

# POL 303 Global Environmental Politics

## Semester One, 2009-2010

Natalie WONG

Department of Political Science

Dorothy Y.L. Wong Building, Room SO-221

Tel.: 2616-7199

Email: [nataliewong@ln.edu.hk](mailto:nataliewong@ln.edu.hk)

**Office Hours:** posted on the door of my office. Other times are available by prior appointment.

**Mode of Tuition:** Lecture (2 + 1 hours per week)

### 1. Course Description and Aims

The aim of this course is to give students a general background of environmental politics by theoretical explanations in order to understand the contemporary environmental challenges for Hong Kong, China and the globe. There is no doubt that environmental issues have brought a great influence on contemporary politics and society. Therefore, students will examine the environmental issues with a range of key concepts in the course: what political actors are reacting, how power is distributed in the environmental issues, and how the environmental issues / policies at both national and international levels are affecting our lives.

### 2. Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to learn –

- (a) to cultivate critical perspectives from which to make their own judgments about the possibilities and limits inherent in different kinds of ecological thought,
- (b) to demonstrate a capacity to employ theories in the critical analysis of concrete instances of environmental politics, and
- (c) to examine how the political actors, institutions, and forces are influencing the natural environment.

### 3. Teaching Methods:

The lectures of this course are divided into three parts. The first part is related to the key thoughts on environmental politics; the second part focuses on the actors, institutions, and policy-making process and formulation in the environmental policies at national levels. Finally, selected environmental issues (such as air pollution, water pollution, sustainable development, and climate change) in Hong Kong, China, and at the global level are discussed in the third part.

Classroom discussion will be used mainly in the both lectures and tutorials to convey basic concepts and developments of environmental politics. Students are encouraged to seek the linkage between the theories and case studies in the tutorial sessions and give comments on them. Films will be also used in the course.

## 4. Course Outline

### Topics

- 1 Introduction
  - *Movie: "An Inconvenient Truth"*
- 2 Theories of Environmental Politics:
  - Conservatism,
  - Liberalism,
  - Socialism,
  - Post-Modernism,
  - Feminism,
  - Deep Ecology, and
  - Environmental Justice
- 3 Powers and Actors in Environmental Politics:
  - Political Parties,
  - Environmental Non-governmental Organizations,
  - Institutions and Bureaucracies, Business and
  - Policy-making
- 4 Selected issues of environmental politics in Hong Kong
  - Air Pollution in Hong Kong
  - Transboundary environmental collaboration in tackling air pollution between Hong Kong & Guangdong Province
  - Environmental Movement in Hong Kong
- 5 Selected issues of environmental politics in China
  - Water Pollution in China
  - Environmental movements & green groups in China
- 6 The Global dimension to environmental politics
  - Global Climate Change & International Cooperation

## 5. Assessment and Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Assessment in various ways will contribute to the measurement of your learning.

The Continuous Assessment (100%) will be sub-divided into four components. There will be no final exam during the University's regular exam period.

1. An individual brief environmental news report (20%) which enable you to evaluate critically environmental issues through reading newspapers or other media reports. I will select one to two students to report the news at each lecture. You can pick a piece of the news from either local or international newspapers, and give a five-minute report on the issues and your point of views during the lecture. Scope of the news can be chosen in Hong Kong, China, other countries, or global, but it should be relevant to environmental issues. As the sources of daily global news, you are recommended to read the International Herald Tribune (IHT), South China Morning Post (SCMP), BBC News, which are very good and high quality English-language sources of news related to this course. IHT and SCMP are available in the library, or you can subscribe. BBC news and part of IHT's articles are available for free on their website. Evaluation of your performance will be based on your familiarity and analytical skill on the news. Efforts to link up with the concepts you have learnt from the course are encouraged.

Each student shall submit their written reports (300 – 500 words) at each lecture.

2. A tutorial presentation (20%) which demonstrates your ability to (i) research and organize content in a coherent and logical manner, (ii) present this content together with your own analysis in a clear manner, and (iii) defend your arguments during the discussion period.

3. An individually-written term paper in which a question related to the themes covered in this course is discussed in a logical and clear manner. Weight is given to your research and analytical skills as demonstrated by the nature of the content and your critical analysis. You must include footnotes/citations and references list/bibliography. An individual grade is given (50%).

**Deadline is Friday 4 December 2009.**

***"Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations"***

4. Participation in class discussions. You will be given an opportunity to lead the discussion on other students' presentations, but credit will also be given to those who join in actively and regularly in class discussions. Your grade depends on quality as well as quantity of contributions (10%).

***Tutorial Discussion Topics: to be outlined and allocated during the first week of tutorials.***

## **6. References**

### **Required reading**

Neil Carter, *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. UK: Cambridge Press, 2007.

