

SOSC 2330: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY

CLASS A: Wednesdays, 16:30 – 17:50, Room 5620 (lifts 31-32)

CLASS B: Fridays, 16:30 – 17:50, Room 5620 (lifts 31-32)

**Due to COVID-19, all classes will be conducted on Zoom until further notice.*

Instructor	Teaching Assistants
Prof. James K. WONG (jameskalei@ust.hk) Room 3370 (lifts 13-15), Academic Building Office hours: By e-mail appointment	Miss Riley Chan (rileyc@ust.hk) Miss Joanna Yu (joannayu@ust.hk)

Course Description

This course introduces the various ideas, actors, and institutions in environmental politics, as well as their dynamics in shaping environmental policy. The course is divided into two parts. First, it presents the competing theoretical foundations for environmental politics and discusses the major forms of collective action. Second, it analyzes the government's policy responses to environmental ideas and activism in the context of capitalist political economy. Students will benefit from ability to think politically about the environment and to reflect on the relationship between nature and society.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Knowledge: (a) Explain the key ideas and issues in environmental politics; and (b) analyze the roles and impacts of actors and institutions in environmental collective action and policy making.
2. Skills: Apply concepts and theories to evaluate the debates in environmental politics and policy.
3. Attitude: Exercise independent and critical judgements as well as formulate and communicate arguments effectively.

Blended Learning

This is a blended learning course supported by the Center for Education Innovation of HKUST. The online component consists of video lectures and online assignments for self-study. The face-to-face component consists of interactive exercises, projects, and discussions in class. For the face-to-face component, students will be divided into Class A and Class B, and they should attend the classes as assigned.

Class Schedule

Week	ONLINE LECTURE (To be Watched before Class)	CLASS A (Wednesday)	CLASS B (Friday)
1	Module 0: Course and Blended Learning Introduction		
	Lecture 0	Class 0 [Feb 4, Fri] (*plenary session for both classes)	
THEME I: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS			
	Module 1: Introduction to Environmental Politics and Policy		
	Lecture 1	Class 1 [Feb 11, Fri] (*plenary session for both classes) *NB: NO MEETING on Feb 9, Wed	
2	Module 2: Environmental Philosophy		
	Lecture 2	Class A2 [Feb 16]	Class B2 [Feb 18]
3	Module 3: Green Political Thought		
	Lecture 3	Class A3 [Feb 23]	Class B3 [Feb 25]

4 & 5	Modules 4 & 5: Environmental Movements		
	Lecture 4	Class A4 [Mar 2]	Class B4 [Mar 4]
	Lecture 5	Class A5 [Mar 9]	Class B5 [Mar 11]
6	Module 6: Global Environmental Politics		
	Lecture 6	Class A6 [Mar 16]	Class B6 [Mar 18]
THEME II: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY			
7	Module 7: Environmental Policy Issues		
	Lecture 7	Class A7 [Mar 23]	Class B7 [Mar 25]
8	Module 8: Environmental Policy Change		
	Lecture 8	Class A8 [Mar 30]	Class B8 [Apr 1]
9	Module 9: Skills Module – Writing Policy Briefs		
	Lecture 9	Class A9 [Apr 6]	Class B9 [Apr 8]
10	Module 10: Environmental Policy Instruments		
	Lecture 10	Class A10 [Apr 20]	Class B10 [Apr 22]
11	Module 11: Environmental Valuation		
	Lecture 11	Class A11 [Apr 27]	Class B11 [Apr 29]
12 / 13	Module 12: Course Conclusion		
	Lecture 12	Class A12 [May 4]	Class B12 [May 6]
		Class 13 [May 11, Wed] (*plenary session for both classes)	

Assessment and Grading

Deliverable / Weighting		Requirements
Policy Briefing Project (group-based) <i>This deliverable aims to help students consolidate and apply the key concepts and/or theories learnt through analyzing real-world issues, which aligns with ILOs #1(a), #1(b), #2 and #3.</i>	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will identify ONE environmental issue in a country or jurisdiction. They will prepare a policy brief which recommends a policy alternative to address the chosen environmental issue. The target audiences of the policy brief are senior officials in the bureau and the public. Students will design a digital poster which summarizes the main argument of the policy brief. During Class A12/B12, students will deliver a 1-minute pitch on the poster, answer questions from peers and instructor/TA, and comment on the poster of another group. In addition, students will write a policy brief in about 8-10 pages (excluding references and appendices) to elaborate on the main argument in the poster. The poster should be submitted by 23:59, May 2 (Mon). The written policy brief should be submitted by 23:59, May 20 (Fri). All posters and written policy briefs will be assessed based on content, organization, and style.
Classwork (group-based)	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During each face-to-face class, students will complete a group task, such as exercises, case studies and discussions. They will

