainable Development and Global Governance

Course Syllabus

GOVERNANCE OF THE GLOBAL COMMONS

2023

Professor: Kevin Grecksch

Email: kevin.grecksch@uc3m.es or kevin.grecksch@ouce.ox.ac.uk

Class time and location:

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The course aims to introduce students to the concept of global commons using theoretical approaches as well as practical examples and case studies. In particular, the main objectives of this course are:

- familiarise students with the main concepts (governance, global commons etc.)
- ability to study and analyse global commons governance
- acquire knowledge and understanding of common issues around global commons and possible solutions
- learning about a variety of different global commons and their problems including actors, institutions, power relationships and knowledge
- linking the issues and applying the knowledge of global commons to wider sustainability issues and climate change
- applying knowledge to potential solutions for global commons issues
- acquiring applied knowledge of a variety of global commons such as water, biodiversity, oceans etc.
- learning and applying a new method (scenario planning) to study the possible outcomes of global commons governance

The classes will be a mixture of lectures, groupwork, discussions and student presentations. Students are expected to be active participants and contribute to the **class discussions**. Basis for the class discussions are the required readings assigned for each session.

The course will include lectures, case studies and discussions around the following topics and themes:

- Why ‘governance’ and not ‘government’? The rise of governance as means to manage, control or regulate global commons.
- Identification of global commons and “the tragedy of the commons”. The challenges of collective action in their governance analysis of fragmented initiatives on climate change and sustainability.
- Theories of collective action and their applications in the governance of the global commons; design of effective institutions, comparison of different approaches to resource allocation, including markets, governments and communities, and examining the shifting roles of the public and private sectors in the context of local and global examples.
- Institutions and models of collaboration regarding the governance of transboundary resources (water, ocean and fisheries, biodiversity, mineral resources); climate change and biodiversity preservation; varying designs and their effectiveness.
- The phenomenon of ‘complex governance’ that involves international organisations, supranational institutions, transnational networks, public-private partnerships and private governance agreements to address the global challenges of sustainability, coordination problems; resources and capacities of different actors at different levels.
- Effectiveness, compliance, accountability, legitimacy, impact and future perspectives of governance models. Conflicts and their possible resolutions.
- Ongoing and prospective transformations in global governance triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic crisis. Discussion of the Anthropocene as a useful concept for the governance of commons.

Towards the end of the course, we will carry out a **Scenario Planning Exercise**. Scenario-building and analysis is a qualitative method involving stakeholders and engaging them into unconstrained blue-sky thinking about the future. The aim of scenario-building is to develop scenarios for potential future developments and it is useful in cases where there is fairly good knowledge regarding how a certain system works at present, but one is interested in exploring the consequences of alternative developments. We will discuss the benefits of the method, what the method entails, potential problems and in what cases it makes sense to apply the method. After this we will apply the method to a real world issue from the area of global commons.

The **Final Paper** (an individual assignment) should address an issue area related to the content of this course. The format of this written assignment is a 4,000 word essay (excluding references). Students should select the topic of their essay and submit a on page outline for approval by the course leader.

GRADING

Scenario Planning Exercise (group assignment) 40%

Class participation (individual) 20%

Final paper (individual) 40%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Required readings are marked with an asterisk (*)

Session 1 & 2: Thursday, 23 March 2023, 3.30 pm to 6.45 pm

1) Introduction to the course

2) Why 'governance' and not 'government'? The rise of governance as means to manage, control or regulate global commons.

Readings:

*Kersbergen, Kees van, and Frans van Waarden. '"Governance" as a Bridge between Disciplines: Cross-Disciplinary Inspiration Regarding Shifts in Governance and Problems of Governability, Accountability and Legitimacy'. *European Journal of Political Research* 43 (2004): 143–71.

Marks, Gary, and Liesbet Hooghe. 'Contrasting Visions of Multi-Level Governance'. In *Multi-Level Governance*, edited by Ian Bache and Matthew Flinders (eds.), 15–30. Oxford: Oxfords University Press, 2004.

