

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	MA in International Relations
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Global Environment Politics
Course Code:	INR 7403
Course Leader:	Dr Rafal Soborski
Student Engagement Hours:	200
Lectures:	39
Seminar / Tutorials:	6
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
Semester:	SPRING
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course explores the dynamics, challenges and prospects of global environmental governance. It introduces students to the history of global environmentalism and discusses relevant theoretical developments in this field, especially the competing perspectives of realism, liberalism, constructivism and Marxism. The normative concerns of global environmentalism are discussed along with key concepts of Green politics (sustainability, consumption, North-South relations, globalization, environmental justice, ethics and citizenship), while the processes of environmental policy-making are examined through case studies in areas such as whaling, ozone depletion, deforestation and especially climate change. The role of key actors in global environmental politics is analyzed, including states, intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, business corporations and scientific experts.

Prerequisites: MA International Relations and MA International Development students only

Aims and Objectives

- To develop an analytical understanding of key themes and concepts informing global environmental politics;
- To examine major theoretical explanations and academic debates relating to global environmental politics;
- To apply theory in evaluating the progress in negotiations and/or implementation in different areas of international environmental policy-making;
- To identify the main actors in global environmental governance and to critically evaluate their role in advancing or obstructing effective action on specific environmental problems.

Programme Outcomes:

LEVEL 7 A, B, C, D, E, G

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the main theoretical approaches in IR in explaining the strengths and weaknesses of a range of global environmental regimes
- Respond in a critical and innovative way to the normative concerns informing global environmental politics
- Demonstrate a deep, systematic and innovative ability to adapt and apply theoretical knowledge to analysis of the means and mechanisms of global environmental governance
- Design and undertake substantial research in the area of global environmental politics, while critically reflecting on the different theoretical and methodological tools
- Engage with and evaluate complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence in the area of global environmental politics
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and diverse information regarding global environmental issues, actors and practices, while reflecting upon and improving the skills required for effective communication

Indicative Content:

- Key concepts informing global environmental politics, e.g., sovereignty, sustainable development, environmental justice, environmental citizenship

- History of global environmentalism; successes and failures of global environmental cooperation to date
- Key actors in global environmental governance: states, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and social movements, multinational corporations
- State sovereignty in light of the dilemmas posed by global environmental challenges
- Environment and globalization
- Environment and development
- Environmental security

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

FHEQ level	Richmond/UK Level	Normal Number of Items (including final exam)*	Total assessment
LEVEL 7	R7000/UK MA	2-3	5000-7000 words

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the Course instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Bibliography:

- Adger, N. and Jordan, A. (eds) (2009) *Governing Sustainability*. CUP.
- Axelrod, R. Downie, D and Vig, N. (eds) (2005) *The Global Environment*. CQ Press.
- Chasek, P. and Downie, D (2013) *Global Environmental Politics*, 6th edition. Westview.
- Conca, K and Dabelko, G. D. (eds) (2010) *Green Planet Blues: Four Decades of Global Environmental Politics*, 4th edition. Westview.
- Harris, P. G. (2013) *Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics*. Routledge.
- Held, D. et al (eds) (2011) *The Governance of Climate Change*. Polity.
- O'Neill, K. (2009) *The Environment and International Relations*. CUP.

See syllabus for complete reading list

