

GV591-AU

Domestic Environmental Politics

2023 – 2024

Lecturer and Module Supervisor (AU)

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Academic Support Hours: by appointment (email)

Module available for Study Abroad students: Yes ☐ No ☒

ASSESSMENT: This module is assessed by 100% coursework

LISTEN AGAIN: YES

INSTANT DEADLINE CHECKER

Must be submitted by 09:45am on the day of the lecture

Assignment Title	Due Date	Weighting	Feedback due
Participation	All sessions	5%	Week 11
Presentation	Weeks 3-11	35%	Weeks 11
Essay 1	Week 8	30%	Week 11
Essay 2	Week 11	30%	Week 16

ASSESSMENT

The module is assessed by coursework (100%). Essay titles will be made available by the module supervisor. Students must write two essays of 2,000 words. In addition, there is an oral presentation that students can sign up for as of Week 2. Presentations are scheduled for Weeks 3-11. Finally, 5% of the mark is based on active presentation

TOP READS

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* (3rd Edition). Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
(Students can also use the 2nd Edition of this book)

Harrison, K. and McIntosh Sunstrom, L., 2010. *Global Politics, Domestic Decisions: The Comparative Politics of Climate Change*, Cambridge, MIT Press.

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module offers a comprehensive introduction to the understanding of the domestic politics of environmental problems in a comparative (cross-national as well as sub-national) perspective. The module begins by examining domestic views on the state of the environment and possible paths along which these views might change. We then move on to consider environmental politics at various different levels of political behaviour and organisation, starting with individual-level values, before moving up the organized politics of the environmental movement, interest groups, political parties, governmental institutions and courts. At each level we consider what drives approaches to the environment and what the consequences of those approaches are for political organisation and action.

Aims:

- To provide students with the necessary analytical foundations to conduct theoretical and empirical comparative research on the environment.
- To engage with a wide range of applied material relating to comparative environmental politics.
- To generate ideas and design a study that engages with contemporary environmental issues in a theoretically sound and empirically aware perspective.

Objectives: By the end of the module the students should have achieved the following:

- Gained knowledge of the basic issues related to the domestic politics of the environment
- Gained knowledge of the major political theories regarding the management of environmental resources
- Understand how many actors are involved in addressing and solving environmental issues and which incentives/strategies they may have to operate as they do.

Learning Outcomes: Students will learn how political scientists tackle questions such as: 'when do businesses and social movements support environmental policy?' and 'why are some government more "green" than others?'. They will also learn how to use empirical evidence to test major political theories of environmental politics.

Key Skills: The course will strengthen the students' analytical and writing skills. It is expected that students are capable of processing top political science literature and critically assess secondary research. Students are also expected to understand the principles of research design and how to write academic papers.

MODULE STRUCTURE AND TEACHING

The module runs over 10 weeks.

Attendance is compulsory. It is expected that students have read the required readings for a specific week and are prepared to discuss them.

ASSESSMENT

There is no final examination on this module.

Each student's performance on the module is assessed in three ways:

- a) **Participation:** Students are expected to participate actively in the discussion of each session including by giving feedback to their fellow students. This is 5% of the final mark.
- b) **Presentation:** Students will prepare a one page document outlining their presentation of one article. They can sign up from week 2. This is 35% of the final mark.
- c) **Research Papers:** Two research essays are expected to complete the module (double spaced; 2,000 words per essay). These are 60% (30% + 30%) of the final mark.

Referencing: essays must be properly referenced and have a full bibliography attached. The departmental referencing style is Harvard. Guidance is available from the Department's Study Skills Officer. The reading list below also illustrates how an essay's list of references should look like. Finally, there is also an essay-writing program provided by the University: <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/study-resources/tdc>.

Using the library: for most weeks, the reading materials are electronically accessible. Where this cannot be done, the texts are available from the library collection. If material listed appears to have disappeared altogether or is damaged, please let the library staff know. Remember that the reading list does not exhaustively list all the available material in the library on a given subject. Students should thus consider searching through the rest of the collection and Internet search engines to find other relevant texts.

