

PPOL 5420: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY

Thursdays, 13:30 – 16:20, Room 2463 (Lift 25-26)

Instructor	Teaching Assistant
Prof. James K. WONG (jameskalei@ust.hk) Room 3370 (lifts 13-15), Academic Building Office hours: By e-mail appointment	Mr. Ye PAN (ypanaw@connect.ust.hk)

Course Description

This course introduces students to the political dimensions of environmental policy. It explores how various political actors and institutions interact with each other in shaping environmental policy. The course is divided into two parts. First, it presents the normative and ideational foundations for environmental politics and discusses the major forms of collective action. Second, it analyzes the government's policy responses to environmental ideas and activism in the context of capitalist political economy. Students will benefit from the ability to think politically about the environment, which is essential for successful environmental policymaking in practice.

Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. Knowledge: (a) Explain the key ideas and issues in environmental politics; and (b) analyze the roles and impacts of actors and institutions in environmental collective action and policy making.
2. Skills: Apply concepts and theories to evaluate the debates in environmental politics and policy.
3. Attitude: Exercise independent and critical judgements as well as formulate and communicate arguments effectively.

Class Schedule

Class / Date	Topic	Class / Date	Topic
1 / Feb 1	Introduction	8 / Mar 21	Mini-project Demonstration 1: 'Environmental Campaign'
2 / Feb 8	Module 1: Environmental Philosophy and Green Political Thought	9 / Apr 11	Module 3: Environmental Policy Change
3 / Feb 15		10 / Apr 18	
4 / Feb 22		11 / Apr 25	Module 4: Environmental Policy Principles and Instruments
5 / Feb 29	Module 2: Environmental Groups and Movements	12 / May 2	TEST 2 Mini-project Consultation
6 / Mar 7		13 / May 9	Mini-project Demonstration 2: 'Environmental Policy Response'
7 / Mar 14	TEST 1 Mini-project Consultation		

Note: Class schedule and topics may be adjusted to facilitate students' learning.

Assessment and Grading

Assignment / Weighting	Requirements
Category A: Group Assignments	
Mini-project 1: ‘Environmental Campaign’ <i>Alignment with ILOs 1(a), 1(b), 2 & 3</i>	15% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student team will be assigned ONE environmental issue in Hong Kong. They will create a video <u>in about 5 minutes</u> to campaign for government action on the environmental issue concerned. Each team will demonstrate their environmental campaign based on the campaign video in Class 8 (Mar 21). <u>Each demonstration should NOT exceed 8 minutes</u>, followed by questions and answers. The final version of the campaign video should be submitted by 23:59, Mar 24 (Sun).
Mini-project 2: ‘Environmental Policy Response’ <i>Alignment with ILOs 1(a), 1(b), 2 & 3</i>	15% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student team will formulate a policy response to one of the environmental campaigns by their peers. The response should be presented in the format of a digital poster. Each team will demonstrate their environmental policy response based on the digital poster in Class 13 (May 9). <u>Each demonstration should NOT exceed 8 minutes</u>, followed by questions and answers. The final version of the poster should be submitted by 23:59, May 12 (Sun).
Category B: Individual Assignments	
Test 1 & Test 2 <i>Alignment with ILOs 1(a), 1(b), 2 & 3</i>	60% (30% each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both tests are open-book tests. Part I contains MC and/or short questions; Part II contains a structured or essay question. The time allowed for completion is, approximately, 40 minutes for Part I and 40 minutes for Part II. The two parts are timed separately. Test 1 will take place in Class 7 (Mar 14). Test 2 will take place in Class 12 (May 2). Students must complete the test in person. <u>Under no circumstances can the test be completed outside the test venue.</u> In case of medical/family emergencies or unavoidable duties, students must present appropriate evidence to request for ‘make-up’ arrangements.
Self-reflection <i>Alignment with ILOs: 3</i>	10% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student will write a self-reflection on the learning experience in the ‘environmental campaign’ mini-project <u>AND/OR</u> the ‘environmental policy response’ mini-project. <u>The word count should NOT exceed 800 words</u>, excluding references and appendices. The self-reflection should be submitted by 23:59, May 15 (Wed).

