

GEOG 70921 Key Debates in Environmental Governance

Semester: 1
Credits: 15
Day & Time:
Venue:
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Aims

1. Understand the dominant approaches to environmental governance.
2. Interrogate and apply the main critiques of dominant approaches to environmental governance.
3. Link contemporary environmental debates to academic debates

Description

This unit introduces students to the concept of environmental governance, and the main current debates around the environment. It will consider 'governance' in the broadest sense, including how the environment is controlled, manipulated, and regulated (and the contestation of these processes) by a range of actors and institutions, and the cognitive and normative ideas that underpin this process. The unit will explore a broad range of approaches that span the political spectrum from left to right, in addition to considering more contemporary debates within the field. Abstract theoretical and conceptual material is intended to complement case studies of real world issues and applied policy examples from other course units, and to prepare students intellectually for future research.

The course considers specific approaches to governing the relations between society and the environment. Influential critiques are put into play against these dominant approaches in order to encourage students to critically reflect upon contemporary approaches to environmental governance. The unit will equip students with the necessary grounding to appreciate how different political and philosophical systems can be used to organise environmental regulation. The over-riding rationale of the unit is to provide students with the ability to recognise and critique the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to environmental governance. The unit is delivered primarily through structured seminars, student presentations, and debates in order to facilitate student engagement with ideas and concepts.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Category of outcome	<i>Students should be able to:</i>
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the main tenets of environmental governance• Be conversant with the major approaches to environmental governance in the modern world• Evaluate different approaches and critique them in relation to one another• Be aware of key contemporary debates and challenges• Understand the strengths and weaknesses of using blogging as a means of communicating ideas and intellectual critique
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Think critically and independently• Analyse and evaluate different kinds of argumentation• Make connections between theoretical arguments and real-world cases• Assess the merits of contrasting theories and their policy implications• Read advanced academic literature• Write and present clearly and without bias for a public audience
Practical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop, articulate and sustain logical, structured and reasoned arguments in both written and oral contexts• Build skills in public presentations and public debating
Transferable skills and personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate inter-personally• Motivate and self-direct their learning

Teaching and Learning

The unit will be delivered through seminars and students readings of key debates. All material is available on Blackboard. Questions regarding the course should be posted on the discussion board so that all students can benefit from the answers. The schedule is fairly challenging in order to cover the wide range of theories, and all students will be expected to read and to prepare prior to each session. Each week will involve students presenting and responding to questions, offering information or ideas emerging out of the set reading. The reading for each week is selected to be representative of the most important current environmental debates, and will raise key questions. The key reading will be supplemented by two or three further readings which give a deeper insight into some of the key issues. The texts that you will be required to read are available on Blackboard.

The selection of texts is intended to provide a mixture of more informative and more provocative pieces. Please read ahead in order to manage your workload, and participate in class discussion. 10% of the overall mark is allocated for the quantity and quality of your class contributions. Students will be expected to (i) show *understanding* of arguments, (ii) offer *critical evaluations* of the material and (iii) use readings to *critique* readings from other weeks. You will sometimes be set small tasks each week that challenge you to apply some of the ideas discussed in class and / or summarise and present key material.

Assessment

<i>Task</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Weighting within unit</i>
<i>Public (in class) Presentation</i>		
This assignment requires each student to select one of the key texts in the week by week list (see below) , and write and present a critical analysis of that text. The analysis should use at least 2 additional academic texts (researched by the student) and should be linked to a contemporary environmental issue, which will also be presented by the student (e.g. in the form of a newspaper clipping). The presentation will require skills in critical thinking, analysis and evaluation of a major theoretical area that compares contrasts or elaborates on the frameworks and ideas laid out in the course. It will also develop the students' presentation skills. Oral feedback will be given after the presentation, and written feedback on the text will be provided online. Feedback will help the student prepare the final text for submission (see Under 'Final Presentation' Submission)	20 min presentation, Max 2500 words Weeks 3-10	10%
<i>Final Presentation Online Submission</i>		
A reworking of presentation and presentation text, after receiving feedback	Week 12 Max 2500 words	60%
<i>Class participation</i>		
Marks awarded for attendance, quality of participation in class discussion, and contribution to the course's blog	All weeks	10%
<i>'Public' Debate contribution</i>		
This assignment requires students to contribute to a debate on a topic related to the module. The topic will be chosen within the group and will be related to one of the key readings provided under the list 'Books to foster debate'. It will require skills in critical thinking, analysis and evaluation of a major theoretical area, but also the ability for quick thinking and for comparing, contrasting or elaborating on a proposed idea or framework.	Week 11	20%

SCHEDULE – WEEK BY WEEK READINGS

GENERAL REFERENCE / TEXTBOOKS

Evans, J P (2011) *Environmental Governance* Routledge, London

Saunier R, Meganck R (2009) 'Global Environmental Governance: Dictionary and Introduction' (Earthscan: London; Sterling, VA)

Week 1

Introduction – A critical assessment of the 'tragedy of the commons' and the need to 'Govern' the Environment?

