



Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Beijing

Course Code / Title: (BJ/ ENST 300) Environmental Issues and International Cooperation

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Environmental Studies / East Asian Studies, International Relations, Political Science, History

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

The global environmental crisis is the planet's biggest existential threat, and will have an incalculable impact on all societies and economies. For students interested in environmental policy, social impact, entrepreneurship, risk management and sustainability, this course will provide a foundational understanding of the environmental policy decisions that will shape their future careers. With a focus on US-China cooperation, the course will provide case studies of specific international accords and local regulations, as well as the latest scientific and technological advances. Upon completion of the course, students should have a grasp of such questions as how to determine the biggest environmental threats and opportunities, how to measure effectiveness of policy and business decisions, and how to conduct thoughtful, inclusive analysis. The curriculum will also include site visits in Beijing, and guest lectures from local environmental experts.

Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will:

- become knowledgeable of the key topics, literatures, debates and scholars in international environmental governance and policy
- have an understanding of the importance of US-China cooperation in addressing global climate change problems
- learn of the central policy questions relating to international environmental cooperation, including air and water pollution, climate change, biodiversity, industrial and nuclear waste, and food safety
- acquire a working knowledge of the international environmental organizations cooperating to draft and enforce globally binding policies

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend each class and field-based course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Active participation is essential. Students are to read all assigned materials before each class session and come prepared to participate thoughtfully in class discussions. Reading assignments average about 50-80 pages per class.

Participant responsibilities

- Read all required readings in advance of each week's seminar and come to class with questions and discussion points, as opposed to a summary of the readings

- Actively participate in class discussion
- Present one in-class oral report on a particular topic from the readings
- Complete a midterm 5-page paper in response to a specific prompt, to be finalized in consultation with the course faculty
- Conduct a collaborative group project (16-20 pages, 5000 words) on a topic related to international environmental policy and governance

Grading

Class participation: 10%

Contribution to discussions: 15%

In-class oral report: 25%

Midterm 5-page paper: 20%

Collaborative final group project: 30%

Reading

Axelrod, Regina & Stacy D. VanDeveer (eds). *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy* (5th Edition). CQ Press. 2019.

Chasek, Pamela. *Global Environmental Politics* (Dilemmas in World Politics, 7th Edition). Routledge. 2016.

Gardner, Daniel K. *Environmental Pollution in China: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press. 2018.

Hale, Thomas (2016) "All Hands on Deck: The Paris Agreement and Nonstate Climate Action." *Global Environmental Politics* 16(3), 12-22.

Maslin, Mark. *Global Warming: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press. 2004.

Shapiro, Judith. *China's Environmental Challenges* (China Today) 2nd Edition. Polity Publishers. 2016.

Sternfeld, Eva (ed). *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Policy in China* (Routledge International Handbooks) 1st Edition. Routledge. 2019.

Vaughn, Jacqueline. *Environmental Politics: Domestic and Global Dimensions* (6th Edition). Wadsworth Publishing. 2011.

Wapner, Paul & Simon Nicholson (eds.). *Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet*. Paradigm Publisher. 2014.

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: China and the global environment: Introduction and discussion of key concepts

Topic 2: Theories of international environmental governance: How to conceptualize and measure environmental effectiveness?

Topic 3: Mao's war against nature: The history of China's environmental crisis

Topic 4: The rise of China and global climate change

Topic 5: Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution and Ozone

Topic 6: The United Nations and international architecture of environmental governance

Topic 7: Water: China's dams and rivers and sustainable hydropower in Southeast Asia

Topic 8: The Belt and Road Initiative and the environment

Topic 9: US-China cooperation on environmental policy

Topic 10: Biodiversity and sustainability

Topic 11: Environmental security, climate change migration, crisis situations

Topic 12: Can China Lead on Energy, Environment & Climate?