Offe, Claus. 'Governance: An "Empty Signifier"?' *Constellations* 16, no. 4 (2009): 550–62.

*Peters, Guy B., and Jon Pierre. 'Multi-Level Governance and Democracy: A Faustian Bargain?' In *Multi-Level Governance*, edited by Ian Bache and Matthew Flinders (eds.), 75–89.

Session 3 & 4: Thursday, 30 March 2023, 3.30 pm to 6.45 pm

3) Identification of global commons and "the tragedy of the commons".

Readings:

*Mildenberger, M. (2019). The Tragedy of the Tragedy of the Commons. Scientific American.

*Ostrom, Elinor. *Governing the Commons. The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Ostrom, Elinor, Joanna Burger, Christopher B. Field, Richard B. Norgaard, and David Policansky. 'Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges'. *Science* 284, no. 5412 (9 April 1999): 278–82.

Young, Oran R. *The Institutional Dimensions of Environmental Change. Fit, Interplay, and Scale*. Global Environmental Accord: Strategies for Sustainability and Institutional Innovation. Cambridge, London: The MIT Press, 2002.

Grecksch, Kevin, and Carola Klöck. 'Access and Allocation in Climate Change Adaptation'. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 20, no. 2 (1 June 2020): 271–86.

4) Case Study: Creating land, creating commons? - Water and Land Management in north-western Germany

Readings:

*Blackbourn, David. (2006). *The Conquest of Nature. Water, Landscape, and the Making of Modern Germany*. New York: Norton & Company. [chapters 1 & 3]

*Grecksch, Kevin. 'Adaptive Capacity and Regional Water Governance in North-Western Germany'. *Water Policy*, no. 15 (2013): 794–815.

Karrasch, L., Maier, M., Kleyer, M., & Klenke, T. (2017). Collaborative Landscape Planning: Co-Design of Ecosystem-Based Land Management Scenarios. *Sustainability*, *9*(9), 1668.

Session 5: Friday, 31 March 2023, 5.15 pm to 6.45 pm

5) The design of effective institutions to govern global commons.

Readings:

Biermann, F., Hickmann, T. and Sénit, C.-A. (eds) (2022) The Political Impact of the Sustainable Development Goals - Transforming Governance Through Global Goals? Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Caldas, M. M., Sanderson, M. R., Mather, M., Daniels, M. D.,Bergtold, J. S., Aistrup, J. and others (2015). Endogenizing culture in sustainability science research and policy. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(27), pp. 8157-8159.

Cárdenas, J.C., Janssen, M.A., Ale, M., Bastakoti, R., Bernal, A., Chalermphol, J., Gong, Y., Shin, H., Shivakoti, G., Wang, Y. and Anderies, J.M., 2017. Fragility of the provision of local public goods to private and collective risks. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *114*(5), pp.921-925.

Carlsson, F. and Olof J. (2012) Behavioural Economics and Environmental Policy. Annual Review of Resource Economics, 4 (1):75-99.

Hanusch, Frederic, and Frank Biermann. 'Deep-Time Organizations: Learning Institutional Longevity from History'. *The Anthropocene Review* 7, no. 1 (1 April 2020): 19–41.

Meinzen-Dick, R., Janssen, M.A., Kandikuppa, S., Chaturvedi, R., Rao, K. and Theis, S., 2018. Playing games to save water: Collective action games for groundwater management in Andhra Pradesh, India. *World Development*, *107*, pp.40-53

*Nyborg, K., 2020. No Man is an Island: Social Coordination and the Environment. *Environmental and Resource Economics*, *76*(1), pp.177-193.