<p><i>This deliverable aims to help students consolidate and apply the knowledge learnt from the video lectures and readings, which aligns with ILOs #1(a), #1(b), #2 and #3.</i></p>		<p>report verbally the deliverables and respond to questions from other participants in class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students' performances in the group tasks from Class A3/B3 to Class A12/B12 will be graded. All group tasks will be assessed based on content only. 																																				
<p>Take-home Essays 1 & 2</p> <p><i>This deliverable aims to enable students to describe, explain and apply the key lessons learnt from classes and readings, which aligns with ILOs #1(a), #1(b), #2 and #3.</i></p>	<p>50% (25% each)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both essays are open-book assignments. Essay 1 covers the topics of Theme I. Essay 2 covers the topics of Theme II. For each essay, student will answer, in 5 days, one of the prescribed questions in 800-1,000 words, excluding endnotes and appendices. The questions of Essay 1 will be released by 18:00, Mar 23 (Wed). The questions of Essay 2 will be released by 18:00, May 11 (Wed). Students should submit Essay 1 by 23:59, Mar 28 (Mon) and Essay 2 by 23:59, May 16 (Mon). All essays will be assessed based on content, organization, and style. 																																				
<p>Canvas MC Quizzes</p> <p><i>This deliverable aims to help students consolidate the key lessons learnt from the video lectures, which aligns with ILOs #1(a), #1(b) and #2.</i></p>	<p>10%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All quizzes are open-book and take-home assessments. Students should watch the online lecture videos before completing the quizzes. Students will complete a total of 8 quizzes on Canvas. Each quiz contains 10 questions, and only one attempt is allowed. The question papers for Classes A and B are different. The questions will be released at least 7 days before the deadline of the corresponding quiz. The syllabi and submission deadlines of the quizzes are: <table border="1" data-bbox="675 1384 1398 1816"> <thead> <tr> <th>Quiz</th> <th>Syllabus</th> <th>Deadline (Class A)</th> <th>Deadline (Class B)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quiz 1</td> <td>Lecture 3 only</td> <td>14:00, Feb 23</td> <td>14:00, Feb 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quiz 2</td> <td>Lecture 4 only</td> <td>14:00, Mar 2</td> <td>14:00, Mar 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quiz 3</td> <td>Lecture 5 only</td> <td>14:00, Mar 9</td> <td>14:00, Mar 11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quiz 4</td> <td>Lecture 6 only</td> <td>14:00, Mar 16</td> <td>14:00, Mar 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quiz 5</td> <td>Lecture 7 only</td> <td>14:00, Mar 23</td> <td>14:00, Mar 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quiz 6</td> <td>Lecture 8 only</td> <td>14:00, Mar 30</td> <td>14:00, Apr 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quiz 7</td> <td>Lecture 10 only</td> <td>14:00, Apr 20</td> <td>14:00, Apr 22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quiz 8</td> <td>Lecture 11 only</td> <td>14:00, Apr 27</td> <td>14:00, Apr 29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Students' performances in the BEST FIVE (5) attempts will be graded. For each quiz, 2 points will be awarded for 9-10 correct answers, 1.5 points for 7-8 correct answers, 1 point for 5-6 correct answers, 0.5 points for 3-4 correct answers, and 0 point for 0-2 correct answers. 	Quiz	Syllabus	Deadline (Class A)	Deadline (Class B)	Quiz 1	Lecture 3 only	14:00, Feb 23	14:00, Feb 25	Quiz 2	Lecture 4 only	14:00, Mar 2	14:00, Mar 4	Quiz 3	Lecture 5 only	14:00, Mar 9	14:00, Mar 11	Quiz 4	Lecture 6 only	14:00, Mar 16	14:00, Mar 18	Quiz 5	Lecture 7 only	14:00, Mar 23	14:00, Mar 25	Quiz 6	Lecture 8 only	14:00, Mar 30	14:00, Apr 1	Quiz 7	Lecture 10 only	14:00, Apr 20	14:00, Apr 22	Quiz 8	Lecture 11 only	14:00, Apr 27	14:00, Apr 29
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* **Participation Bonus:** Up to 5 points will be awarded to individual students for active participation.

** **Penalty:** For late submission, no submission or no show, mark penalty will apply. For confirmed cases of plagiarism, severe sanctions will be imposed.

