

# GV591-6-AU

## Domestic Environmental Politics

### 2020 – 2021

#### Lecturer and Module Supervisor

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#### Module Administrator

Office Hours: Monday p.m. by appointment

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Module available for Study Abroad students: Yes  No

**ASSESSMENT:** This module is assessed by 100% coursework

**LISTEN AGAIN: YES**

#### **INSTANT DEADLINE CHECKER**

***Must be submitted by 09:45am on the day of the lecture***

| Assignment Title      | Due Date | Coursework Weighting* | Feedback Due |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Research design paper | Week 9   | 30%                   | Week 11      |
| Final research paper  | Week 16  | 70%                   | Week 18      |

#### **TOP READS**

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.  
 (Students can also use the 2nd Edition of this book)

Harrison, K. and McIntosh Sunstrom, L., 2010. *Global Politics, Domestic Decisions: The Comparative Politics of Climate Change*, Cambridge, MIT Press.

## MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module offers a comprehensive introduction to the understanding of the domestic politics of environmental problems in a comparative (cross-national as well as sub-national) perspective. The module begins by examining domestic views on the state of the environment and possible paths along which these views might change. We then move on to consider environmental politics at various different levels of political behaviour and organisation, starting with individual-level values, before moving up the organized politics of the environmental movement, interest groups, political parties, governmental institutions and courts. At each level we consider what drives approaches to the environment and what the consequences of those approaches are for political organisation and action.

### Aims:

- To provide students with the necessary analytical foundations to conduct theoretical and empirical comparative research on the environment.
- To engage with a wide range of applied material relating to comparative environmental policy and the domestic politics of the environment.
- To generate ideas and design a study that engages with contemporary environmental issues in a theoretically sound and empirically aware perspective.

**Objectives:** By the end of the module the students should have achieved the following:

- Gained knowledge of the basic issues related to the domestic politics of the environment
- Gained knowledge of the major political theories regarding the management of environmental resources and the handling of disasters like the climate crisis
- Understand how many actors are involved in addressing and solving environmental issues and which incentives/strategies they may have to operate as they do.

**Learning Outcomes:** 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.

**Key Skills:** The course will strengthen the students' 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

The module runs over 10 weeks.

This module will be delivered with (i) a weekly pre-recorded lecture and (ii) a weekly interactive lecture. The pre-recorded lecture will consist of one or more items of prepared content that students can access electronically and must study before the interactive lecture. The interactive lecture will consist of one 50-minute lecture in which students can ask questions about, and discuss various aspects of, the prepared content with the module supervisor.

Attendance (even if virtual) is compulsory. It is expected that students have read the required readings for a specific week and are prepared to discuss them.

## **ASSESSMENT**

*There is no final examination on this module.*

Each student's performance on the module is assessed in two ways: one research paper design (30%), and one final research paper (70%).

- a) **Research Design Paper:** Students will prepare a one page document (500 words) outlining their final research paper, the main research question and the suggested methods. Topics can be selected in consultation with the module supervisor. The research design is due Week 9.
- b) **Final Research Paper:** A final research paper is expected to complete the module (double spaced;3,000-3,500 words). Students will write their research paper on the premise of their research paper outline and the feedback they receive on this. The research paper is due Week 16.

*Referencing:* essays must be properly referenced and have a full bibliography attached. The departmental referencing style is Harvard. Guidance is available from the Department's Study Skills Officer. The reading list below also illustrates how an essay's list of references should look like. Finally, there is also an essay-writing program provided by the University: <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/study-resources/tdc>.

*Using the library:* for most weeks, the reading materials are electronically accessible. Where this cannot be done, the texts are available from the library collection. If material listed appears to have disappeared altogether or is damaged, please let the library staff know. Remember that the reading list does not exhaustively list all the available material in the library on a given subject. Students should thus consider searching through the rest of the collection and Internet search engines to find other relevant texts.

## **COURSEWORK SUBMISSION**

### **How to submit your essay using FASER**

You will be able to access the online submission system 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 [itt@essex.ac.uk](mailto:itt@essex.ac.uk). You may find it helpful to look at the FASER guide <http://www.essex.ac.uk/it/elearning/faser/default.aspx>. 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 postgraduates**

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://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/late-submission.aspx>. 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 <http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ext-circ.aspx>.

### **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/about/governance/policies/academic-offences.aspx>.

### **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://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/late-submission.aspx>. 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 <http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ext-circ.aspx>.

