

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	CASS
Programme:	BA Political Science
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Politics of Environmentalism
Course Code:	PLT 6410
Course Leader:	Dr Michael F. Keating
Student Engagement Hours:	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures:	15
Seminar / Tutorials:	20
Case Study Sessions:	10
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall, Spring, Summer
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Examines the political, economic, ideological, and social dilemmas associated with environmental issues. The first section of the course addresses the historical roots of environmentalism, its key concepts, and a range of key thinkers and paradigms for understanding environmentalism as an ideology. The second section of the course explores the role of key actors engaged in environmental policy making, and important issues in contemporary environmental politics. Topics addressed include environmental movements and parties, global environmental regimes, the impact of the media on environmental issues, and prospects for green technologies and employment.

Prerequisites:

HST 4110 or PHL 4100 or PLT 4100 or INR 4100 or SCL 4110 or ENV 5100

Aims and Objectives:

- To extend the understanding of social science students with regard to the politics of environmentalism, in a global context

- To provide PS and IR majors with a broad background in the study of environmental politics, to better prepare them for further study in this field
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organizations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear thinking individuals with a grasp of contemporary politics of environmentalism
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that will be of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

6A(i); 6A(ii); 6B(i); 6B(ii); 6B(iv); 6C(i); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D(ii); 6D(iii); 6D(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the major thinkers and intellectual paradigms in environmentalism
- Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in the politics of environmentalism
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of environmental policy making, and the domestic, regional and international levels.
- Demonstrates a systematic insight into cultural, economic, international and social dimensions of the politics of environmentalism
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major thematic debates in the politics of environmentalism
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course
- Demonstrates flexible skills that translate directly into the workplace, including, through teamwork and presentations, the ability to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity

Indicative Content:

- The origins of environmentalism

- Key concepts and paradigms in environmentalism
- Environmental philosophy
- Environmental policy-making
- Environmental movements and parties
- International aspects of environmentalism

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be **Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating**. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely, but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Bibliography:

- Carter, N. (2007) *The Politics of the Environment* (2nd ed.), Cambridge.
- Connelly, J. *et al.* (2012) *Politics and the Environment: From Theory to Practice* (3rd ed.), Routledge.
- Dobson, A. (2007) *Green Political Thought* (4th ed.), Routledge.
- Keller, D. R. (ed.) (2010) *Environmental Ethics: The Big Questions*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- O'Neill, K. (2009) *The Environment and International Relations*, Cambridge.

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Click here to enter text.

Journals

Click here to enter text.

Web Sites

Click here to enter text.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Add ENV 5100 as an alternative, additional pre-requisite	DSS 05/02/16	Y