

# Global Environmental Politics: Theory, Methods and Practice

**210069 SE BAK10: International Politics and Development (2021S)**

**Time: Fridays, 13:15-14:45,**

**DIGITAL**

**Start: 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2020**

**Contact: [alice.vadrot@univie.ac.at](mailto:alice.vadrot@univie.ac.at)**

**Contact (practical questions): [emmanuelle.brogat@univie.ac.at](mailto:emmanuelle.brogat@univie.ac.at)**

**Office hour: after agreement**

## Aims, contents and method of the course

This lecture provides bachelor students with a comprehensive introduction to the most important issues of global environmental politics. The course goes beyond climate change issues and addresses several pressing environmental issues such as biodiversity protection, desertification, over-fishing, whaling, acid rain, ozone-depletion, and water consumption.

Current developments in the field of global environmental politics are discussed from different theoretical and analytical perspectives with the aim to encourage students to develop and critically assess their own assumptions, perspectives and approaches to diverse issues of global environmental politics. Furthermore, the lecture will address the linkages between environmental politics and other areas such as security, trade, health, development, agriculture, and gender.

The lecture is structured around the textbook “Global Environmental Politics. Understanding the Governance of the Earth” (Morin, Orsini, and Jinnah, 2020) and provides students with a compilation of sources and introductory texts from several Handbooks introducing students to global environmental politics, relevant concepts, theories, methods and cases.

The course targets Bachelor students interested in the various themes of global environmental politics. While it may be an advantage if you have some knowledge on global environmental politics or political ecology, the course is still conceptualised in a way that permits all students to participate.

## The method of the course consists of

- short lectures and introduction to the topics of the course,
- reading of academic literature,
- preparation of sessions,
- Writing of excerpts and short essays
- group work during the course
- short students' presentations,
- discussions.

## Assessment and permitted materials

- Active participation (you are allowed to skip only one session and have to send me an in advance)
- Hand in all writings in time
- Writings:
- 3 Essays
  - Essay 1 (by 15.04.2021) (30%)
  - Essay 2 (by 04.06.2021) (30%)

- Essay 3 (by 09.07.2021) (30%)
- Active participation in class : group work and discussions (10 %)

- 100 to 90 Points: Very good (1)
- 89 to 80 Points: Good (2)
- 79 to 70 Points: Satisfactory (3)
- 69 to 60 Points: Sufficient (4)
- >60 Points: Poor (5)

## Essays

- Type: Essay
  - Topic essay 1: Why did environmental change become a matter of global concern?
  - Topic essay 2: Why is the North-South distinction useful to understand global environmental politics and when is it oversimplifying? (please use 3 examples e.g. climate change, biodiversity, water governance)
  - Topic essay 3: To be announced (April 2021)
- Language: English (please take care of grammar and spelling!!!)
- Lengths: 2000 words (Times New Roman, 11p, double spacing)
- To be uploaded on Moodle
- Use literature provided through seminar and complement with other sources
- You will receive the grade for each essay within two weeks after the deadline

## Minimum requirements and assessment criteria

- Knowledge about the content of all lectures
- Familiarity with key principles, concepts and terminology
- Knowledge about the content of the background literature
- Active participation
- Writings

## Structure, topics and timeline of the seminar

- Friday 19.03.2021: Introduction: The discipline of global environmental politics
- Friday 26.03.2021: Global Environmental Problems
- Friday 16.04.2021: Mainstream and alternative theories
- Friday 23.04.2021: Values and ideas about environmental protection
- Friday 30.04.2021: Actors and interests I: States
- Friday 07.05.2021: Actors and interests II: Non-state Actors
- Friday 14.05.2021: Bargaining over the environment- Tragedy of the Commons
- Friday 21.05.2021: Environmental diplomacy- international conferences and negotiations

- Friday 28.05.2021: Development and the environment
- Friday 04.06.2021: International institutions
- Friday 11.06.2021: Policy instruments and effectiveness
- Friday 18.06.2021: Natural resources, security and conflicts
- Friday 25.06.2021: Trade and environment

### Organisation of each session

- 13:15-13:25: Introduction to the topic by Assoc. Prof. Alice Vadrot
- 13:25-14:00: Group work (discuss responses to the question, open issues, and questions on the text)
- 14:00-14:40: Discussing responses in the plenary: each group presents responses to one question.
- 14:40-14:45: Introduction to next session

### Reading list for each session

#### **Friday 19.03.2021: Introduction**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020) Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 1-24.  
(PART 1, chapter 1)

O'Neill, K. (2017) The Environment and International Relations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 1-27. (chapter 1)

Harris, P.G. (2016) Introduction: delineating global environmental politics, in: Harris, P.G. (ed.) Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics, London & New York: Routledge, p. 1-14.

Cass, L.R. (2016) The discipline of global environmental politics: a short history in: Harris, P.G. (ed.) Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics, London & New York: Routledge, p. 17-29.

#### **Friday 26.03.2021: Global Environmental Problems**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020) Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 25-48.  
(PART 1, chapter 1)

O'Neill, K. (2017) The Environment and International Relations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 28-51.

#### **Friday 16.04.2021: Mainstream and alternative theories**

Vogler, J. (2016) Mainstream Theories: realism, rationalism and revolutionism, in: Harris, P.G. (ed.) Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics, London & New York: Routledge, p. 30-41.

Stevenson, H. (2016) Alternative Theories: Marxism and critical approaches, in: Harris, P.G. (ed.) Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics, London & New York: Routledge, p. 42-55.

#### **Friday 23.04.2021: Values and ideas about environmental protection**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020) Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 54-92. (PART 1, chapter 2)

Agarwal, A, and Narain, S. (1991) Global warming in an unequal world: a case of environmental colonialism. Earth Island Journal 6 (2): 39.40.