## **WEEKLY READINGS**

The weekly readings that are assigned below are required and 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” (suggested) 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.

## **WEEK 2: INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* – Chapters 2 and 3 (ONLINE BOOK).

Hardin G., 1968. “The tragedy of the commons.” *Science* 162(3859), pp. 1243-8.

Harrison, K. and McIntosh Sunstrom, L., 2010. *Global Politics, Domestic Decisions: The Comparative Politics of Climate Change* – Chapter 1, pp. 1-22.

## **WEEK 3: FOUNDATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS: POLITICAL ECONOMY, MARKET POLICY, AND SOCIAL VALUES**

Walley, N. and Whitehead, B., 1994. “It's not easy being green.” *Harvard Business Review* 72(3), pp. 46-51.

Stavins, R. and Whitehead, B., 1997. ‘Market-based environmental policies’, in Chertow, M. R. and Esty, D. C. (eds.) *Thinking Ecologically: The Next Generation of Environmental Policy*, New Haven: CT, Yale University Press.

Goodin, R. E., 1994. “Selling environmental indulgences.” *Kyklos* 47(4), pp. 573-596.

O’Riordan, T. and Jordan, A., 1995. “The precautionary principle in contemporary environmental politics.” *Environmental Values* 4(3), pp. 191-212.

#### Recommended Readings:

- Meckling, J., Kelsey, N., Biber, E., and Zysman, J., 2015. "Winning coalitions for climate policy." *Science* 349 (6253), pp. 1170–1171.
- Bernstein, S. and Hoffmann, M., 2018. "The politics of decarbonization and the catalytic impact of subnational climate experiments." *Policy Sciences* 51(2), pp. 1–23.
- Stern, N., 2008. "The economics of climate change." *American Economic Review* 98(2), pp. 1-37.

### **WEEK 4: PERCEPTIONS, DEBATES AND PUBLIC OPINION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

Aldy, J. E., Kotchen, M. J. and Leiserowitz, A. A., 2012. "Willingness to pay and political support for a US national clean energy standard." *Nature Climate Change* 2(8), pp.596-599.

Bechtel, M. M. and Scheve, K. F., 2013. "Mass support for global climate agreements depends on institutional design." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 110 (34), pp. 13763-13768.

Kim, S.Y. and Wolinsky-Nahmias, Y., 2014. "Cross-national public opinion on climate change: The effects of affluence and vulnerability." *Global Environmental Politics* 14(1), pp.79-106.

#### Recommended Readings:

- Inglehart, R., 1995. "Public support for environmental protection: The impact of objective problems and subjective values in 43 societies." *Political Science and Politics* 28(1), pp. 57-71.
- Kvaløy, B., Finseraas, H., and Listhaug, O., 2012. "The publics' concern for global warming: A cross-national study of 47 countries." *Journal of Peace Research* 49(1), pp. 11-22.
- Tingley, D., and Tomz, M., 2014. "Conditional cooperation and climate change." *Comparative Political Studies* 47(3), pp. 344–368.
- Bechtel, M. M., Genovese, F., and Scheve, K. F., 2018. "Interests, norms, and support for the provision of global public goods: The case of climate cooperation." *British Journal of Political Science* 49(4), pp. 1333-1355.
- Leiserowitz A., 2006. "Climate change risk perception and policy preferences: The role of affect, imagery, and values." *Climatic Change* 77(1-2), pp. 45-72

### **WEEK 5: CORPORATE INTERESTS, BUSINESS ACTORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

Szakonyi, D. and Urpelainen, J., 2014. "Who benefits from economic reform? Firms and distributive politics." *Journal of Politics* 76(3), pp. 1-18.

Rigling-Gallagher, D. and Weinthal, E., 2012. "Business-state relations and the environment: The evolving role of corporate responsibility," in Steinberg, P. and Vandever, S. (eds.) *Comparative Environmental Politics: Theory, Practice, and Prospects*, pp. 143-170.

Vogel, D., 2008. "Private global business regulation." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11, pp. 261-282.

#### Recommended Readings:

- Kim, S. E., Urpelainen, J., and Yang, J., 2015. "Electric utilities and American climate policy: Lobbying by expected winners and losers." *J Public Policy* 36(2)
- Scruggs, L., 2003. *Sustaining Abundance: Environmental Performance in Industrial Democracies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Victor, D., 2011. *Global Warming Gridlock*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Green, J. F., 2013. *Rethinking Private Authority: Agents and Entrepreneurs in Global Environmental Governance*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Genovese, F. and Tvinnereim, E. 2019. Who Opposes Climate Regulation? Business Preferences for the European Emission Trading Scheme. R of International Organizations

#### **WEEK 6: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, CIVIL ACTORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* – Chapter 6 (ONLINE BOOK).

