

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

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| Programme Title | : Bachelors of Arts (Honours) in Education for Sustainability |
| Programme QF Level | : 5 |
| Course Title | : Global Environmental Governance |
| Course Code | : SSC3104 |
| Department | : Social Sciences |
| Credit Points | : 3 |
| Contact Hours | : 39 |
| Pre-requisite(s) | : Nil |
| Medium of Instruction | : EMI |
| Course Level | : 3 |

Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. Course Synopsis

This course examines the response of the international community to a range of environmental problems, such as climate change, water pollution and over exploitation of natural resources. The course also looks at many of the sources of environmental and resource problems currently facing the world. The creation, implementation and effectiveness of international environmental agreements and regimes are explored, as are the actions and policies of a variety of international and transnational actors, ranging from traditional nation-states and intergovernmental organizations to multinational corporations, nongovernmental organizations and diffuse transnational environmental movements and networks. The course brings together questions of development, equity and security with those about international and global governance, ecological change and sustainability.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILO_s)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CILO₁ develop understanding of international and transnational environmental politics, policy and governance, including informal governance.

CILO₂ assess the importance and causes of major environmental problems and transnational responses to them by governmental and nongovernmental actors.

CILO₃ critically analyse governments' and organizations' official statements and policies related to the environment.

CILO₄ logically think about and discuss international and global environmental policy and politics.

CILO₅ demonstrate understanding of the how global environmental changes, their causes and the world's responses to them affect the welfare of other people and other species.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

| Course Content | CILOs | Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Introduction; The Environment and International Relations; Tragedy of the Commons; International Environmental Problems. | CILO _{1,2,4} | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate |
| Actors in International Environmental Politics; Ecology, the State and the Structure of the International System; North-South Relations and International Environmental Equity. | CILO _{1,4} | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate |
| Global Environmental Governance, International Cooperation, Diplomacy and Regime Formation; International Environmental Treaties and Organizations. | CILO _{1,3,4} | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate |
| The Impacts and Effectiveness of Environmental Treaties and Regimes; Implementation of International Environmental Agreements. | CILO _{1,3,4} | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Global Economic Governance and the Environment; Limits to Growth and Environmental Consequences of Economic Globalization and Expanding Material Consumption; International | <i>CILO</i> _{1,3,4} | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate |
| Non-State Global Environmental Governance; Transnational Actors in Global Environmental Politics: Nongovernmental Organizations and Transnational Networks. | <i>CILO</i> _{1,3,4,5} | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate |
| Conclusions: The Environment and International Relations in the Twenty-first Century. | <i>CILO</i> _{1,4,5} | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature Classroom discussion and debate • Explicit self-analysis of |

4. Assessment

| Assessment Tasks | Weighting (%) | CILO |
|--|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Participation in weekly classroom seminars | 20% | <i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3,4,5} |
| Participation in weekly Moodle discussions | 40% | <i>CILO</i> _{2,3,4,5} |
| Short essay | 20% | <i>CILO</i> _{2,3,4,5} |
| Short written assessment (“test”) | 20% | <i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3,4,5} |

5. Required Text(s)

Chasek, P. S., D. L. Downie & J. W. Brown (2014). *Global Environmental Politics*, 6th edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

6. Recommended Readings

Betsill, M. M., K. Hochstetler & D. Stevis (Eds.) (2006). *Palgrave Advances in International Environmental Politics*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Biermann, F., B. Siebenheuner & A. Schreyogg (eds.) (2009). *International Organizations in Global Environmental Governance*. London: Routledge.

Bouteligier, S. (2013). *Cities, Networks, and Global Environmental Governance: Spaces of Innovation, Places of Leadership*. New York: Routledge.

Conca, K. & G. D. Dabelko (2010). *Green Planet Blues: Four Decades of Global Environmental Politics*, 4th edition. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

Dauvergne, P. (2006). *Handbook of Global Environmental Politics*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Harris, P.G. (Ed.) (2014). *Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics*. Oxon: Routledge.

Harris, P.G. (Ed.) (2009). *Environmental Change and Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice*. London: Routledge.

Kutting, G. (2011). *Global Environmental Politics: Concepts, Theories and Case Studies*. Oxon: Routledge.

Kutting, G. & R. Lipschutz (2009). *Global Environmental Governance: Power and Knowledge in a Local-Global World*. London: Routledge.

- Morin, J.-F. & A. Orsini (2015). *Essential Concepts of Global Environmental Governance*. Oxon: Earthscan.
- Mitchell, R. B. (Ed.) (2008). *International Environmental Politics* (4 vols.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- O'Neill, K. (2009), *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Speth, J. G. & P. Haas (2006). *Global Environmental Governance*. New York: Island Press.

7. Related Web Resources:

- European Commission: Environment:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm
- The Global Environmental Governance Project:
<http://environmentalgovernance.org/>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:
<http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- United Nations Division for Sustainable Development:
<http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/index.shtml>
- United Nations Environment Programme:
<http://www.unep.org/>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:
<http://unfccc.int/>

8. Related Journals

- Environmental Policy and Law.*
- Environmental Politics.*
- Environment, Development and Sustainability.*
- Global Change, Peace & Security.*
- Global Environmental Politics.*
- International Environmental Agreements.*
- International Journal of Global Warming.*
- Journal of Environment and Development.*

9. Academic Honesty

The University adopts a zero tolerance policy to plagiarism. For the University's policy on plagiarism, please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity with Specific Reference to the Avoidance of Plagiarism by Students* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/modules/downloads/visit.php?cid=9&lid=89>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others

Newspaper articles and other media reports, including contemporaneous reporting, related to global warming and climate change; recent reports from scientific organizations and nongovernmental organizations; new video media