

PPOL 6100H: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY

Thursdays, 15:00 – 17:50, Room 4502 (lifts 25-26)*

**Due to COVID-19, all classes will be conducted on Zoom until further notice.*

Instructor	Teaching Assistant
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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 (ILOs)

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 10	Introduction	7 / Mar 24	Environmental Policy Instruments
2 / Feb 17	Environmental Philosophy	8 / Mar 31	Valuation of the Environment
3 / Feb 24	Green Political Thought	9 / Apr 7	Global Environmental Politics
4 / Mar 3	Environmental Groups	10 / Apr 21	Environmental Policy Discourses
5 / Mar 10	Environmental Movements	11 / Apr 28	Group Project Presentations
6 / Mar 17	Environmental Policy Change	12 / May 5	Conclusion

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

Assessment and Grading

Deliverable / Weighting	Requirements
Policy Briefing – Poster and Video Description (group-based) <i>This deliverable aims to help students consolidate and apply the key concepts and/or theories learnt through analyzing</i>	20% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will identify ONE environmental issue in a country or jurisdiction and prepare a policy briefing which recommends a policy alternative to address the chosen environmental issue. • Students will design a digital poster and prepare a video description in 5-10 minutes to illustrate the poster. They will share the poster and video description for peer review as well as respond to a peer review in 2-3 minutes.

<p><i>real-world issues, which aligns with ILOs #1(a), #1(b), #2 and #3.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The poster and video description should be submitted by 23:59, Apr 22 (Fri). Responses to peer review will take place on Apr 28 (Thu). • All posters and video descriptions will be assessed based on content, organization, and style.
<p>Peer Review (group-based)</p> <p><i>This deliverable aims to help students develop critical thinking skills by reviewing their peers' poster and video description, which aligns with ILOs #2 and #3.</i></p>	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will critically review the digital poster and video description of a peer group as assigned. • They will deliver a verbal review in 5 minutes and complete a review form with written comments and suggestions. • The verbal review will take place on Apr 28 (Thu). The review form should be submitted by 23:59, May 3 (Tue). • All peer reviews will be assessed based on content only.
<p>Take-home Essays 1 & 2</p> <p><i>This deliverable aims to help students consolidate one or more ethical perspectives through analyzing a prescribed case, which aligns with ILOs #1(a), #1(b), #2 and #3.</i></p>	50% (25% each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both essays are open-book assignments. • For each essay, student will answer, in 7 days, one of the prescribed questions in 1,200-1,500 words, excluding endnotes and appendices. • Essay 1 covers the topics of Classes 1 to 5. Essay 2 covers the topics of Classes 6 to 10. • The questions for Essay 1 will be released by 18:00, Mar 24 (Thu). The questions for Essay 2 will be released by 18:00, May 5 (Thu). • Students should submit Essay 1 by 23:59, Mar 31 (Thu) and Essay 2 by 23:59, May 12 (Thu).
<p>Multiple-choice (MC) Quizzes</p> <p><i>This deliverable aims to help students consolidate the key lessons learnt from classes and readings, which aligns with ILOs #1(a), #1(b) and #2.</i></p>	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will complete THREE MC Quizzes on Canvas. All quizzes are open-book assessments. • Each quiz contains 10 questions, takes 15 minutes to complete, and is worth 5% (total for three quizzes: 15%). • Quiz 1 covers the topics of Classes 1 to 3, Quiz 2 covers Classes 4 to 7, and Quiz 3 covers Classes 8 to 10. • Quiz 1 will take place on Mar 10 (Thu), Quiz 2 on Apr 7 (Thu), and Quiz 3 on May 5 (Thu). • In addition, each student will design TWO MC questions for a quiz as assigned. These questions may be adopted, subject to some necessary modifications by the teaching team. This task is worth 5%. • Students responsible for setting questions for a quiz should submit their questions 5 days before the corresponding quiz (23:59 of Mar 5, Apr 2, and Apr 30 for Quizzes 1, 2 and 3 respectively).

* **Participation Bonus:** A maximum of 5 points will be awarded to students who contribute actively to class discussions.

** **Penalty:** For late submission, no submission or no show, mark penalty will apply. For confirmed cases of plagiarism, severe sanctions will be imposed.

Important Dates

Date / Time	Task	Date / Time	Task
Mar 3 / 23:59	Confirm grouping	Apr 22 / 23:59	Submit poster and video description
Mar 5 / 23:59	Submit proposed questions for MC Quiz 1 (<i>if applicable</i>)	Apr 28 / in class	Verbal reviews and responses
Mar 10 / in class	MC Quiz 1	Apr 30 / 23:59	Submit proposed questions for MC Quiz 3 (<i>if applicable</i>)
Mar 31 / 23:59	Submit Take-home Essay 1	May 3 / 23:59	Submit review form
Apr 2 / 23:59	Submit proposed questions for MC Quiz 2 (<i>if applicable</i>)	May 5 / in class	MC Quiz 3
Apr 7 / in class	MC Quiz 2	May 12 / 23:59	Submit Take-home Essay 2

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] Timothy Doyle, Doug McEachern, and Sherilyn MacGregor (2016) *Environment and Politics* (4th edition), Abingdon: Routledge. [e-book]
- [UR4] John Dryzek (2021) *The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses* (4th edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press. [2nd edition available; 4th edition pending]
- [UR5] Hayley Stevenson (2018) *Global Environmental Politics: Problems, Policy and Practice*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [UR6] John Dryzek and David Schlosberg (eds.) (2005) *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader* (2nd edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Reading List

Class	Topic	Primary Reading	Supplementary Reading
1	Introduction	[T1], ch. 1	[T2], pp.1-12
2	Environmental Philosophy	[T1], ch. 2	[T2], ch. 1
3	Green Political Thought	[T1], ch. 3	[T2], ch. 2
4	Environmental Groups	[T1], ch. 6	[UR3], ch. 4
5	Environmental Movements	[T2], ch. 3	[UR3], ch. 3
6	Environmental Policy Change	[T1], ch. 7	[T2], ch. 4
7	Environmental Policy Instruments	[T1], ch. 12	[T2], ch. 5

8	Valuation of the Environment	[T2], ch. 6	--
9	Global Environmental Politics	[T1], ch. 9	[T2], ch. 7
10	Environmental Policy Discourses	[UR4], ch. 1	[UR4], ch. 2-12
11	Group Project Presentations	No reading	
12	Conclusion	*See Canvas	

Course Administration

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 assessments above should be made at least 48 hours before their respective due dates.**

Class Rules

For students in face-to-face classes, they 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 instructor before the session begins. For students on the Zoom platform, they should NOT annotate, share screens, capture screenshots, record sound, take photos or videos, or play sound or videos without the prior permission of the instructor or TA. **They should NOT share the login details, course materials, lecture recordings, or information of class members with any parties outside the class.**

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: <http://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/student-1.html>. For advice on avoiding plagiarism and copying, please visit: <http://libguides.ust.hk/writing/style-man>.

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 28, 2022