

Environmental Politics

GV591-AU

Autumn 2016-2017

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Lecturer and Module Supervisor:

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TBA

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Instant Deadline Checker:

Essay 1: Week 7 (14/11/16)

50% of coursework mark

Essay 2: Week 11 (12/12/16)

50% of coursework mark

Module Description:

GV591 offers a comprehensive introduction to one of the most important contemporary aspects of political action and decision-making: the environment. The course focuses on the domestic and comparative politics of the environment. The module begins by examining the state of the environment and possible paths along which it might change. We then move on to consider environmental politics at various different levels of political behaviour and organization, starting with individual-level values, before moving up the organized politics of the environmental movement, interest groups, political parties, governments and finally international institutions. At each level we consider what drives approaches to the environment and what the consequences of those approaches are for political organization and action.

Module Aims:

The aim of the module is to provide students with the necessary analytical foundations to conduct theoretical and empirical research on the environment. The focus of this module does not lie on specific techniques. By the end of the module the students should have achieved the following:

- Learn the basic issues related to the domestic politics of the environment
- Gained knowledge of the major political theories regarding the management of environmental resources
- Understand how many actors are involved in addressing and solving environmental issues such as climate change.

Learning Outcomes & Key Skills:

Students will learn how political scientists tackle questions such as: ‘when do businesses and social movements support environmental policy?’ and ‘why are some government more ‘green’ than others?’. They will also learn how to use empirical evidence to test major political theories of environmental politics. The course will strengthen their analytical and writing skills. It is expected that students are capable of processing top political science literature and critically assess secondary research. Students are also expected to understand the principles of research design and how to write academic papers.

Module Structure and Teaching:

Teaching on the module will be in form of a one-hour lecture and a one-hour class. Lectures are used to introduce ideas and topics. They will be followed by class discussion. At other times we will initiate round-table discussions based on members of the class all reading and thinking about a particular topic. We will often distribute lecture notes. These are intended to introduce significant concepts and arguments but are not a substitute for you doing the set reading.

Assessment:

There is no final examination on this module. The two essays are worth 50% of the overall mark and should be around 3000 words.

Coursework Submission:

How to submit your essay using FASer (Online Coursework Submission)

You will be able to access the online submission via your myEssex portal or via <https://faser.essex.ac.uk>. FASer allows you to store your work-in-progress. This facility provides you with an ideal place to keep partially completed copies of your work and ensures that no work, even drafts, is lost. If you have problems uploading your coursework, you should contact ltt@essex.ac.uk. You may find it helpful to look at the FASer guide <http://www.essex.ac.uk/elen/student/ocs.shtm>. If you have any questions about FASer, please contact your administrator or refer to the handbook.

Under NO circumstances is your coursework to be emailed to the administrators or the lecturer. This will NOT be counted as a submission.

Coursework deadline policy for undergraduates

There is a single policy at the University of Essex for the late submission of coursework in undergraduate courses. Essays must be uploaded before 09.45 on the day of the deadline. All coursework submitted after the deadline will receive a mark of zero. The mark of zero shall stand unless the student submits satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that indicate that the student was unable to submit the work prior to the deadline. For further information on late submission of coursework and extenuating circumstances procedures please refer to <http://www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/students/ug/extenug.html>. Essay feedback will be given via FASer. ALL submissions should be provided with a coversheet (Available from Moodle).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence and whether done wittingly or unwittingly it is your responsibility. **Ignorance is no excuse!** The result of plagiarism could mean receiving a mark of zero for the piece of coursework. In some cases, the rules of assessment are such that a mark of zero for a single piece of coursework could mean that you will fail your degree. If it is a very serious case, you could be required to withdraw from the University. It is important that you understand right from the start of your studies what good academic practice is and adhere to it throughout your studies. The Department will randomly select coursework for plagiarism checks and lecturers are very good at spotting work that is not your own. **Plagiarism gets you nowhere: DON'T DO IT!**

Following the guidance on referencing correctly will help you avoid plagiarism. Please familiarise yourself with the University's policy on academic offences: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/academic/docs/regs/offpro.shtm>.

