Course Description

This course will introduce International Relations students to Global Environmental Politics to explore the essential concepts, institutions, actors, ongoing debates, structures of conflict and cooperation related to global environmental governance.

The course is composed of three parts. The first portion, *Insides, Rules and Standards of the Global Environmental Politics*, is an introduction of major concepts related to the global commons. During this section, the emergence and the adaptation of the deliberate system of principles in Global Environmental Politics are explained and discussed.

The second portion of the course, *Institutions and Regimes of Global Environmental Governance*, focuses on the globally active political entities, such as inter-governmental organisations, and their institutionalized hierarchies to identify and evaluate the governance structures of the Global Environmental Politics.

The third pillar, *Debates and Processes of Global Environmental Politics*, exposes students to the wide array of current debates related to the Global Environmental Politics, allowing them both to discover the diversity of the environmental issues and complexity of decision-making in this field.

By the end of the course, students should feel confident when dealing with the issues of polity, policy and politics concerning the environmental problems and engage self-directed research on global environmental conflict and cooperation.
Objectives

The overarching course objective is for each student to

1. be familiar with the key debates and the current issues of the Global Environmental Politics.
2. demonstrate understanding of the economic and political causes and consequences of global environmental problems.
3. critically assess the attempts made by states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to respond to global environmental issues.
4. apply knowledge of International Relations theory to evaluate current global environmental policy issues.
5. engage in self-directed research and learning on global environmental politics.

Requirements

Students are expected to complete all baseline readings assigned each week prior to coming to class in order to participate in a fruitful discussion. Extensions in all forms will be granted only for extraordinary circumstances by notifying me well in advance.

Grading

Students with module requirements (6 ECTS / 7.5 credits in the local system):

(1) Regular participation: This course requires you to be active learners.
(2) Reading of the literature (at least two articles for every meeting) including preparation of three questions concerning the baseline (20 %) [see the ‘weekly questions’ template in the cloud!]
(3) The assignment of the practice week. [see the ‘assignment’ template in the cloud!]
(4) 20 to 30 min. presentation in a given meeting, and a hand-out (30 %) [see the ‘handout’ template in the cloud!]
(5) Term-Paper_word count should be between 3500 and 4000 NOT including the bibliography (50 %) [see the ‘term-paper’ template in the cloud!]

Important Dates

the first meeting: September 26th
the creative week (no class): November 14th
the last meeting: December 26th
the deadline for paper submission: January 14th (until 5 pm)

Statement of Diversity

During this course, I strive to create a teaching and learning environment that supports diversity in all manifestations, including sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, social class, disability status, country and region of origin, and political orientation. I have zero tolerance for violations of this principle and have clear procedures for responding to such behaviour.
Course Outline & Readings

September 26th. Course orientation—Syllabus review, and Q & A.

Part One.
Insides, Rules and Standards of the Global Environmental Politics
This part is an introduction of major concepts related to the global commons. During this section, the emergence and the adaptation of the deliberate system of principles in Global Environmental Politics are explained and discussed.

October 3th. The global commons.
Baseline
Suggested further readings

October 10th. Economic globalisation and the environment.
Baseline
Suggested further readings

October 17th. Development of the global environmental politics.
Baseline

*Suggested further readings*

**Part Two.
Institutions and Regimes of Global Environmental Governance**

This section focuses on the globally active political entities, such as inter-governmental organisations, and their institutionalized hierarchies to identify and evaluate the governance structures of the Global Environmental Politics.

**October 24th. Global governance and the environment.**

*Baseline*

*Suggested further readings*

**October 31st. Institution of the global environmental governance.**

*Baseline*

*Suggested further readings*

**November 7**

**Major environmental agreements and treaties.**

*Baseline*


*Suggested further readings*


**November 14**

**Practice week (no class)**

*Assignment:* watch one of the following documentaries and try to identify the given conflict issues/parties/positional differences/decision-making processes/methods of conflict and negotiation. [see the ‘assignment’ template in the cloud!]


**Part Three. Debates and Processes of Global Environmental Politics**

This section exposes students to the wide array of current debates related to the Global Environmental Politics, allowing them to discover both the diversity of the environmental issues and complexity of decision-making in this field.

**November 21**

**Environment and democracy.**

*Baseline*

Suggested further readings


November 28th. Environment and security.

Baseline


Suggested further readings


December 5th. Environmental justice.

Baseline


Suggested further readings

December 12th. Environment and intergenerational justice (including #fridaysforfuture).

**Baseline**


**Suggested further readings**


December 19th. Population, development and environmental sustainability.

**Baseline**


**Suggested further readings**


December 26th. Wrap up – Evaluation, round of feedbacks and Q & A.

No readings.