COURSEWORK SUBMISSION

How to submit your essay using FASER

You will be able to access the online submission system via your myEssex portal or via <https://FASER.essex.ac.uk>. FASER allows you to store your work-in-progress. This facility provides you with an ideal place to keep partially completed copies of your work and ensures that no work, even drafts, is lost. If you have problems uploading your coursework, you should contact ltt@essex.ac.uk. You may find it helpful to look at the FASER guide

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/it/elearning/faser/default.aspx>. If you have any questions about FASER, please contact your administrator or refer to the handbook.

Under NO circumstances is your coursework to be emailed to the administrators or the lecturer. This will NOT be counted as a submission.

Coursework deadline policy for postgraduates

The university has guidelines on what is acceptable as extenuating circumstances for later submission of coursework. If you need to make a claim, you should upload your coursework to FASER and submit a late submission of coursework form which can be found here: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/late-submission.aspx>. This must be done within seven days of the deadline. FASER closes for all deadlines after seven days. The Late Submissions committee will decide whether your work should be marked and you will be notified of the outcome.

If you experience significant longer-term extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your work either by the deadline or within seven days of the deadline, you should submit an Extenuating Circumstances Form for the Board of Examiners to consider at the end of the year <http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ext-circ.aspx>.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence and whether done wittingly or unwittingly it is your responsibility. **Ignorance is no excuse!** The result of plagiarism could mean receiving a mark of zero for the piece of coursework. In some cases, the rules of assessment are such that a mark of zero for a single piece of coursework could mean that you will fail your degree. If it is a very serious case, you could be required to withdraw from the University. It is important that you understand right from the start of your studies what good academic practice is and adhere to it throughout your studies.

The Department will randomly select coursework for plagiarism checks and lecturers are very good at spotting work that is not your own. **Plagiarism gets you nowhere; DON'T DO IT!**

Following the guidance on referencing correctly will help you avoid plagiarism.

Please familiarise yourself with the University's policy on academic offences: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/academic-offences.aspx>.

Extenuating circumstances for late submission of coursework

The university has guidelines on what is acceptable as extenuating circumstances for later submission of coursework. If you need to make a claim, you should upload your coursework to FASER and submit a late submission of coursework form which can be found here: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/late-submission.aspx>. This must be done within seven days of the deadline. FASER closes for all deadlines after seven days. The Late Submissions committee will decide whether your work should be marked and you will be notified of the outcome.

If you experience significant longer-term extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your work either by the deadline or within seven days of the

deadline, you should submit an Extenuating Circumstances Form for the Board of Examiners to consider at the end of the year
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ext-circ.aspx>.

WEEKLY READINGS

The weekly readings that are assigned below are required and should be read by everyone. The amount of required reading per week never exceeds three items, in order to allow students to reasonably read before each lecture.

Most weeks include a list of “recommended” (suggested) readings, which are meant to help students find relevant material. What else students read on top of the required items and lecture notes should depend on their interests and the essays they write.

WEEK 2: INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* – Chapters 2 and 3 (ONLINE BOOK).

Hardin G., 1968. “The tragedy of the commons.” *Science* 162(3859), pp. 1243-8.
(Read also Matto Mildemberger’s “The Tragedy of the Tragedy of the Commons”, 2019, <https://discardstudies.com/2019/07/15/the-tragedy-of-the-tragedy-of-the-commons/>)

Harrison, K. and McIntosh Sunstrom, L., 2010. *Global Politics, Domestic Decisions: The Comparative Politics of Climate Change* – Chapter 1, pp. 1-22.

WEEK 3: FOUNDATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS: POLITICAL ECONOMY, MARKET POLICY, AND SOCIAL VALUES

Walley, N. and Whitehead, B., 1994. “It’s not easy being green.” *Harvard Business Review* 72(3), pp. 46-51.

Stavins, R. and Whitehead, B., 1997. ‘Market-based environmental policies’, in Chertow, M. R. and Esty, D. C. (eds.) *Thinking Ecologically: The Next Generation of Environmental Policy*, New Haven: CT, Yale University Press.

Goodin, R. E., 1994. “Selling environmental indulgences.” *Kyklos* 47(4), pp. 573-596.