#### **Friday 30.04.2021: Actors and interests I: States**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020) Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 93-125. (PART 2, chapter 3).

O'Neill, K. (2017) The Environment and International Relations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 51-78. (chapter 3)

#### **Friday 07.05.2021: Actors and interests II: Non-state Actors**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020) Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p.126-160 (PART 2, chapter 4).

O'Neill, K. (2017) The Environment and International Relations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 51-78. (chapter 3)

#### **Friday 14.05.2021: Bargaining over the environment- Tragedy of the Commons**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020) Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p.160-191 (PART 3, chapter 5).

Blog: [The Tragedy of "The Tragedy of the Commons" - Scientific American Blog Network](#)

Short Essay: Patt, A. (2017) Beyond the tragedy of the commons: Reframing effective climate change Governance. Energy Research & Social Science (34), p. 1-3.

#### **Friday 21.05.2021: Environmental diplomacy- international conferences and negotiations**

Dimitrov, R. (2016) Environmental diplomacy- international conferences and negotiations, in: Harris, P.G. (ed.) Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics, London & New York: Routledge, p. 30-41.

Vadrot, A.B.M. 2020. Multilateralism as a 'site' of struggle over environmental knowledge: the North-South divide. Critical Policy Studies 14(2): 233-245.

### **Friday 28.05.2021: Development and the Environment**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020) Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p.192-226 (PART 3, chapter 6).

Steffen, W., Rockström, J., & Costanza, R. (2011). How Defining Planetary Boundaries Can Transform Our Approach to Growth. Solutions: For A Sustainable & Desirable Future, 2(3), p. 59-65.

### **Friday 04.06.2021: International Institutions**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020). Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p.227-258 (PART 4, chapter 7).

Meyer, J., Frank, D., Hironaka, A., Schofer, E., & Tuma, N. (1997). The Structuring of a World Environmental Regime, 1870–1990. International Organization, 51(4), p. 623-651.

### **Friday 11.06.2021: Policy Instruments and effectiveness**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020). Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p.259-290 (PART 4, chapter 8).

Pagiola, S., Arcenas, A., Platais, G. (2005). Can Payments for Environmental Services Help Reduce Poverty? An Exploration of the Issues and the Evidence to Date from Latin America, World Development, 33 (2), 237-253.

**OR**

Bang, G., Hovi, J., Skodvin, T. (2016). The Paris Agreement: Short-Term and Long-Term Effectiveness. Politics and Governance. 4 (3), p. 209-218.

### **Friday 18.06.2021: Natural resources, security and conflicts**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020). Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p.293-317 (PART 5, chapter 9).

De Soysa, I. (2012). The comfortable lie? Another look at natural resource scarcity and armed conflict, in: Dauvergne, P. (ed) (2012). Handbook of Global Environmental Politics. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, p. 125-143

### **Friday 25.06.2021: Trade and environment**

Morin, JF. et al. (2020). Global Environmental Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 318-348 (PART 5 chapter 10).

Gallagher, K.P. (2009). Economic Globalization and the Environment Annual Review of Environment and Resources, 34 (1), p. 279-304.

## References

- Agarwal, Anil, & Narain, Sunita. (1991). Global warming in an unequal world - a case of environmental colonialism. *Environment and Urbanization*, 3(1), 166.
- Bang, Guri, Hovi, Jon, & Skodvin, Tora. (2016). The Paris Agreement: Short-Term and Long-Term Effectiveness. *Politics and Governance*, 4(3), 209-218.
- Gallagher, Kevin P. (2009). Economic globalization and the environment. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 34(1), 279-304.
- Dauvergne, P. (ed) (2012). *Handbook of Global Environmental Politics*. 2nd Edition, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Harris, P. (2016). *Routledge handbook of global environmental politics*. London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Meyer, J., Frank, D., Hironaka, A., Schofer, E., & Tuma, N. (1997). The Structuring of a World Environmental Regime, 1870–1990. *International Organization*, 51(4), 623-651.
- Morin, J., Orsini, A., & Jinnah, S. (2020). *Global Environmental Politics: Understanding the Governance of the Earth*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- O'Neill, Kate. (2017). *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Pagiola, Stefano, Arcenas, Agustin, & Platais, Gunars. (2005). Can Payments for Environmental Services Help Reduce Poverty? An Exploration of the Issues and the Evidence to Date from Latin America. *World Development*, 33(2), 237-253.
- Patt, Anthony. (2017). Beyond the tragedy of the commons: Reframing effective climate change governance. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 34, 1-3.
- Steffen, Will & Costanza, Robert & Rockstrom, Johan. (2011). How Defining Planetary Boundaries Can Transform Our Approach to Growth. *Solutions*, 2(3).
- Vadrot, Alice.B.M. (2020). Multilateralism as a 'site' of struggle over environmental knowledge: the North-South divide, *Critical Policy Studies*, 14:2, 233-245
- The Tragedy of "The Tragedy of the Commons" - Scientific American Blog Network

## Other useful sources:

- Please check out literature and sources provided in the textbooks
- Earth Negotiation Reports: <https://enb.iisd.org/> (report about all environmentl negotiations)
- Check our homepages of environmental agreement:
  - <https://unfccc.int/>
  - <https://www.cbd.int/convention/>
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- Interesting blog:
  - <https://theconversation.com/uk/topics/conservation-72>
- Network and platforms at the University of Vienna
  - **Vienna Anthropocene Network:** <https://anthropocene.univie.ac.at/>
  - Environmental Research Network (ERN): <https://umwelt.univie.ac.at/>