

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FALL 2003-2004
IR 570 GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
INSTRUCTOR: ASS. PROF. DR. ŞULE GÜNEŞ

DESCRIPTION

Our planet is threatened by a wide variety of environmental problems ranging from climate change, ozone depletion, deforestation, marine pollution, desertification to extinction of species, which require international cooperation. Though the commitment of the states to protect the quality of the environment is impressive, the implementation of these policies are problematic. In this course, the nature and extent of the global environmental issues and the response given by humanity to these problems, at national, regional and international level will be analysed.

OUTLINE OF THE TOPICS

- Week 1** Introduction: Environment, Ecosystem and Ecology
- Week 2** Global Environmental Problems and Evolution of International Concern
- Week 3** International Conferences and Significant Reports
- Week 4** Guiding Principles of Environmental Policy 1 : Sustainable Development, Precautionary Principle, Polluter Pays Principle
- Week 5** Guiding Principles of Environmental Policy 2: Common Heritage of Mankind, Intergenerational Equity
- Week 6** International Structures for Environmental Policy 1: United Nations System
- Week 7** International Structures for Environmental Policy 2: Regional Programmes
- Week 8.** Issue Areas: Ozone Depletion, Climate Change, Biodiversity
- Week 9.** Issue Areas: Threat to Global Commons: Antartica, Outer Space
- Week 10.** Issue Areas: Marine Pollution
- Week 11-14** Discussions

TEXTBOOKS

Caldwell, Lynton Keith (1996) International Environmental Policy, Duke University Press. **(Main Text Book)**

Choucri, Nazlı (1993) Global Accord, Environmental Challenges and International Responses, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London England

Dodds Felix with Middleton Toby (2002) Earth Summit 2002 A New Deal, Earth Scan Publications, London

Environmental Law Deskbook, (2002), 7th Edition, Environmental Law Institute.

Susskind, Lawrence E., Siskind, J. Esther Breslin, William (1990) Nine Case Studies in International Environmental Negotiation, The MIT-Harvard Public Disputes Program

Vig N. J., Axelrod, Regina S., (2000) The Global Environment: Institutions, Law and Policy

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Alston Philip, (1982) "A Third Generation of Solidarity Rights: Progressive Development or Obfuscation of International Human Rights Law?", NILR. Vol. XXIX, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, The Hague,

Austin J.E., Bruch C. E. (2000) Environmental Consequences of War, Legal, Economic and Scientific Perspectives, Cambridge University Press

Birnie-Boyle, (1992) International Law and The Environment, Clarendon Oxford University Press, New York, U S A.

Charney J.I., (1989) "Third State Remedies in International Law", Michigan Journal of International Law, Vol.10:57

Crawford James, (ed.) (1992) The Rights of Peoples, Clarendon Press, Oxford

D'Amato, (1990) "Do We Owe a Duty to Future Generations to Preserve the Global Commons", Agora: What Obligations Does Our Generation Owe to the Next, AJIL,

Ege Karl J., (1970-71) "Enforcing Environmental Policy: The Environmental Ombudsman", Cornell Law Review, Vol.56:847

Gajo G., (1981), "Ius Cogens Beyond the Vienna Convention", Recueil des Cours, Vol.III,

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Our Common Future (1987) World Commission on Environment and Development, Oxford University Press.

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Weiss E.B., (1990), "Our Rights and Obligations to Future Generations for the Environment", Agora: What Obligations Does Our Generation Owe to the Next, AJIL.

Yearbook of International Environmental Law, (2002)

5. Course Objectives

The course will provide the students the basic knowledge on the current state of environment from a global perspective which will be supplemented by case studies. One of the major objectives of the course is to improve the analytical abilities of the students and to challenge them to develop their own models and strategies for an effective environmental management at global, regional or local level on various issue areas.

6. Course Outline

Week 1 Introduction: Environment, Ecosystem and Ecology

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Week 6 International Structures for Environmental Policy 1: United Nations System

Week 7 International Structures for Environmental Policy 2: Regional Programmes

Week 8. Issue Areas: Ozone Depletion, Climate Change, Biodiversity

Week 9. Issue Areas: Threat to Global Commons: Antarctica, Outer Space

Week 10. Issue Areas: Marine Pollution

Week 11-14 Student Seminars and Class Discussions

7. Course Proposal Prepared by

Assistant Professor Dr. Şule Güneş

8. Justification for the Course Outline

The course aims to contribute to the graduate programmes of our department by offering an analytical and comprehensive knowledge on a variety of global environmental problems and how these problems are governed at national, regional and international levels. The course outline is structured so as to ensure both the theoretical and historical background information as well as the practical implications of institutional efforts. The variety of environmental issues forced us to be selective with regard to issue areas which can be subject to alterations as new environmental problems emerge.

BİRİNCİ EĞİTİM

1. Course Number and Title

3140570 Global Environmental Issues

2. Catalog Description

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13. Overlapping and Complementing Courses

No overlapping courses.

14. Effective Date

October 2003

15. Frequency

Every Fall and Spring Term

16. Opinion of the Departmental Academic Board

Approved