THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	:	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Integrated Environmental Management
Programme QF Level	:	5
Course Title	:	Environmental Politics and Policy
Course Code	:	SSC3317
Department	:	Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	:	3
Contact Hours	:	39
Pre-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Medium of Instruction	:	English
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 Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):
● **P**rofessional **E**xcellence;
● **E**thical **R**esponsibility; **&**
● **I**nnovation.

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 provides an in-depth examination of environmental issues as political problems. It examines how contending political, economic, and social interests and values have shaped the making of environmental policies, explores the ways in which government institutions and non-governmental organizations have interacted in defining environmental problems, formulating environmental regimes and implementing solutions across local, national and comparative contexts. The course also critically examines how scientists and scientific knowledge have played part in environmental policy making process and how they have competed with other political interests and forces in shaping the policy outcomes. These issues would be systematically investigated in real-world case studies drawing from different political contexts that help students develop a thorough understanding of how societies and countries have reacted to challenges arising from environmental changes and why their responses might become similar or diverge. Specific topics to cover in this course include: regulatory and legal apparatuses of government, "green state", ecological modernisation, environmental justice, grassroot sustainable movements, multi-level governance.

2. **Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)**
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CILO$_1$ Explain how environmental problems become public concerns and political matters at societal, domestic and global levels.

CILO$_2$ Assess the responses of policy actors toward environmental problems and account for their differences in approaches taken.

CILO$_3$ Critically analyse governments' and organizations' policies related to the environment.

CILO$_4$ Identify how environmental changes and the world's responses from different stakeholders have impacted on welfare of other people and the larger ecosystem.

3. **Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities**

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
1. Course introduction: Ascent of environmental issues as policy problems and political issues.	*CILO$_{1,2,4}$*	• Lectures • Summary and analysis of readings and web materials • Group-based discussion on assigned topics
2. Institutional settings: Who drive and take charge of the policy issues (green groups, NGOs, business interests, scientific community, governments)? How environmental issues enter policy agendas and are translated into policy actions by authorities?	*CILO$_{1,2,4}$*	• Lectures • Summary and analysis of readings and web materials • Group-based discussion on assigned topics
3. Policy tools and outcomes: Common	*CILO$_{2,3,4}$*	• Lectures

policy tools in addressing environmental issues (e.g. regulatory interventions, market-based solutions, public-private partnerships)? What account for the variation of outcomes across pollution types, societies and countries?		• Summary and analysis of readings and web materials • Group-based discussion on assigned topics
4. Governing environment: Models of environmental governance (e.g. hierarchical, experimental, multi-level) and their merits and demerits; roles of state authority in promoting ecological modernization.	$CILO_{2,3,4}$	• Lectures • Group-based discussion on assigned topics • Case study presentation
5. Going beyond the state: Bottom-up sustainable movements and community-driven regulation and policy innovations.	$CILO_{1,2,3,4}$	• Lectures • Group-based discussion on assigned topics • Case study presentation
6. Managing transnational/global environmental challenges: Promises and limits of global environmental regimes, and possible alternative coping approaches, e.g. transnational networks, multi-sectoral governance.	$CILO_{1,2,3,4}$	• Lectures • Group-based discussion on assigned topics • Case study presentation

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Group presentation (of 3-4 students on topical issues related to course themes).	30	$CILO_{1,2,3,4}$
(b) Policy Memo (individual writing of about 800 words that addresses policy makers on particular real-world issues).	25	$CILO_{1,2,3,4}$
(c) Research Paper (individual work of about 1,400 words with connections to course themes/topics).	45	$CILO_{1,2,3,4}$

5. Required Text(s)

Kraft, M. E. (2021). *Environmental Policy and Politics* (8th ed.). London: Routledge.

Morin, J.-F., Orsini, A. & Jinnah, S. (2020). *Global Environmental Politics: Understanding the Governance of the Earth*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

6. Recommended Readings

Chasek, P. S., & Downie, D. L. (2021). *Global Environmental Politics* (8th ed.). London: Routledge.

Dickens, P. (2004). *Society and Nature: Changing our Environment, Changing Ourselves.*

Cambridge: Polity.

Dryzek, J. S., & Pickering, J. (2018). *The Politics of the Anthropocene*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dryzek, J. S., & Schlosberg, D. (Eds.). (2005). *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Finamore, B. (2018). *Will China Save the Planet?*. New York: Polity.

Gallagher, K. S. (2019). *Titans of the Climate: Explaining Policy Process in the United States and China*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

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

Kütting, G., & Herman, K. (Eds.). (2018). G*lobal Environmental Politics: Concepts, Theories and Case Studies* (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.

Rosenbaum, W. A. (2019). *Environmental Politics and Policy* (11th ed.). Washington D.C.: CQ Press

Steinberg, P. F., & VanDeveer, S. D. (Eds.). (2012). *Comparative Environmental Politics: Theory, Practice, and Prospects*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Vig, N. J., Kraft, M. E., & Rabe, B. G. (2021). *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-first Century* (11th ed.). Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

Yergin, D. (2020). *The New Map: Energy, Climate and the Clash of Nations*. London: Penguin Press.

7. **Related Web Resources**
    Center for Governance and Sustainability
    https://www.environmentalgovernance.org/history
    ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability
    https://iclei.org/
    International Institute for Sustainable Development
    https://www.iisd.org/
    Multilateral Environmental Agreements
    https://www.informea.org/
    Sustainable Development Solution Network, Hong Kong
    http://www.sdsn-hk.org/en/
    UN Sustainable Development Goals
    https://sdgs.un.org/goals

8. **Related Journals**
    Climate Policy
    Development and Change
    Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space
    Environmental Policy and Governance
    Environmental Politics
    Environmental Science & Policy
    Global Environmental Change
    Global Environmental Governance
    International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics
    Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning

9. **Academic Honesty**

   The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/000000000016336798924548BbN5). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. **Others**

    Nil.