

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

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

**Academic School/Department:** Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

**Programme:** Political Science

**FHEQ Level:** 6

**Course Title:** Politics of Environmentalism

**Course Code:** PLT 6410

**Course Leader:** Professor Alex Seago

**Student Engagement Hours:** **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

**Semester:** FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

**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:** HST 4110 or PHL 4100 or PLT 4100 or INR 4100 or SCL 4110

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- To extend the understanding of social science students with regard to 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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:**

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

6A(i); 6A(ii); 6B(i); 6B(ii); 6B(iv); 6C(i); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D(ii); 6D(iii); 6D(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the major thinkers and intellectual paradigms in environmentalism
- Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in the politics of environmentalism
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of environmental policy making, and the domestic, regional and international levels.
- Demonstrates a systematic insight into cultural, economic, international and social dimensions of the politics of environmentalism
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major thematic debates in the politics of environmentalism
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course
- Demonstrates flexible skills that translate directly into the workplace, including, through teamwork and presentations, 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 policy-making
- Environmental movements and parties
- International aspects of environmentalism

### **Assessment:**

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

### **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