*O'Donnell, E.L. and Garrick, D.E., 2019. The diversity of water markets: Prospects and perils for the SDG agenda. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water*, *6*(5), p.e1368

OECD (2017), *Tackling Environmental Problems with the Help of Behavioural Insights*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Young, Oran R. *The Institutional Dimensions of Environmental Change. Fit, Interplay, and Scale*. Global Environmental Accord: Strategies for Sustainability and Institutional Innovation. Cambridge, London: The MIT Press, 2002.

Session 6 & 7: Thursday, 13 April 2023, 3.30 pm to 6.45 pm

6) Institutions and models of collaboration regarding the governance of transboundary resources

Readings:

Cosens, Barbara, J. B. Ruhl, Niko Soininen, Lance Gunderson, Antti Belinskij, Thorsten Blenckner, Alejandro E. Camacho, et al. 'Governing Complexity: Integrating Science, Governance, and Law to Manage Accelerating Change in the Globalized Commons'. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118, no. 36 (7 September 2021).

Dryzek, John S. 'Institutions for the Anthropocene: Governance in a Changing Earth System'. *British Journal of Political Science* FirstView (2014): 1–20.

Gupta, Joyeeta, Claudia Pahl-Wostl, and Ruben Zondervan. '"Glocal" Water Governance: A Multi-Level Challenge in the Anthropocene'. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 5, no. 6 (2013): 573–80.

*Milman Anita, and Andrea K. Gerlak. 'International River Basin Organizations, Science, and Hydrodiplomacy'. *Environmental Science & Policy* 107 (1 May 2020): 137–49.

Robins, L., T. P. Burt, L. J. Bracken, J. Boardman, and D. B. A. Thompson. 'Making Water Policy Work in the United Kingdom: A Case Study of Practical Approaches to Strengthening Complex, Multi-Tiered Systems of Water Governance'. *Environmental Science & Policy* 71 (May 2017): 41–55.
Oberthür, Sebastian, and Justyna Pożarowska. 'Managing Institutional Complexity and Fragmentation: The Nagoya Protocol and the Global Governance of Genetic Resources'. *Global Environmental Politics* 13, no. 3 (2013): 100–118.

Pahl-Wostl, Claudia, Christian Knieper, Evelyn Lukat, Franziska Meergans, Mirja Schoderer, Nora Schütze, Daniel Schweigatz, et al. 'Enhancing the Capacity of Water Governance to Deal with Complex Management Challenges: A Framework of Analysis'. *Environmental Science & Policy* 107 (1 May 2020): 23–35.

Pattberg, Philipp, Oscar Widerberg, and Marcel T. J. Kok. 'Towards a Global Biodiversity Action Agenda'. *Global Policy* 10, no. 3 (2019): 385–90.

Wheeler, K. G., M. Basheer, Z. T. Mekonnen, S. O. Eltoum, A. Mersha, G. M. Abdo, E. A. Zagona, J. W. Hall, and S. J. Dadson (2016), Cooperative filling approaches for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, *Water International*, 41(4), 611-634.

Zeray Yihdego, Alistair Rieu-Clarke & Ana Elisa Cascão (2016) How has the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam changed the legal, political, economic and scientific dynamics in the Nile Basin?, *Water International*, 41:4, 503-511.

7) Global commons in the movies – a jigsaw discussion group

Readings/Watching:

*Clapp, Jennifer & Peter Dauvergne. (2011). 'Four Environmental Worldviews' . In: Paths to a green world. MIT Press. pp. 1-16.

'Night Moves' (2013). Directed by Kelly Reichardt

'Promised Land' (2013). Directed by Gus Van Sant

'Even the Rain' (2010). Directed by Icíar Bollaín

'Wall-E' (2008). Directed by Andrew Stanton

'Avatar' (2009). Directed by James Cameron

'The Day After Tomorrow' (2004). Directed by Roland Emmerich

Session 8 & 9: Thursday, 20 April 2023, 3.30pm to 6.45 pm

8) The role of knowledge in the governance of the global commons

Readings:

*Tengö, Maria, Eduardo S Brondizio, Thomas Elmqvist, Pernilla Malmer, and Marja Spierenburg. 'Connecting Diverse Knowledge Systems for Enhanced Ecosystem Governance: The Multiple Evidence Base Approach'. *Ambio* 43, no. 5 (September 2014): 579–91.