### **Overviews**

- Barry, John, *Environment and Social Theory*. London: Routledge, 1999.
- Bernauer, Thomas and Caduff, Ladina, "In Whose Interest? Pressure Group Politics, Economic Competition and Environmental Regulation," *Journal of Public Policy* 24:1 (January-April 2004): 99-126.
- Bryant, Bunyan, ed. *Environmental Justice: Issues, Policies, Solutions*. Island Press, 1995.
- Caldwell, Lynton K. and Bartlett, Robert V., eds. *Environmental Policy: Transnational Issues and National Trends*. Quorum Books. 1997.
- Camacho, David E., ed. *Environmental Injustices, Political Struggles: Race, Class, and the Environment*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1998.
- Carter, Neil, *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Carter, Neil T. and Mol, Arthur P.J., eds. *Environmental governance in China*. London : Routledge, 2007.
- Day, Kristen A., ed., *China's environment and the challenge of sustainable development*. N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2005.
- Devall, Bill and Sessions, George, *Deep Ecology*. Salt Lake City: Gibbs M. Smith, 1985.

- Desai, Uday. ed. *Ecological Policy and Politics in Developing Countries: Economic Growth, Democracy, and Environment*. New York: SUNY, 1998.
- Desimone, Livio D. and Popoff, Frank, *Eco-Efficiency: The Business Link to Sustainable Development*. Cambridge: MIT, 1997.
- Durant, Robert F., Fiorino, Daniel J., and O'Leary, Rosemary, *Environmental Governance Reconsidered: Challenges, Choices, and Opportunities*. MIT Press, 2004.
- Engine, Idling, *Hong Kong's Environmental Policy in a Ten-Year Stall (1997-2007)*. Hong Kong, Civic Exchange 2007.
- Fiorino, Daniel J., *Making Environmental Policy*. California UP, 1995.
- Goodin, Robert, *Green Political Theory*. UK: Cambridge Press, 1992.
- Gould, Kenneth A., Schnaiberg, Allan , and Weinberg, Adam S. , *Local Environmental Struggles: Citizen Activism in the Treadmill of Production*. Cambridge UP, 1996.
- Jardins, Joseph R. Des, *Environmental Ethics: An Introduction to Environmental Philosophy*. Wadsworth, 1993.
- Jasanoff, Sheilan and Martello, Marybeth Long, eds., *Earthly Politics: Local and Global in Environmental Governance*. MIT Press, 2004.
- Karliner, Joshua, *The Corporate Planet: Ecology and Politics in the Age of Globalization*. Sierra Club, 1997.
- Kraft, Michael E., *Environmental Policy and Politics*, 3rd ed. Longman, 2004.
- Lee, Yok-shiu F., *Public environmental attitudes in China: some early empirical evidence*. Hong Kong Baptist University, 2003.
- Lee, Yok-shiu F. and So, Alvin Y., eds. *Asia's environmental movements: comparative perspectives*. M.E. Sharpe, 1999.
- Paterson, Matthew, *Global Warming and Global Politics*. Routledge, 1996.
- Matthews, Jessica Tuchman, ed. *Preserving the Global Environment: The Challenge of Shared Leadership*. Norton, 1991.
- Nelissen, Nico, Straaten, Jan van der and Klinkner, Leon, eds. *Classics in Environmental Studies: An Overview of Classic Texts in Environmental Studies*. Utrecht : International Books, 1997.
- Pralle, Sarah B., *Branching Out, Digging In: Environmental Advocacy and Agenda-Setting* .Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2006.
- Rabe, Barry G., “Beyond Kyoto: Climate Change Policy in Multilevel Governance Systems” , *Governance*, 20:3 (July 2007): 423–444.
- Roberts, J. Timmons and Parks, Bradley C., *A Climate of Injustice: Global Inequality, North-South Politics, and Climate Policy*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2006.
- Rosenbaum, Walter A., *Environmental Politics and Policy*, 7th ed. Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2007.
- Salleh, Ariel, *Ecofeminism as Politics: Nature, Marx, and the Postmodern*. Atlantic Highland, N.J. : Zed Books, 1997.
- Smith, Zachary, *The Environmental Policy Paradox*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. U.S.: Prentice Hall, 2004.
- Victor, David G., *The Collapse of the Kyoto Protocol and the Struggle to Slow Global Warming*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2004.
- Wapner, Paul, *Environmental activism and world civic politics*. State University of New York Press, 1996.
- Warren, Karen J., ed., *Ecofeminism: Women, Culture, Nature*. Indiana UP, 1997
- Waterman, Richard W., *Bureaucrats, Politics, and the Environment*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004.
- Wells, Donald T., *Environmental Policy: A Global Perspective for the Twenty-First Century*. U.S.: Prentice Hall, 1997.

- Young, Oran, *International Governance: Protecting the Environment in a Stateless Society*. Ithaca : Cornell UP, 1994.
- Zedillo, Ernesto, ed. *Global Warming: Looking Beyond Kyoto*. Washington D.C.: Brookings, 2007.

### **Journals**

- Environmental Politics
- Global Environmental Politics
- Journal of Environmental Law
- Journal of Environmental Management

### **Websites**

- United Nations Environment Programme - <http://www.unep.org/>
- Kyoto Protocol - [http://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/items/2830.php](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php)
- Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change - <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- Environmental Protection Department, HKSAR - <http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/>
- Ministry of Environmental Protection of PRC - <http://www.sepa.gov.cn/>
- BBC News - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
- International Herald Tribune - <http://global.nytimes.com/?iht>
- China Development Brief - <http://www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com/>