This session introduces the environmental governance debate. We shall also talk about the structure and assessment of the course, and we shall allocate readings for the presentations.

Key readings:

Hardin G (1968) The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* **162**, 1243-8.

Ostom E (1999) Coping with Tragedies of the Commons. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 493-535.

Saunier R, Meganck R (2009) Global Environmental Governance: an essay. In 'Global Environmental Governance: Dictionary and Introduction'. (Eds R Saunier and R Meganck) pp. 3-38. (Earthscan: London; Sterling, VA)

Kirsch S, Mitchel D (1998) Earth-Moving as the "Measure of Man": Edward Teller, Geographical Engineering, and the Matter of Progress. *Social Text* **54**, 100-134.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Hardin

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwaNZgY9PCQ&feature=related>

Olstorm

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByXM47Ri1Kc>

Edward Teller

<http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/tel0int-1>

Film screening

Greenpeace: Making a stand

Week 2

Researching the Environment

Introduction to resources, basic research skills, presentations and debates

Freudenburg WR (2009) 'Catastrophe in the making: the engineering of Katrina and the disasters of tomorrow.' (Island Press/Shearwater Books: Washington, DC)

Available as e-book from

<http://catalogue.library.manchester.ac.uk/items/3290816?query=freudenburg+catastrophe&resultsUri=items%3Fquery%3Dfreudenburg%2Bcatastrophe>

Molotch H Book Review of 'Catastrophe in the making'

Film screening:

We Feed the World

Week 3

How many ways to govern the environment?

This session discusses key schools of thought in environmental governance

Blowers A (1997) Environmental Policy: Ecological Modernisation or the Risk Society? *Urban Studies* **34**, 845-871.

Stoker G (1998) Governance as theory: five propositions. *International Social Science Journal* **50**, 17-28.

Young OR (2008) The Architecture of Global Environmental Governance: Bringing Science to Bear on Policy. *Global Environmental Politics* **8**, 14-32.

Castree N (2008) Neoliberalising nature: the logics of deregulation and reregulation. *Environment and Planning A* **40**, 131-152.

Brand P (2007) Green Subjection: The Politics of Neoliberal Urban Environmental Management. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **31**, 616-632.

Week 4

Who governs the Environment? Institutions and Actors

This week we discuss the importance of institutions and rules to governance, and introduce key actors in environmental governance.

Goldman M Imperial Science, Imperial Nature: Environmental Knowledge for the World (Bank). In 'Earthly Politics: Local and Global in Environmental Governance'. (Eds S Jasanoff and ML Martello) pp. 54-80. (MIT Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Biermann F, Pattberg P (2008) Global Environmental Governance: Taking Stock, Moving Forward. In 'Annual Review of Environment and Resources' pp. 277-294. (Annual Reviews: Palo Alto)

Jordan A, Wurzel R, Zito A (2003) Comparative conclusions. New environmental policy instruments: an evolution or a revolution in environmental policy? *Environmental Politics* **12**, 201-224.

Pattberg P, Stripple J (2008) Beyond the public and private divide: remapping transnational climate governance in the 21st century. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* **8**, 367-388.

ONLINE RESOURCES

<http://www.environmentalgovernance.org/>

Week 5

NGOs and Transnational Networks

This session explores governance and NGO – transnational networks.

McCormick J (2005) The role of environmental NGOs in international regimes. In 'The Global Environment: Institutions, Law and Policy'. (Ed. NA Vig, N.) pp. 52-71. (Earthscan: London)

Siebenhuner B (2003) The changing role of nation states in international environmental assessments: the case of the IPCC. *Global Environmental Change* **13**, 113-123.

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

ANY CHAPTER FROM: Biermann F, Siebenhüner B (2009) 'Managers of global change: the influence of international environmental bureaucracies.' (MIT Press: Cambridge, Mass)
Available as e-book

ONLINE RESOURCES

<http://www.environmentalgovernance.org/>

Week 6

Reading Week – Preparing for a public Debate

Ostrom E (1990) 'Governing the Commons: the Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action' (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge)

http://eml.manchester.ac.uk/lib/GEOG70921/GEOG70921_17976.pdf

Biermann F, Siebenhüner B (2009) 'Managers of global change: the influence of international environmental bureaucracies.' (MIT Press: Cambridge, Mass)

Levy DL, Newell P (2005) 'The business of global environmental governance.' (MIT Press: Cambridge, Mass. ; London)

Week 7

Who profits from the Environmental Debate (1)? The Environment as Business

Newell P and Levy D (2006) The Political Economy of the Firm in Global Environmental Governance [DOC\] from umb.edu](#)

While A, Jonas AEG, Gibbs D (2004) The environment and the entrepreneurial city: searching for the urban 'sustainability;fix' in Manchester and Leeds. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **28**, 549-569.