Kerkhoff, Lorrae van, and Victoria Pilbeam. 'Understanding Socio-Cultural Dimensions of Environmental Decision-Making: A Knowledge Governance Approach'. *Environmental Science & Policy* 73 (July 2017): 29–37.

*Grecksch, Kevin, and Catharina Landström. 'Drought and Water Scarcity Management Policy in England and Wales—Current Failings and the Potential of Civic Innovation'. *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 9 (2021).

Grecksch, Kevin. *Drought and Water Scarcity in the UK. Social Science Perspectives on Governance, Knowledge and Outreach.* London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.

Molen, Franke van der. 'How Knowledge Enables Governance: The Coproduction of Environmental Governance Capacity'. *Environmental Science & Policy* 87 (1 September 2018): 18–25.

Parsons, Meg, Johanna Nalau, Karen Fisher, and Cilla Brown. 'Disrupting Path Dependency: Making Room for Indigenous Knowledge in River Management'. *Global Environmental Change* 56 (1 May 2019): 95–113.

Pasquier, Ulysse, Roger Few, Marisa C. Goulden, Simon Hooton, Yi He, and Kevin M. Hiscock. '"We Can't Do It on Our Own!"—Integrating Stakeholder and Scientific Knowledge of Future Flood Risk to Inform Climate Change Adaptation Planning in a Coastal Region'. *Environmental Science & Policy* 103 (1 January 2020): 50–57.

Nakashima, D.J., Galloway McLean, K., Thulstrup, H.D., Ramos Castillo, A. and Rubis, J.T. 2012. Weathering Uncertainty: Traditional Knowledge for Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation. Paris, UNESCO, and Darwin, UNU, 120 pp.

Jacobs, Katharine, Louis Lebel, James Buizer, Lee Addams, Pamela Matson, Ellen McCullough, Po Garden, George Saliba, and Timothy Finan. 'Linking Knowledge with Action in the Pursuit of Sustainable Water-Resources Management'. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 113, no. 17 (26 April 2016): 4591–96.

Jasanoff, Sheila, and B. Wynne. 'Science and Decisionmaking.' In *Human Choice and Climate Change: The Societal Framework*, edited by Steve Rayner and E.L. Malone, 1–87. Columbus, Ohio: Batelle Press, 1998.

*Hulme, Mike, Rolf Lidskog, James M. White, and Adam Standring. 'Social Scientific Knowledge in Times of Crisis: What Climate Change Can Learn from Coronavirus (and Vice Versa)'. *WIREs Climate Change*, 2020, e656.

*Ford, James D., Laura Cameron, Jennifer Rubis, Michelle Maillet, Douglas Nakashima, Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, and Tristan Pearce. 'Including Indigenous Knowledge and Experience in IPCC Assessment Reports'. *Nature Clim. Change* 6, no. 4 (print 2016): 349–53.

9) Legal Rights for Nature – a new way to govern the commons?

Readings:

*Stone, Christopher D. (1972). 'Should Trees Have Standing--Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects'. *Southern California Law Review,* 45: 450–501.

Anderson, Elizabeth P., Sue Jackson, Rebecca E. Tharme, Michael Douglas, Joseph E. Flotemersch, Margreet Zwarteveen, Chicu Lokgariwar, et al. (2019). 'Understanding Rivers and Their Social Relations: A Critical Step to Advance Environmental Water Management'. *WIREs Water* 6, no. 6: e1381.

*O'Donnell, Erin L., and Julia Talbot-Jones. (2018). 'Creating Legal Rights for Rivers: Lessons from Australia, New Zealand, and India'. *Ecology and Society* 23, no. 1: 7.