Important Dates

Date / Time	Task	Date / Time	Task
CLASS A		CLASS B	
Feb 9 / 23:59	Form tentative working groups	Feb 9 / 23:59	Form tentative working groups
Feb 20 / 23:59	Confirm grouping	Feb 20 / 23:59	Confirm grouping
Feb 23 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 1	Feb 25 / 23:59	Canvas MC Quiz 1
Mar 2 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 2	Mar 4 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 2
Mar 9 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 3	Mar 11 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 3
Mar 16 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 4	Mar 18 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 4
Mar 23 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 5	Mar 25 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 5
Mar 28 / 23:59	Submit Take-home Essay 1	Mar 28 / 23:59	Submit Take-home Essay 1
Mar 30 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 6	Apr 1 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 6
Apr 20 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 7	Apr 22 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 7
Apr 27 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 8	Apr 29 / 14:00	Canvas MC Quiz 8
May 2 / 23:59	Submit policy briefing poster	May 2 / 23:59	Submit policy brief poster
May 4 / in class	Poster presentation	May 6 / in class	Poster presentation
May 16 / 23:59	Submit Take-home Essay 2	May 16 / in class	Submit Take-home Essay 2
May 20 / 23:59	Submit written policy brief	May 20 / 23:59	Submit written policy brief

Course Reading

Textbooks (Reserved at HKUST Library)

- [T1] Neil Carter (2018) *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* (3rd edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [NB: Essential text for the entire course; e-book available for 2nd edition].
- [T2 – e-book] James Connelly, Graham Smith, David Benson, and Clare Saunders (2012) *Politics and the Environment: From Theory to Practice* (3rd edition), Abingdon: Routledge [NB: Useful reference for the entire course, especially case studies].

Useful References (Reserved at HKUST Library)

- Andrew Dobson (2016) *Environmental Politics: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- John McCormick (2018) *Environmental Politics and Policy*, London: Palgrave. [e-book]
- Timothy Doyle, Doug McEachern, and Sherilyn MacGregor (2016) *Environment and Politics* (4th edition), Abingdon: Routledge. [e-book]
- Hayley Stevenson (2018) *Global Environmental Politics: Problems, Policy and Practice*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- John Dryzek and David Schlosberg (eds.) (2005) *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader* (2nd edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Reading List

Module	Topic	Primary Reading	Supplementary Reading
0	Course and Blended Learning Introduction	No reading	
1	Introduction to Environmental Politics and Policy	[T1], ch. 1	[T2], pp.1-12
2	Environmental Philosophy	[T1], ch. 2	[T2], ch. 1
3	Green Political Thought	[T1], ch. 3	[T2], ch. 2
4 & 5	Environmental Movements	[T2], ch. 3	[T1], ch. 6
6	Global Environmental Politics	[T1], ch. 9	[T2], ch. 7
7	Environmental Policy Issues	[T1], ch. 7	McCormick, ch. 6-12
8	Environmental Policy Change	[T1], ch. 7	[T2], ch. 4
9	Skills Module – Writing Policy Briefs	*See Canvas	
10	Environmental Policy Instruments	[T1], ch. 12	[T2], ch. 5
11	Environmental Valuation	[T2], ch. 6	--
12 & 13	Course Conclusion	No reading	

Course Administration*Communications*

All announcements are made through the course website on Canvas (<https://canvas.ust.hk/>). For e-mail communications, students should allow at least 3 working days for a reply. **All e-mail enquiries regarding any of the assessments above should be made at least 48 hours before their respective due dates.**

Class Rules

For students in face-to-face classes, they should avoid using mobile phones except for class activities. **Video/sound recording is NOT allowed.** If there is a genuine need for video/sound recording, students must seek permission from the instructor before the session begins. For students on the Zoom platform, they should NOT annotate, share screens, capture screenshots, record sound, take photos or videos, or play sound or videos without the prior permission of the instructor or TA. **They should NOT share the login details, course materials, lecture recordings, or information of class members with any parties outside the class.**

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating are very serious offences. Students are reminded of the consequences for violating University's regulations governing academic integrity and honesty. For details of the regulations, please visit: <http://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/student-1.html>. For advice on avoiding plagiarism and copying, please visit: <http://libguides.ust.hk/writing/style-man>.

Quality Assurance

Students are welcome to offer comments and suggestions on the course. The principal concern of this course is students' learning, and therefore, the instructor may modify the schedule if this will facilitate their learning.