Note 1 **Attendance and Participation Bonus:** A maximum of 5 points will be awarded to students who contribute actively to class discussions. Attendance will be taken on an ad hoc basis.

Note 2 **Penalty:** For late submission, no submission or no show, mark penalty will apply. For confirmed cases of plagiarism, cheating and abuse of generative AI tools, severe sanctions will be imposed.

Note 3 **Prevention of Free Riding:** Each group should attach detailed division of labor for all group-based assignments. The score of each individual student may be adjusted based on the division and quality of labor.

Important Dates

Date / Time	Task	Date / Time	Task
Feb 17 / 23:59	Grouping confirmation	May 2 / in class	Test 2
Mar 14 / in class	Test 1	May 9 / in class	Mini-project demonstration 2
Mar 21 / in class	Mini-project demonstration 1	May 12 / 23:59	Submission of digital posters
Mar 24 / 23:59	Submission of campaign videos	May 15 / 23:59	Submission of self-reflection on mini-project(s)

Course Reading

Textbooks (Reserved at HKUST Library)

- [T1] Neil Carter (2018) *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* (3rd edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [NB: Essential text for the entire course; e-book available for 2nd edition].
- [T2 – e-book] James Connelly, Graham Smith, David Benson, and Clare Saunders (2012) *Politics and the Environment: From Theory to Practice* (3rd edition), Abingdon: Routledge [NB: Useful reference for the entire course, especially case studies].

Useful References (Reserved at HKUST Library)

- [UR1] Andrew Dobson (2016) *Environmental Politics: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- [UR2] John McCormick (2018) *Environmental Politics and Policy*, London: Palgrave. [e-book]
- [UR3] Michael Kraft (2021) *Environmental Policy and Politics* (8th edition), New York/Abingdon: Routledge.
- [UR4] Timothy Doyle, Doug McEachern, and Sherilyn MacGregor (2016) *Environment and Politics* (4th edition), Abingdon: Routledge. [e-book]
- [UR5] John Dryzek and David Schlosberg (eds.) (2005) *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader* (2nd edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Reading List

Topic	Primary Reading	Supplementary Reading
Introduction	[T1], ch. 1	[T2], pp.1-12
Module 1: Environmental Philosophy and Green Political Thought	[T1], ch. 2, 3	[T2], ch. 1, 2
Module 2: Environmental Groups and Movements	[T1], ch. 6 [T2], ch. 3	[UR4], ch. 3, 4
Module 3: Environmental Policy Change	[T1], ch. 7	[T2], ch. 4
Module 4: Environmental Policy Principles and Instruments	[T1], ch. 12	[T2], ch. 5

Course Communications

All announcements are made through the course website on Canvas <<https://canvas.ust.hk/>>. For e-mail communications, students should allow at least 3 working days for a reply. **All e-mail enquiries regarding any of the course assessments should be made at least 48 hours before their respective due dates.**

Class Rules

Students should avoid using mobile phones except for class activities. **Video/sound recording is NOT allowed.** If there is a genuine need for video/sound recording, students must seek permission from the course instructor *before* the class begins.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating are very serious offences. Students are reminded of the consequences for violating University's regulations governing academic integrity and honesty. For details of the regulations, please visit <<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/academic-integrity>>. For advice on avoiding plagiarism and copying, please visit <<http://libguides.ust.hk/writing/style-man>>.

Feedback on Assessment Tasks

The teaching team aims to provide feedback on students' assessment tasks within 10 working days of their submission.

Generative AI Tools

There are no restrictions on the use of generative AI for assessment tasks. However, students should understand that generative AI tools should only be used as *tools* and should NOT be a substitute for students' own work. Students must certify that the work submitted in their assignments is their own original work, except where they have acknowledged the use of external sources or assistance, including generative AI tools.

Quality Assurance

Students are welcome to offer comments and suggestions on the course. The principal concern of this course is students' learning, and therefore, the instructor may modify the schedule if this will facilitate their learning.

Last revised: January 25, 2024