O'Donnell, E. (2018). 'At the Intersection of the Sacred and the Legal: Rights for Nature in Uttarakhand, India', Journal of Environmental Law, 30(1). doi: 10.1093/jel/eqx026

Hastrup, K. (2013)., Anthropological contributions to the study of climate: past, present, future. WIREs Climate Change, 4: 269-281.

Session 10 & 11: Thursday, 11 May 2023, 3.30pm to 6.45pm

10) Discussion of the Anthropocene as a useful concept for the governance of commons. Case study: Underground space governance.

Readings:

Altman, R. (2019). *Time-bombing the future. Synthetics created in the 20th century have become an evolutionary force, altering human biology and the web of life.*, *Aeon*. Available at: https://aeon.co/essays/how-20th-century-synthetics-altered-the-very-fabric-of-us-all

*Grecksch, Kevin. (2021). Out of sight – out of regulation? Underground space governance in the UK. Journal of the British Academy. 9(s10), 43-68.

Hoły-Łuczaj, Magdalena, and Vincent Blok. (2019). 'How to Deal with Hybrids in the Anthropocene? Towards a Philosophy of Technology and Environmental Philosophy 2.0'. *Environmental Values* 28, no. 3: 325–45.

Melo Zurita, M. de L., George Munro, P. and Houston, D. (2017) 'Un-earthing the Subterranean Anthropocene', *Area*, 50(3), pp. 298–305.

*Steffen, Will, Johan Rockström, Katherine Richardson, Timothy M. Lenton, Carl Folke, Diana Liverman, Colin P. Summerhayes, et al. (2018). 'Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene'. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.*

*Steffen, Will, Reinhold Leinfelder, Jan Zalasiewicz, Colin N. Waters, Mark Williams, Colin Summerhayes, Anthony D. Barnosky, et al. (2016). 'Stratigraphic and Earth System Approaches to Defining the Anthropocene'. *Earths' Future* 4, no. 8: 324–45.

Tschakert, Petra, David Schlosberg, Danielle Celermajer, Lauren Rickards, Christine Winter, Mathias Thaler, Makere Stewart-Harawira, and Blanche Verlie. (2020). 'Multispecies Justice: Climate-Just Futures with, for and beyond Humans'. *WIREs Climate Change*: e699.

Tait, Morgan C. (2019). 'Should Naturalists Believe in the Anthropocene?' *Environmental Values* 28, no. 3: 367–83.

11) Scenario Workshop (Part I)

Readings:

Börjeson, Lena, Mattias Höjer, Karl-Henrik Dreborg, Tomas Ekvall, and Göran Finnveden. 'Scenario Types and Techniques. Towards a User's Guide.' *Futures* 38 (2006): 723–39.

De Jouvenel, Hugues. 'A Brief Methodological Guide to Scenario Building'. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 65 (2000): 37–48.

Grecksch, Kevin. 'Scenarios for Resilient Drought and Water Scarcity Management in England and Wales'. *International Journal of River Basin Management*, 4 April 2018, 1–9.

Grecksch, Kevin. (2017). Resilient drought and water scarcity management in England and Wales in 2065. *Scenario Workshop Report*. Oxford: Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. Available here: https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-and-subject-groups/governance-water-scarcity-and-drought-uk

Durance, Philippe, and Michel Godet. 'Scenario Building: Uses and Abuses'. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 77 (2010): 1488–92.

Chevalier, Jacques M., and Daniel Buckles. *Participatory Action Research: Theory and Methods for Engaged Inquiry*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2013. (chapter 15)

Session 12: Friday, 12 May 2023, 5.15pm to 6.45pm

12) Scenario Workshop (Part II)

Session 13 & 14: Thursday, 18 May 2023, 3.30 pm to 6.45pm

13) Scenario Workshop (Part III) – Presentation of the scenarios

14) Wrap-up session (Reflection, feedback, final assignment)
