

SYLLABUS
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
Leadership of the Public Sector, 1st year

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Course description

The Environmental Policy course is designed to introduce 1st year students to the general concepts and issues in the field of environmental policy and the current global environmental agenda.

Through study materials and teaching activities in classes and seminars we pursue the objective of facilitating student understanding of the environmental policy process in its contemporary complexity (political, supranational, legal, economic, social, technological), in the context of public sector activities.

The course is organized in three major areas (if we do not count introductory discussions and final conclusions, when we put the puzzle together ☺):

- Environmental policy (state intervention to solve environmental problems);
- Market solutions to environmental problems (and other market-related issues);
- Societal actions as solutions to environmental problems.

Course learning objectives

After going through the course during the semester, the specific learning objectives of the course are:

- to develop the capacity of the student to identify, analyze, understand environmental problems, in their complex context, at the level of local communities;
- students can identify, develop, adapt policy instruments and more complex solutions to environmental problems;
- students can identify the most favorable implementation scenarios;
- students have the capacity to determine, at community level, strategic objectives related to the quality of the environment, the quality of life in general, community well-being;
- students learn values, behaviors and lifestyles required for positive societal transformation;
- students learn 'social action' competences and critical reflection skills in a trans-disciplinarity context.

The main competencies that the course contributes to are related to:

- knowledge of and capacity to interpret general concepts and principles of environmental legislation, including EU Directives;
- the ability to comparatively and interdisciplinary address environmental problems (policy analysis) in order to solve or alleviate them (from a public interest perspective);
- the ability to synthesize the factors that contribute to the destruction of the environment and those that can contribute to addressing environmental problems;
- the ability to understand, discuss or argue on issues or situations relevant for the present public debate topics, in the context of environmental policy (law, policy, politics, economic, social, technology, ecology);
- the ability to apply theoretical concepts to particular cases (for instance, situations of environmental inequity);
- the capacity to explain fundamental theoretical concepts and their interactions;
- the capacity to apply, in the context of local communities, concepts such as sustainable development / sustainability, horizontal integration of environmental policy, impact assessment, etc.

Course contents

- C1. Introductory discussion to the general field of environmental protection activities – interdisciplinary approaches. Introduction of general concepts of the discipline such as governance, policy, policy instruments, with examples from the environmental field.
- C2. Explanation of general concepts (environment, pollution, environmental protection principles, etc.). The need to protect the environment, basic information on the main aspects of environmental degradation. Theoretical framing of environmental problems as market failures and government failures.
- C3. Environmental public policy. Policy instruments (1). Classification, evolution of policy instruments, pros and cons for each category. Regulation and regulatory instruments.
- C4. Policy instruments (2). Market-based instruments as an alternative to address environmental problems.
- C5. Environmental governance – a framework concept for addressing environmental matters.
- C6. Marketization of environmental governance / policy: manifestations and implications (also, voluntary instruments).
- C7. Sustainable development, methodologies for assessing and implementing sustainability. Well-being, quality of life, Social Development Index, other sustainability indexes that include environmental considerations.
- C8. Environmental responsibility of corporations (a form of CSR). How can public authorities facilitate community involvement of the private sector in environmental matters? Sustainable development, facilitating private sector sustainability.
- C9. Sustainable consumption. Environmental problems as behavioral problems. The limits of science for the solution of environmental problems. Different lifestyles, consumption patterns and their impact on the environment. Ecological footprints. From ethics to policy / law (also, policy instruments based on information / education).
- C10. Between market and justice: the socio-ecological challenge. Environment as a political problem. Conflict between economic growth and environmental protection.
- C11. Environmental justice (distributional equity). Environmental ethics: Human values, needs and wants.
- C12. Public participation in environmental policy. Formal and non-formal provisions for public participation. Public participation at different stages of the policy process. Public participation in development and enforcement of the state ecological policy. Advantages and disadvantages of public participation. Mechanisms of public participation. Aarhus Convention.
- C13. Limits of environmental policy in societal context. Unsustainability as manifestation of environmental policy. The politics of unsustainability.
- C14. Review of the course. Retrospective discussion on environmental protection activities and their relevance in the context of the public sector, community perspectives, the role of the state in environmental policy (level of intervention, taxes, public goods management, the consumer, the market).

Course methodology and requirements

The discipline is taught through a weekly course and a seminar. The topic discussed in course is further explained, clarified and applied through seminar activities BUT it will not be started all over again (if you miss the course you do the additional effort yourself).

The course materials are available on the e-learning platform of the faculty (Moodle). There you will have available all the materials that represent mandatory reading / learning. Additional / optional readings may be available on the course page.

Seminar assignments (papers / parts of the paper) will be uploaded on Moodle and feedback will be provided individually by the instructor. Assignments need to be turned in on time. Late submissions will not be considered. Specific

requirements for each assignment are made available on Moodle. Particular cases need to be discussed in private with the course instructor.

After a minimum of 5 weeks there will be a mandatory test from the content studied until then. This test is part of the seminar activity, it cannot be taken in the exam session (10% of the final grade).

Attendance is mandatory in seminars (75%). Attendance is strongly recommended at the course since you will not be able to understand the concepts in order to do the seminar activities. Without the required attendance and course / seminar activity students will be excluded from the exams and will only be able to take the course again in the next academic year.

Evaluation

Grading starts from grade 1 (thus, 1 free point) and then:

- A. Written exam: 60% of the final grade
 - Understanding of discipline concepts, theories and legal provisions in the field;
 - Capacity to argue on environmental issues (causes, factors, alternative solutions, social and economic implications);
- B. Evaluation during the semester (seminar individual activity, papers, partial exam): 40% of the final grade
 - Capacity to analyze and to apply concepts and theories to environmental problems (real cases / organizations or through case studies);
 - Participation in class discussions, theoretical argumentation of opinions, creativity, argumentation skills, etc.
- C. Evaluation on the quality of course interaction: 10% (bonus point).

Course bibliography (selection)

Course reading materials are provided to students during the semester (on the e-learning platform). Other materials (case-studies, short readings, presentations) are provided in class. The general bibliography of the course is available as PDF books / materials.

- Minea, Elena and Suciu, Raluca, *Environmental Policy*, Tritonic, Bucuresti, 2013.
- Rigling Gallagher, Deborah (ed.), *Environmental Leadership. A Reference Handbook*, vol. 1 and 2, Sage Publications, 2012.
- Barry, John, *The Politics of Actually Existing Unsustainability. Human Flourishing in a Climate-Changed, Carbon Constrained World*, Oxford University Press, 2012.
- OECD, *Taxation, Innovation and the Environment*, 2010.
- Park, Jacob, Conca, Ken and Finger, Mathias, *The Crisis of Global Environmental Governance. Towards a New Political Economy of Sustainability*, Routledge, 2008.
- Dauvergne, Peter, *The Shadows of Consumption. Consequences for the Global Environment*, The MIT Press, 2008.
- Zehner, Ozzie, *Green Illusions. The Dirty Secrets of Clean Energy and the Future of Environmentalism*, University of Nebraska Press, 2012.
- Johnstone, Nick (ed.), *Environmental Policy and Corporate Behaviour*, OECD, Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2007.
- Cohen, Steven, *Understanding Environmental Policy*, Columbia University Press, New York, 2006.