Extenuating circumstances for late submission of coursework

The university has guidelines on what is acceptable as extenuating circumstances for later submission of coursework. If you need to make a claim, you should upload your coursework to FASer and submit a late submission of coursework form which can be found here: http://www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/students/ug/crswk_pol.htm. This must be done within seven days of the deadline. FASer closes for all deadlines after seven days. The Late Submissions committee will decide whether your work should be marked and you will be notified of the outcome.

If you experience significant longer-term extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your work either by the deadline or within seven days of the deadline, you should submit an Extenuating Circumstances Form for the Board of Examiners to consider at the end of the year.

Module Outline & Reading:

The following book will be used in the course. In addition you will receive additional lecture materials online via Moodle.

- Carter, Neil. 2007. *The Politics of the Environment*. Cambridge University Press. (2nd Edition).

Please read the required readings *before* the lecture! The required weekly readings below are should be read by everyone. The amount of required reading per week never exceeds three items, in order to allow students to reasonably read before each lecture. Most weeks include a list of 'recommended' readings, which are meant to help students find relevant material. What else students read on top of the required items and lecture notes should depend on their interests and the essays they write.

Sessions

I. Introduction

Week 2 Introduction to Environmental Politics

Carter, N. *The Politics of the Environment*, 2nd Edition, ch. 2, 3.

G. Hardin, 'The Tragedy of the Commons,' *Science*, Vol. 162, No. 3859 (Dec. 13, 1968), pp. 1243-1248.

Week 3 Foundations of Environmental Politics: Political Economy, Market Policy, and Social Values

Walley, N. & Whitehead, B. 'It's Not Easy Being Green'. *Harvard Business Review*, 1994, 72, 46-52

R. Stavins and B. Whitehead, 'Market-Based Environmental Policies'; R. Goodin, 'Selling Environmental Indulgences', and P. Hawken, A. Lovins and L. Hunter Lovins 'The Next Industrial Revolution' reprinted in J. Dryzek and D. Schlosberg (eds.) *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader* (2nd Edition)

O'Riordan, Timothy and Andrew Jordan. "The Precautionary Principle in Contemporary Environmental Politics". *Environmental Values*, 1995, 4(3):191-312.

II. Individual Preferences & Organized Interests

Week 4 Perceptions, Debates and The Public Opinion of Environmental Politics

Aldy, J. E.; Kotchen, M. J. & Leiserowitz, A. A. 'Willingness to Pay and Political Support for a US National Clean Energy Standard.' *Nature Climate Change*, 2012, 2, 596-599.

Bechtel, M. M. & Scheve, K. F. 'Mass Support for Global Climate Agreements Depends on Institutional Design.' *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2013, 110, 13763-13768.

Kim, So Young and Wolinsky-Nahmias, Yael. 'Cross-National Public Opinion on Climate Change: The Effects of Affluence and Vulnerability.' *Global Environmental Politics*, 2014, 14:1, 79-106.

Recommended Readings:

- R. Inglehart, 'Public Support for Environmental Protection: The Impact of Objective Problems and Subjective Values in 43 Societies', *Political Science and Politics* 28 (1995), 57-71.

- B. Kvaløy, H. Finseraas and O. Listhaug, ‘The publics’ concern for global warming: A cross-national study of 47 countries’, *Journal of Peace Research* 49 (2012), 11-22.

Week 5 Corporate Interests, Business Actors and Environmental Politics

Szakonyi, D. & Urpelainen, J. ‘Who Benefits From Economic Reform? Firms and Distributive Politics.’ *The Journal of Politics*, 2014, 76, 1-18.

Rigling-Gallagher, D. and Weinthal, E. ‘Business-State Relations and the Environment: The Evolving Role of Corporate Responsibility’, in P. Steinberg and S. VanDeveer (eds.) *Comparative Environmental Politics*, 143-170.

Vogel, D. ‘Private Global Business Regulation’, *Annual Review of Political Science*, 11 (2008), 261-282.

Recommended Readings:

- Kim, S. E.; Urpelainen, J. & Yang, J. ‘Electric Utilities and American Climate Policy: Lobbying by Expected Winners and Losers.’ *Journal of Public Policy*, 2015.

Week 6 Social Movements, Civil Actors and Environmental Politics

Carter, N. *The Politics of the Environment*, 2nd Edition, chpt. 6.