O’Riordan, T. and Jordan, A., 1995. “The precautionary principle in contemporary environmental politics.” *Environmental Values* 4(3), pp. 191-212.

Recommended Readings:

- Meckling, J., Kelsey, N., Biber, E., and Zysman, J., 2015. "Winning coalitions for climate policy." *Science* 349 (6253), pp. 1170–1171.
- Bernstein, S. and Hoffmann, M., 2018. "The politics of decarbonization and the catalytic impact of subnational climate experiments." *Policy Sciences* 51(2), pp. 1–23.
- Stern, N., 2008. "The economics of climate change." *American Economic Review* 98(2), pp. 1-37.

WEEK 4: PERCEPTIONS, DEBATES AND PUBLIC OPINION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Aldy, J. E., Kotchen, M. J. and Leiserowitz, A. A., 2012. "Willingness to pay and political support for a US national clean energy standard." *Nature Climate Change* 2(8), pp.596-599.

Bechtel, M. M. and Scheve, K. F., 2013. "Mass support for global climate agreements depends on institutional design." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 110 (34), pp. 13763-13768.

Egan, Patrick and Megan Mullin Climate Change: US Public Opinion, *Annual Review of Political Science* 20, no.11 (May 2017): 209–227.

Kim, S.Y. and Wolinsky-Nahmias, Y., 2014. "Cross-national public opinion on climate change: The effects of affluence and vulnerability." *Global Environmental Politics* 14(1), pp.79-106.

Recommended Readings:

- Inglehart, R., 1995. "Public support for environmental protection: The impact of objective problems and subjective values in 43 societies." *Political Science and Politics* 28(1), pp. 57-71.
- Kvaløy, B., Finseraas, H., and Listhaug, O., 2012. "The publics' concern for global warming: A cross-national study of 47 countries." *Journal of Peace Research* 49(1), pp. 11-22.
- Tingley, D., and Tomz, M., 2014. "Conditional cooperation and climate change." *Comparative Political Studies* 47(3), pp. 344–368.
- Bechtel, M. M., Genovese, F., and Scheve, K. F., 2018. "Interests, norms, and support for the provision of global public goods: The case of climate cooperation." *British Journal of Political Science* 49(4), pp. 1333-1355.
- Leiserowitz A., 2006. "Climate change risk perception and policy preferences: The role of affect, imagery, and values." *Climatic Change* 77(1-2), pp. 45-72

WEEK 5: CORPORATE INTERESTS, BUSINESS ACTORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Genovese, Federica and Endre Tvinnereim, 2019. "Who opposes climate regulation? Business preferences for the European emissions trading scheme." *Review of International Organizations*.

Szakonyi, D. and Urpelainen, J., 2014. "Who benefits from economic reform? Firms and distributive politics." *Journal of Politics* 76(3), pp. 1-18.

Rigling-Gallagher, D. and Weinthal, E., 2012. "Business-state relations and the environment: The evolving role of corporate responsibility," in Steinberg, P. and Vandever, S. (eds.) *Comparative Environmental Politics: Theory, Practice, and Prospects*, pp. 143-170.

Vogel, D., 2008. "Private global business regulation." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11, pp. 261-282.

Recommended Readings:

- Kim, S. E., Urpelainen, J., and Yang, J., 2015. "Electric utilities and American climate policy: Lobbying by expected winners and losers." *Journal of Public Policy* 36(2), pp. 251-275.
- Scruggs, L., 2003. *Sustaining Abundance: Environmental Performance in Industrial Democracies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Victor, D., 2011. *Global Warming Gridlock*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Green, J. F., 2013. *Rethinking Private Authority: Agents and Entrepreneurs in Global Environmental Governance*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Kennard, Amanda. "The enemy of my enemy: When firms support climate change regulation." *International Organization* 74, no. 2 (2020): 187-221.

WEEK 6: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, CIVIL ACTORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* – Chapter 6 (ONLINE BOOK).

Gullberg, A. T., 2008, "Lobbying friends and foes in climate policy: The case of business and environmental interest groups in the European Union." *Energy Policy*, 36(*), pp. 2964-2972.

Hadden, Jennifer. *Networks in contention*. Cambridge University Press, 2015. *Introduction*.

