

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Social Sciences and Humanities

Programme: Political Science
American Studies
International Relations

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Politics of Environmentalism

Course Code: PLT 5103

Total Hours: 120

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 0

Independent Learning Hours: 75

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

Examines the political, economic, ideological, and social dilemmas associated with environmental issues. The first section of the course addresses the historical roots of environmentalism, its key concepts, and a range of key thinkers and paradigms for understanding environmentalism as an ideology. The second section of the course explores the role of key actors engaged in environmental policy making, and important issues in contemporary environmental politics. Topics addressed include environmental movements and parties, global environmental regimes, the impact of the media on environmental issues, and prospects for green technologies and employment.

Pre-requisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To extend the understanding of social science students about the politics of environmentalism, in a global context
- To provide PS and IR majors with a broad background in the study of environmental politics, to better prepare them for further study in this field
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organizations, business, and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of contemporary politics of environmentalism
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that will be of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

Political Science: 5A(ii); 5B(ii); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(iii)

International Relations: 5A(ii); 5B(ii); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(iii)

American Studies: A5(i), B5(ii), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(i), D5(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates a critical engagement with theories and concepts used to analyse and explain institutional and policy issues pertaining to the environment
- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the continuities and transformations evident in the core thematic debates relating to environmentalism.
- Completes assigned work with a degree of autonomy, clarity, technical competence, capacity for self-evaluation and critical thinking appropriate for a 5000-level course
- Demonstrates a range of well-developed skills that are relevant to the workplace including the ability to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences, and levels of complexity

Indicative Content:

- The origins of environmentalism
- Key concepts and paradigms in environmentalism
- Environmental philosophy
- Environmental policymaking
- Environmental movements and parties
- International aspects of environmentalism

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Indicative Texts:

- Carter, N. (2018) *The Politics of the Environment*. 3rd ed. CUP.
- Kraft, M. E. (2018) *Environmental Policy and Politics*. 7th ed. New York and Oxon: Routledge.
- Elliott, J. A. (2013) *An Introduction to Sustainable Development*. 4th ed. Routledge.
- Connelly, J. et al. (2012) *Politics and the Environment: From Theory to Practice*. 3rd ed. Routledge.
- Sarkar, S. (2012) *Environmental Policy: From Theory to Practice*. Polity.
- Curry, P. (2011) *Ecological Ethics: An Introduction*. Polity.
- Giddens, A. (2011) *The Politics of Climate Change*. 2nd ed. Polity.
- Keller, D. R. (Ed.) (2010) *Environmental Ethics: The Big Questions*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- O'Neill, K. (2009) *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge.
- Dobson, A. (2007) *Green Political Thought*. 4th ed. Routledge.
- Dryzek, J. and D. Schlosberg (Eds.) (2005) *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader*. 2nd ed. OUP.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	