Kitschelt, H. P., 1986. "Political opportunity structures and political protest: Anti-nuclear movements in four democracies." *British Journal of Political Science*, 16(1), 57-85.

Gullberg, A. T., 2008, "Lobbying friends and foes in climate policy: The case of business and environmental interest groups in the European Union." *Energy Policy*, 36(\*), pp. 2964-2972.

Schlosberg, D. and Carruthers, D., 2010. "Indigenous struggles, environmental justice and community capabilities." *Global Environmental Politics* 10(4), pp. 12-35.

#### Recommended Readings:

- Dalton, R., 2005. "The greening of the globe? Cross-national levels of environmental group membership." *Environmental Politics* 14(4), pp. 441-459.
- Corell, E. and Betsill. M. M., 2001. "A comparative look at NGO influence in international environmental negotiations: Desertification and climate change." *Global Environmental Politics* 1(4), pp. 86-107.
- Hadden, J., 2015. *Networks in Contention: The Divisive Politics of Climate Change*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

## **WEEK 7: POLITICAL PARTIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* (3rd Edition) – Chapters 4 and 5 (ONLINE BOOK).

Abou-Chadi, T. and Kayser, M., 2017. "It's not easy being green: Why voters punish parties for environmental policies during economic downturns." *Electoral Studies* 45, pp. 201-207.

Neumayer, E., 2003. "Are left-wing party strength and corporatism good for the environment? Evidence from panel analysis of air pollution in OECD countries." *Ecological Economics* 45(2), pp. 203-222.

Spoon, J. J., Hobolt, S. B. and De Vries, C. E., 2014. "Going green: Explaining issue competition on the environment." *European Journal of Political Research* 53(2), pp.363-380.

Jensen, C. B. and Spoon, J. J., 2011. "Testing the 'party matters' thesis: Explaining progress towards Kyoto protocol targets." *Political Studies* 59(1), pp.99-115.

### Recommended Readings:

- Folke, O., 2014. "Shades of brown and green: Party effects in proportional election systems." *Journal of the European Economic Association* 12(5), pp.1361-1395.
- Shipan C. R. and Lowry W. R., 2001. "Environmental policy and party divergence in Congress." *Political Research Quarterly* 54(2), pp. 245-263.

## **WEEK 8: DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* – Chapters 4, 5 and 6 (ONLINE BOOK).

Bernauer, T. and Koubi, V., 2009. "Effects of political institutions on air quality." *Ecological Economics*, 68(5), pp. 1355-1365.

### Recommended Readings:

- List, J. A. and Sturm, D. M., 2006. "How elections matter: Theory and evidence from environmental policy." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121(4), pp. 1249-1281.

## **WEEK 10: SUBNATIONAL ACTORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

Betsill, M. and Bulkeley, H. 2004. "Transnational networks and global environmental governance: The cities for climate protection program." *International Studies Quarterly* 48(2), pp. 471-493.

Stokes, L. 2016. "Electoral backlash against climate policy: A natural experiment on retrospective voting and local resistance to public policy." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(4), pp. 958-974.

van der Ven, Hamish, Steven Bernstein and Matthew Hoffmann. 2017. Valuing the Contributions of Nonstate and Subnational Actors to Climate Governance. *Global Environmental Politics*, 17(1).

## **WEEK 10: DEMOCRACY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

Bättig, M. B. and Bernauer, T., 2009. "National institutions and global public goods: Are democracies more cooperative in climate change policy?" *International Organization* 63(2), pp. 281-308.

Neumayer, E., 2002. "Do democracies exhibit stronger environmental commitments? A cross-country analysis." *Journal of Peace Research* 39(2), pp. 139-64.

Ward, H., 2008. "Liberal democracy and sustainability." *Environmental Politics* 17(3), pp. 349-409.

### Recommended Readings:

- Bayer, P. and Urpelainen, J. 2016. It's All About Political Incentives. *J of Politics* 78(2).
- Li, Q. and Reuveny, R., 2006. "Democracy and environmental degradation." *International Studies Quarterly* 50(4).

## **WEEK 11: Concluding Remarks**