Leichenko RM, O'Brien KL, Solecki WD (2010) Climate Change and the Global Financial Crisis: A Case of Double Exposure. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* **100**, 963-972.

Costanza R (1997) The value of the world's ecosystem services. *Nature* **387**, 253-260.

Levy DL, Egan D (2003) A Neo-Gramscian Approach to Corporate Political Strategy: Conflict and Accommodation in the Climate Change Negotiations*. *Journal of Management Studies* **40**, 803-829.

Film Screening

The Light Bulb conspiracy

http://www.disclose.tv/action/viewvideo/89746/The_Light_Bulb_Conspiracy/

<http://vimeo.com/41567964>

Week 8

Who profits from the Environmental Debate (2)? Marketing the Environment

This session explores the most contentious mode of environmental governance - markets.

Bumpus AG, Liverman D (2008) Accumulation by Decarbonization and the Governance of Carbon Offsets. *Economic Geography* **84**, 127-155.

Prudham S (2009) Pimping climate change: Richard Branson, global warming, and the performance of green capitalism. *Environment and Planning A* **41**, 1594-1613.

Banerjee SB (2008) Corporate Social Responsibility: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. *Critical Sociology* **34**, 51-79.

ONLINE SOURCES

<http://craneandmatten.blogspot.gr/>

<http://www.storyofstuff.org/movies-all/story-of-stuff/>

Week 9

Environmental Governance: the Public Participation debate

This session explores if and how the public are involved in environmental decision-making, and how governing the environment and be part of practices of justice/injustice and inclusion/exclusion

Rosol M (2010) Public Participation in Post-Fordist Urban Green Space Governance: The Case of Community Gardens in Berlin. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **34**, 548-563.

Taylor M (2007) Community Participation in the Real World: Opportunities and Pitfalls in New Governance Spaces. *Urban Studies* **44**, 297-317.

Laurie N (2011) Gender Water Networks: Femininity and Masculinity in Water Politics in Bolivia. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **35**, 172-188.

Week 10

Justice, inclusion/exclusion and Environmental Governance

Whitehead M (2009) The Wood for the Trees: Ordinary Environmental Injustice and the Everyday Right to Urban Nature. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **33**, 662-681.

Murray MJ (2009) Fire and Ice: Unnatural Disasters and the Disposable Urban Poor in Post-Apartheid Johannesburg. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **33**, 165-192.

Wu F (2009) Land Development, Inequality and Urban Villages in China. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **33**, 885-889.

Duffy R (2006) The potential and pitfalls of global environmental governance: The politics of transfrontier conservation areas in Southern Africa. *Political Geography* **25**, 89-112.

Hillier J (2009) Assemblages of Justice: The 'Ghost Ships' of Graythorp. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **33**, 640-661.

Dooling S (2009) Ecological Gentrification: A Research Agenda Exploring Justice in the City. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **33**, 621-639.

Freund B (2001) Brown and Green in Durban: The Evolution of Environmental Policy in a Post-Apartheid City. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **25**, 717-739.

Week 11

Debating the Environment

Question to be set every year for a pro-con debate to be led by students

BOOKS AND ARTICLES TO FOSTER DEBATE

Ostrom E (1990) 'Governing the Commons: the Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action' (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge)

Biermann F, Siebenhüner B (2009) 'Managers of global change: the influence of international environmental bureaucracies.' (MIT Press: Cambridge, Mass)

[Available as e-book](#)

Levy DL, Newell P (2005) 'The business of global environmental governance.' (MIT Press: Cambridge, Mass. ; London)

Bäckstrand K, Lövbrand E (2006) Planting Trees to Mitigate Climate Change: Contested Discourses of Ecological Modernization, Green Governmentality and Civic Environmentalism. *Global Environmental Politics* **6**, 50-75.

Benson MH (2010) Regional Initiatives: Scaling the Climate Response and Responding to Conceptions of Scale. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* **100**, 1025-1035.

Pattberg P, Stripple J (2008) Beyond the public and private divide: remapping transnational climate governance in the 21st century. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* **8**, 367-388.

Rice JL (2010) Climate, Carbon, and Territory: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation in Seattle, Washington. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* **100**, 929-937.

Ostrom_E_Governing the Commons_Science

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/302/5652/1907.full>

Week 12

Conclusions

The final session draws together the threads of the course.