Kitschelt, H. P., 1986. "Political opportunity structures and political protest: Anti-nuclear movements in four democracies." *British Journal of Political Science*, 16(1), 57-85.

Schlosberg, D. and Carruthers, D., 2010. "Indigenous struggles, environmental justice and community capabilities." *Global Environmental Politics* 10(4), pp. 12-35.

Recommended Readings:

- Dalton, R., 2005. "The greening of the globe? Cross-national levels of environmental group membership." *Environmental Politics* 14(4), pp. 441-459.
- Corell, E. and Betsill. M. M., 2001. "A comparative look at NGO influence in international environmental negotiations: Desertification and climate change." *Global Environmental Politics* 1(4), pp. 86-107.
- Hadden, J., 2015. *Networks in Contention: The Divisive Politics of Climate Change*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

WEEK 7: POLITICAL PARTIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* (3rd Edition) – Chapters 4 and 5 (ONLINE BOOK).

Abou-Chadi, T. and Kayser, M., 2017. "It's not easy being green: Why voters punish parties for environmental policies during economic downturns." *Electoral Studies* 45, pp. 201-207.

Neumayer, E., 2003. "Are left-wing party strength and corporatism good for the environment? Evidence from panel analysis of air pollution in OECD countries." *Ecological Economics* 45(2), pp. 203-222.

Spoon, J. J., Hobolt, S. B. and De Vries, C. E., 2014. "Going green: Explaining issue competition on the environment." *European Journal of Political Research* 53(2), pp.363-380.

Jensen, C. B. and Spoon, J. J., 2011. "Testing the 'party matters' thesis: Explaining progress towards Kyoto protocol targets." *Political Studies* 59(1), pp.99-115.

Recommended Readings:

- Folke, O., 2014. "Shades of brown and green: Party effects in proportional election systems." *Journal of the European Economic Association* 12(5), pp.1361-1395.
- Shipan C. R. and Lowry W. R., 2001. "Environmental policy and party divergence in Congress." *Political Research Quarterly* 54(2), pp. 245-263.

WEEK 8: DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Carter, N., 2018. *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* – Chapters 4, 5 and 6 (ONLINE BOOK).

Finnegan, Jared J. "Institutions, climate change, and the foundations of long-term policymaking." *Comparative Political Studies* 55.7 (2022): 1198-1235.

Sanford, L. 2021. Democratization, Elections, and Public Goods: The Evidence from Deforestation. *American Journal of Political Science*, 67(3)

Recommended Readings:

- Bernauer, T. and Koubi, V., 2009. "Effects of political institutions on

air quality." *Ecological Economics*, 68(5), pp. 1355-1365.

- List, J. A. and Sturm, D. M., 2006. "How elections matter: Theory and evidence from environmental policy." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121(4), pp. 1249-1281.

WEEK 9: SUBNATIONAL ACTORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Betsill, M. and Bulkeley, H. 2004. "Transnational networks and global environmental governance: The cities for climate protection program." *International Studies Quarterly* 48(2), pp. 471-493.

Stokes, L. 2016. "Electoral backlash against climate policy: A natural experiment on retrospective voting and local resistance to public policy." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(4), pp. 958-974.

van der Ven, Hamish, Steven Bernstein and Matthew Hoffmann. 2017. Valuing the Contributions of Nonstate and Subnational Actors to Climate Governance. *Global Environmental Politics*, 17(1).

WEEK 10: DEMOCRACY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Bättig, M. B. and Bernauer, T., 2009. "National institutions and global public goods: Are democracies more cooperative in climate change policy?" *International Organization* 63(2), pp. 281-308.

Bayer, Patrick, and Johannes Urpelainen. "It is all about political incentives: democracy and the renewable feed-in tariff." *The Journal of Politics* 78.2 (2016): 603-619.

Recommended Readings:

- Li, Q. and Reuveny, R., 2006. "Democracy and environmental degradation." *International Studies Quarterly* 50(4), pp. 935-956.
- Neumayer, E., 2002. "Do democracies exhibit stronger environmental commitments? A cross-country analysis." *Journal of Peace Research* 39(2), pp. 139-64.

WEEK 11: Concluding Remarks