Course Outline

Programme Title : Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Global and
Environmental Studies;
All undergraduate programmes;
Programme QF Level : 5
Course Title : Global Environmental Governance
Course Code : SSC3104
Department : Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points : 3
Contact Hours : 39
Pre-requisite(s) : Nil
Medium of Instruction : EMI
Course Level : 3

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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 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:

CILO$_1$	develop understanding of international and transnational environmental politics, policy and governance, including informal governance.
CILO$_2$	assess the importance and causes of major environmental problems and transnational responses to them by governmental and nongovernmental actors.
CILO$_3$	critically analyse governments' and organizations' official statements and policies related to the environment.
CILO$_4$	logically think about and discuss international and global environmental policy and politics.
CILO$_5$	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$_{1,2,4}$*	• Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate • Online learning
Actors in International Environmental Politics; Ecology, the State and the Structure of the International System; North-South Relations and International Environmental Equity.	*CILO$_{1,4}$*	• Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate • Online learning

Global Environmental Governance, International Cooperation, Diplomacy and Regime Formation; International Environmental Treaties and Organizations.	$CILO_{1,3,4}$	• Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate • Online learning
The Impacts and Effectiveness of Environmental Treaties and Regimes; Implementation of International Environmental Agreements.	$CILO_{1,3,4}$	• Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate • Online learning
Global Economic Governance and the Environment; Limits to Growth and Environmental Consequences of Economic Globalization and Expanding Material Consumption; International Political Economy, Trade and Environmental Aid; the Roles of Multinational Corporations.	$CILO_{1,3,4}$	• Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate • Online learning
1. Non-State Global Environmental Governance; Transnational Actors in Global Environmental Politics: Nongovernmental Organizations and Transnational Networks. 2. Ecological Conflict and Environmental Security	$CILO_{1,3,4,5}$	• Reading • Summary, review and analysis of literature • Classroom discussion • Debate • Online learning

Conclusions: The Environment and International Relations in the Twenty-first Century.	$CILO_{1,4,5}$	• Reading
		• Summary, review and analysis of literature
		  Classroom discussion and debate
		• Explicit self-analysis of thoughts and behaviour
		  Oral presentations
		• Resulting group inquiry

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Active participation	40%	$CILO_{1,2,3,4,5}$
(b) Mid-term assessment	20%	$CILO_{1,2,3,4,5}$
(c) End-of-course assessment and essay	40%	$CILO_{1,2,3,4,5}$

5. Required Text(s)

Paul G. HARRIS, ed., _Routledge Handbook of Global Environmental Politics_, 2nd edition (London: Routledge, 2022). (Be sure to read from the _second_ edition.)

Paul G. HARRIS, _Pathologies of Climate Governance: International Relations, National Politics and Human Nature_ (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021).

6. Recommended Readings

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

Biermann, F. & P. Pattberg (2012). _Global Environmental Governance Reconsidered._ Cambridge: MIT Press.

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.

Chasek, P. S., D. L. Downie & J. W. Brown (2010). _Global Environmental Politics_, 5th edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

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.) (2009). _Environmental Change and Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice_. London: Routledge.

Kütting, G. & R. Lipschutz (2009). _Global Environmental Governance: Power and Knowledge in a Local-Global World_. London: Routledge.

Mitchell, R. B. (Ed.) (2008). _International Environmental Politics_ (4 vols.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Morin, J.F. & A. Orsini (2015). _Essential Concepts of Global Environmental Governance_. Oxon: Earthscan.

Oberthür, S. & T. Gehring (2006) _Institutional Interaction in Global Environmental Governance: Synergy and Conflict among International and EU policies_. Cambridge: MIT Press.

O'Neill, K. (2009), _The Environment and International Relations_. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Rask, M., R. Worthington & M. Lammi (Eds.) (2012) _Citizen Participation in Global_

Environmental Governance. London: Earthscan.

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 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**

Newspaper articles and other media reports; social media postings of relevant organizations; technical reports from scientific organizations and non-governmental organizations; documentaries and videos.

December 2024