



Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Number of sessions: 30

Length of each session: 1,5 h

Total length of the module: 45 hours

Introduction

Environmental concerns have risen in importance in the list of issues on the global political agenda. Since the 1992 global environmental conference in Brazil, a series of major world conferences and summits has generated a set of global regimes and dense international relations among states and non-governmental actors, spanning a wide range of dimensions.

The course intends to provide the student with a set of theoretical, conceptual and analytical tools to critically understand the contemporary debate around the environmental dimension of global politics. What are the main strands of theory framing the debate on the balance between economic growth, social justice and environmental protection and enhancement? Why have global environmental regimes emerged? How effective have they been? What are the main stumbling blocks on the path to a 'greener world'? As a case study, climate change policy will be the object of detailed analysis.

Course content

Part 1. Introduction, key theories, concepts and frames

1. The state of the global environment: ecological pressures and their drivers (Demography, Degradation of the Biosphere, Deforestation, Global Warming, Energy)
2. Economic development vs. Environmental protection: theoretical approaches (Sustainable Development, Environmental Policy Integration, Ecological Modernization)
3. Environment and Security: new and old 'environmental wars'

Part 2. The 'who' and the 'how' of global environmental politics: Actors and Structures

4. Nation- States as actors in the environmental arena: key actors (USA, Europe, BRICS)
5. International Organizations as actors in the environmental arena
6. Non-governmental Organization and Corporations: vying for influence in the political and policy process
7. Theories of international relations and the development of global regimes
8. Effectiveness of Environmental Regimes: compliance with international law?

Part 3: Climate Change Politics and Policy

9. The United Nation Framework Conference on Climate Change: Structures and functioning
10. The Kyoto Protocol: Architecture and Instruments
11. In search of the successor to the Kyoto Protocol: a negotiating Odyssey.
12. The European Union as global actor in international environmental politics
13. The internal climate policy of the European Union: an overview
14. Renewable Energy Policy in the European Union

Grading

Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to participate actively in in-class debates based on the readings assigned for each lesson. Each student will introduce a lesson through a 15-minutes presentation.

There will be two exams (mid-term and final) based on three different questions to be answered (no multiple-choice) and a final essay of 3500 words on a topic selected among those covered in the course.

The final grade will be calculated on the basis of the weights assigned to each of the following components:

Class Participation 20%
In-Class Presentation 10%
Final Essay 20%
Mid-Term Exam 25%
Final Exam 25%

Textbook

(to be decided)