

**POLS 329 ENVIRONMENT AND POLITICS**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**SPRING 2022-Draft**

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**Course Description:**

The study of environmental problems and issues increasingly reflects the linkages between local, national, regional and international levels. This course will focus on the governance of environmental issues, with the objective to explore the processes and institutions that shape the relationship between society and nature. The course will acquaint students with the history of environmentalism and current discussions surrounding key global and transboundary environmental problems, as well as questions regarding governance and justice. The course will look at the role of actors in environmental governance, including international institutions, states, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. Environmental issues the course will cover include climate change, biological diversity, and biotechnology.

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**Course Requirements:**

The course will be conducted face to face **in class on Tuesdays 9:00-11:00**. There will be **online, live zoom sessions via Moodle Platform on Thursdays 11:00-12:00**. These zoom sessions will not be recorded. You are expected to attend both face to face and live zoom sessions regularly, and participate in class discussions in an informed manner.

Please note that recording lectures, sharing of visual lecture content and other course materials is not permitted.

There will be two exams, one midterm and one final exam. The format of the exams will be announced later. There will be **three unannounced quizzes**.

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**Grading:**

Midterm exam:	35 %
Final exam:	35 %
Three Quizzes:	15 %
Attendance and Participation:	10 %

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## **Academic Honesty:**

The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism. For further guidelines, you can consult <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/provost/pdf/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf>
3. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
  - a) an automatic "F" in the assignment or the exam
  - b) an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee
  - c) losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty
  - d) losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs
  - e) losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department

The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action.

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## **READING LIST and WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

### **1. February 24: Introduction**

Amartya Sen 2004. Why We Should Preserve the Spotted Owl. *London Review of Books*. 26, 3.

### **2. March 1, 3: Environment and Politics**

UNEP 2019. Global Environment Outlook GEO-6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People. (<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-environment-outlook-6>)

Ramachandra Guha. 2000. *Environmentalism: A Global History*. pp. 69-97.

### **3. March 8, 10: Green Parties, Democracy and Ecology**

John McCormick. 1995. The Arrival of the Greens (1972-1990). In *The Global*

*Environmental Movement* (John Wiley and Sons). pp. 203-224.

Andreas Duit. 2016. The Four Faces of the Environmental State: Environmental Governance Regimes in 28 Countries. *Environmental Politics*, 25 (1): 69-91.

Robyn Eckersley. 2004. Chapter 5: From Liberal to Ecological Democracy. In *The Green State: Rethinking Democracy and Sovereignty*. (MIT Press).

#### **4. March 15, 17: The Commons and Environmental Problems**

Elinor Ostrom. *Governing the Commons: Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press, Chapters 3-5.

David Feeny, Fikret Berkes, Bonnie J. McCay, and James Acheson. 1998. *The Tragedy of the Commons: Twenty-Two Years Later*. In *Green Planet Blues*, edited by Ken Conca and Geoffrey Dabelko, (Westview Press).

Elinor Ostrom, Joanna Burger, Christopher B. Field, Richard B. Norgaard and David Policansky. Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges. *Science* 284.5412.

#### **5. March 22, 24: Global Climate Change**

The website for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

Joyeeta Gupta. 2016. Climate Change Governance: history, future and triple-loop learning? *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 7: 192-210.

Paul Wapner. 2014. Climate Suffering. *Global Environmental Politics*. 14 (2): 1-6.

Jen Iris Allan. 2019. Dangerous Incrementalism of the Paris Agreement. *Global Environmental Politics*, 19 (1): 4-11.

Hamish van der Ven and Yixian Sun. 2021. Varieties of Crises: Comparing the Politics of COVID-19 and Climate Change. *Global Environmental Politics*, 21 (1): 13-22.

#### **6. March 29, 31: Loss of Biological Diversity**

The website for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 2020. Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) 5. <https://www.cbd.int/gbo5>

Cardinale et al. 2012. Biodiversity loss and its impact on humanity. *Nature* 486, 59-67.

Zühre Aksoy. 2014. Local-Global Linkages in Environmental Governance: The Case of Crop Genetic Resources. *Global Environmental Politics*, 14 (2): 26-44.

### **7. April 5, 7: Agriculture, Environment, and the Politics of Biotechnology**

Miguel Altieri and Clara Nicholls. 2020. Agroecology and the reconstruction of a post-COVID 19 agriculture. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 47, 5: 881-898.

Jennifer Clapp. 2018. Mega-Mergers on the Menu: Corporate Concentration and the Politics of Sustainability in the Global Food System. *Global Environmental Politics*, 18 (2): 12-33.

Ronald J. Herring. 2015. State Science, Risk and Agricultural Biotechnology: Bt cotton to Bt Brinjal in India. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 42 (1): 159-186.

### **8. April 12, 14: MIDTERM EXAM**

### **9. April 19, 21: Science and Traditional Knowledge in Environmental Politics**

Peter M. Haas. 1992. Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination. *International Organization*, 46, 1, pp. 1-35.

Fikret Berkes. 2008. Context of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. *Sacred Ecology*, pp. 1-20.

Alejandro Esguerra et. al. 2017. Stakeholder Engagement in the Making: IPBES Legitimization Politics, *Global Environmental Politics*, 17, pp. 59-76.

Zühre Aksoy and Özlem Öz. 2020. Protection of traditional agricultural knowledge and rethinking agricultural research from farmers' perspective: A case from Turkey. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 80, pp. 291-301.

### **10. April 26, 28: Environment and Justice**

Krista Harper and Ravi Rajan. 2007. International Environmental Justice: Building the Natural Assets of the World's Poor. In Boyce, Narain and Stanton (eds.), *Reclaiming Nature: Environmental Justice and Ecological Restoration*, (Anthem Press), pp. 327-348.

Schlosberg, D. 2013. Theorising environmental justice: the expanding sphere of a discourse. *Environmental Politics*, 22(1), 37-55.

Ehresman, T.G. and Okereke, C. 2015. Environmental Justice and the Conceptions of the Green Economy. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, 15 (1). pp. 13-27.

**11. May 3, 5: Spring Break**

**12. May 10, 12: Movie Screening**

Readings will be announced

**13. May 17: Environmental Politics and Governance**

James K. Boyce. 2004. Green and Brown? Globalization and the Environment. Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Vol 20, No.1, pp.105-128.

Biermann et. al. 2009. The Fragmentation of Global Governance Architectures: A Framework for Analysis, Global Environmental Politics, 9 (4). 14-40.

Biermann et al 2012. Navigating the Anthropocene: Improving Earth System Governance. Science. 335. pp. 1306-1307.

Paul Wapner. 2014. The Changing Nature of Nature: Environmental Politics in the Anthropocene. Global Environmental Politics, 14(4): 36-54.