Kitschelt, H. P. ‘Political Opportunity Structures and Political Protest: Anti-Nuclear Movements in Four Democracies.’ *British Journal of Political Science*, 1986, 16, 57-85.

Gullberg, A. T. ‘Lobbying Friends and Foes in Climate Policy: The Case of Business and Environmental Interest Groups in the European Union.’ *Energy Policy*, 2008, 36, 2964-2972.

Schlosberg, D. and Carruthers, D. ‘Indigenous Struggles, Environmental Justice and Community Capabilities’, *Global Environmental Politics*, 2010, 10, 12-35.

Recommended Readings:

- Dalton, R. ‘The Greening of the Globe? Cross-National Levels of Environmental Group Membership’, *Environmental Politics*, 2005, 14, 441-459.

III. Political Organizations & Domestic Institutions

Week 7 Political Parties and Environmental Politics

Carter, N. *The Politics of the Environment*, 2nd Edition, ch. 4-5.

Neumayer, E. 'Are Left-Wing Party Strength and Corporatism Good for the Environment? Evidence from Panel Analysis of Air Pollution in OECD Countries.' *Ecological Economics*, 2003, 45, 203-22

Spoon, J.-J., Hobolt, S. B. and de Vries, C. E. 'Going Green: Explaining Issue Competition on the Environment.' *European Journal of Political Research*, 2014, 53: 363-380.

Jensen, C.B. & Spoon, J.-J. 2012. Testing the 'Party Matters' Thesis: Explaining Progress Towards Kyoto Protocol Targets. *Political Studies*, 59 (1), 99-115.

Recommended Readings:

- Folke, O. 'Shades of Brown and Green: Party Effects in Proportional Election Systems.' *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2014, 12, 1361-1395.

Week 8

Domestic Institutions, Democracy and Environmental Politics

Carter, N. *The Politics of the Environment*, 2nd Edition, ch. 4-6.

Bernauer, T. & Koubi, V. 'Effects of Political Institutions on Air Quality.' *Ecological Economics*, 2009, 68, 1355-1365

Li, Q. & Reuveny, R. 'Democracy and Environmental Degradation.' *International Studies Quarterly*, 2006, 50, 935-956.

Baettig, M. B. and Bernauer, T. 'National institutions and global public goods: Are democracies more cooperative in climate change policy?', *International Organization*, 2009, 63(2): 281-308.

Recommended Readings:

- Ward, H. 'Liberal Democracy and Sustainability', *Environmental Politics*, 2008, 17, 349-409.
- List, J. A. & Sturm, D. M. 'How Elections Matter: Theory and Evidence from Environmental Policy.' *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2006, 121, 1249-1281.
- Neumayer, E. 'Do Democracies Exhibit Stronger Environmental Commitments?: A Cross-Country Analysis', *Journal of Peace Research*. 2002, 39, 139-64.

IV. Macro-Politics

Week 9

International Environmental Institutions and Environmental Politics

Hovi, J., Sprinz, D. F. & Underdal, A. 'Implementing Long-Term Climate Policy: Time Inconsistency, Domestic Politics, International Anarchy.' *Global Environmental Politics*, 2009, 9, 20-39.

Najam, A. 'Developing Countries and Global Environmental Governance: From Contestation to Participation to Engagement.' *International Environmental Agreements*, 2005, 5, 303-321.

Mitchell, R. B. 'Regime Design Matters: Intentional Oil Pollution and Treaty Compliance.' *International Organization*, 1994, 48, 425-458.

Recommended Readings:

- Urpelainen, J. 'A Model of Dynamic Climate Governance: Dream Big, Win Small.' *International Environmental Agreements*, 2013, 13, 107-125.

Week 10 Environmental Politics Related to Trade, Development and Equality

Barrett, S. and Graddy, K. 'Freedom, Growth and the Environment', *Environment and Development Economics*, 2000, 5, 433-56

Ward, H. and Cao, X. 'Domestic and International Influences on Green Taxation', *Comparative Political Studies*, 2012, 45.

Soumyananda Dinda. 'Environmental Kuznets Curve Hypothesis: A Survey.' *Ecological Economics*. 2004. 49, 431 ? 455.

V. Conclusion

Week 11 Conclusion

[No required readings]