

POU33184 — Topics in International Politics: International Environmental Politics

Module Information	
Module Code	POU33184
Module Title	<i>Topics in International Politics: International Environmental Politics</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Junior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Dr Sotirios Karampampas</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 2</i>
Contact Hours	<i>One 2-hours lecture per week One 1-hour seminar per week</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	<i>This module examines the international politics of environmental problems through a comparative lens. It explores how global environmental challenges – such as ozone depletion and climate change – are addressed through international regimes, multilateral agreements, and the participation of various state and non-state actors. Emphasis is placed on regime design, participation, and effectiveness, as well as the institutional complexity that often limits coordinated responses. The course also analyses the link between climate change and conflict, the trade-environment nexus, the issue of environmental justice and prospects for future global environmental governance. Throughout, students will engage with key theoretical frameworks and empirical cases to critically assess why international cooperation succeeds or fails. They will also consider how environmental governance is shaped by power asymmetries, competing interests, and evolving global norms.</i>
Module Learning Aims	<i>The module aims to</i>

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	- <i>Introduce students to the core concepts, frameworks, and debates in the study of international environmental politics.</i> - <i>Provide students with the analytical foundations to conduct theoretical and empirical research on international and comparative environmental politics.</i> - <i>Train students to apply theoretical insights to real-world cases of environmental cooperation and conflict.</i> - <i>Develop students' capacity to critically assess the effectiveness of international environmental regimes and policy instruments.</i> - <i>Enhance students' ability to evaluate the political drivers and constraints of global cooperation on environmental challenges.</i>
Learning Outcomes	<i>Upon successful completion of the module, students will be able to</i> - <i>Understand the basic issues and challenges in international environmental politics.</i> - <i>Demonstrate knowledge of key political theories and analytical frameworks used to study environmental governance.</i> - <i>Analyse the roles, interests, and strategies of diverse actors involved in global environmental cooperation.</i> - <i>Evaluate the effectiveness and limitations of international environmental regimes and multilateral agreements.</i> - <i>Apply theoretical insights to empirical cases in order to develop evidence-based arguments on key issues in international environmental politics.</i>
Indicative Reading / Resources	<i>Carter, N. (2018). The politics of the environment: Ideas, activism, policy. 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press.</i> <i>Kütting, G., & Herman, K. (Eds.). (2018). Global environmental politics: Concepts, theories and case studies. Routledge.</i> <i>Mitchell, R. B. (2009). International politics and the environment. Sage Publishing.</i> <i>O'Neill, K. (2017). The environment and international relations. 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press.</i> <i>Urpelainen, J. (2022). Global environmental politics: The transformative role of emerging economies. Columbia University Press.</i>

Assessment	
Assessment Components	<i>Tutorial Attendance and Discussion Points 10%, Group Presentation 40%, Final Exam 50%</i>
Assessment Details	- <i>Tutorial Attendance and Discussion Points 10%</i> <i>Students are required to submit discussion points for 5 out of 10 tutorials across the module.</i> - <i>Group Presentation</i> <i>Students are required to work collaboratively in small groups to prepare and deliver an in-class presentation based on the assigned weekly readings.</i> - <i>Final Exam</i> <i>Students are required to sit an in-person, closed-book final examination consisting of a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.</i>

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	<i>None</i>
Co-requisites	<i>None</i>