

Course Syllabus

International Environmental Policy

Course Level: 200

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Course Description:

This course explores opportunities and challenges for international environmental regulations, examining the interactions between international organizations, national governments, NGOs, multinational corporations, and local communities in global environmental rule-making. Students will engage in a detailed analysis of global environmental governance, addressing key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, climate, urbanization, and trade. Through case studies, policy analysis, and simulations, students will develop a critical understanding of the complex dynamics involved in shaping international environmental policy.

Learning Objectives

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

1. Understand the historical evolution and current state of global environmental governance.
2. Identify the roles of key actors in the international environmental policy arena.
3. Analyze the interaction between global environmental policies and national/local governments.
4. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of various international environmental agreements.
5. Develop and propose policy solutions to address global environmental challenges.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Key Activities</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1	Introduction to International Environmental Policy	Overview of key themes, historical evolution of governance, introduction to key actors	<i>Global Environmental Politics</i> (Ch. 1 & 2)
2	Global Environmental Governance Frameworks	Discussion on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), principles of environmental governance	UNEP reports on global governance frameworks
3	Role of International Organizations	Group presentations on the role of international organizations	<i>Global Environmental Politics</i> (Ch. 3)

4	National Governments and Environmental Policy	Case study: U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement	<i>Global Environmental Governance Reconsidered</i> (Ch. 5)
5	The Role of NGOs	Case study: Greenpeace's impact on global climate policy	Articles on NGOs' roles in environmental policy
6	Multinational Corporations and Environmental Governance	Debate on the role of corporations in environmental governance	<i>Environmental Politics for a Changing World</i> (Ch. 6)
7	Group Presentation	Group Presentation	Presentations will be based on the topics already discussed in class (Week 1-6)
8	Biodiversity and International Environmental Policy	Case study: International efforts to protect endangered species	CBD policy reports
9	Agriculture, Forestry, and Environmental Governance	Role-playing simulation on international deforestation negotiations	FAO and World Bank reports on forestry policies
10	Urbanization, Trade, and Environmental Policy	Case study: Sustainable urban development in megacities	<i>The Politics of the Environment</i> (Ch. 4)
11	Trade and Environmental Conflicts	Case study: The tuna-dolphin dispute between the US and Mexico	WTO dispute settlement case files
12	Local Communities and International Policy	Case study: Indigenous rights in international climate policy	IUCN reports
13	Global Environmental Justice and Equity	Group discussion on global environmental equity	Articles on environmental justice from <i>Global Environmental Change</i>
14	Future of International Environmental Policy	Final Assignment Due: Policy brief on environmental challenge	UN Sustainable Development Goals report

Course Assignments and Evaluation

1. Class Participation (30%)

Active participation in class discussions/presentations/reflection paper/debates and demonstrating engagement with class readings.

2. Group Presentation (30%):

Students will select a topic of their choice from a given list of discussed class topics.

3. **Final Exam (40%):** A mix of **multiple-choice questions** and **short essay questions** covering key concepts from **five key topics** discussed in class.
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Course Policies

- **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction.
 - **Late Submissions:** Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a penalty of 5% per day late.
 - **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to university policies.
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Required Readings

1. Chasek, P. S., Downie, D. L., & Brown, J. W. (2020). *Global Environmental Politics* (8th ed.). Routledge.
 2. Biermann, F., & Pattberg, P. (Eds.). (2012). *Global Environmental Governance Reconsidered*. MIT Press.
 3. Carter, N. (2021). *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* (4th ed.). Cambridge University Press
 4. IPCC reports, WTO case files, and other supplementary articles will be provided weekly.
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- Each week's materials would include essential resources that would be accessed through reputable platforms such as UNEP, IPCC, CBD, WTO, and academic journals like *Global Environmental Politics* and *Environmental Politics*. These would provide comprehensive overviews, case studies, and frameworks for deeper understanding.