

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Department of Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	MA in International Relations
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	7
<b>Course Title:</b>	Global Environmental Politics
<b>Course Code:</b>	INR 7403
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr Paul Rekret
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	200 (standard 4 credit MA course)
Lectures:	
Seminar / Tutorials:	45
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall, Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	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. This course may be co-taught with PLT6410 Politics of Environmentalism.

### Prerequisites:

MA International Relations students

### 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;<sup>2</sup>
- To apply theory in evaluating the progress in negotiations and/or implementation in different areas of international environmental policymaking;
- 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:**

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

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 Registry and found at:

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

**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 University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

**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.

**Indicative Text(s):**

- Conca, K and Dabelko, G. D. (eds) (2019) *Green Planet Blues: Four Decades of Global Environmental Politics*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Westview.
- Carter, N. (2018) *The Politics of the Environment*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. CUP.
- Kraft, M. E. (2018) *Environmental Policy and Politics*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York and Oxon: Routledge.
- Wainwright, J. and G. Mann (2018) *Climate Leviathan: A Political Theory of Our Planetary Future*. London: Verso.
- Chasek, P. and D. Downie (2017) *Global Environmental Politics*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.. Westview.
- Blewitt, J. (2017) *Understanding Sustainable Development*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Routledge
- Harris, P. G. (2013) *Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics*. Routledge.
- Newell, P. (2013) *Globalization and the Environment*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Connelly, J. *et al.* (2012) *Politics and the Environment: From Theory to Practice*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Routledge.

**Journals**

**Web Sites and Blogs**

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Change Log for this CSD:**

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Title change to fix typographical error	DSS 4/12/20	
Bibliography updated	DSS 4/12/20	