



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Department of  
Political Science

**ClimBEco**  
Graduate School



Earth  
System  
Governance

## **Global Environmental Governance Today – Actors, Institutions, Complexity**

3 ECTS credits, third cycle

Lund University course no. SAGM001

### **1. General Information, Eligibility and Application**

Venue: Lund University, Department of Political Science

Dates: 16-20 October 2017

Deadline for applications: 6 October 2017

This is an interdisciplinary third-cycle course offered by Lund University's Department of Political Science and financed by the graduate research school ClimBEco of Lund and Gothenburg universities ('Climate Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a changing world'). The course is endorsed by the Earth System Governance project (ESG) and takes place back to back with the annual ESG conference & summer school in Lund.

The main course teachers and organisers will be Ina Möller and Dr. Fariborz Zelli, both from the Department of Political Science. The course will consist of 15 sessions, including several interactive seminars where students engage in group work and simulations.

The course is open to Ph.D. students from all disciplinary backgrounds and universities. No extra course fees apply, but the number of participants is limited; in case of too many applications, priority will be given to students of the ClimBEco graduate research school and Ph.D. students of the Department of Political Science at Lund University. Before applying, please liaise with your supervisor on the acceptance of course credits in your programme or university.

B.A. and M.A. students as well as post-doctoral fellows are more than welcome to participate as guests.

The course is particularly designed to be accessible for students from very different backgrounds, including different natural science disciplines. Therefore, the introduction of key political concepts and international relations theories will include some elementary aspects. Students with a more advanced theoretical background in political science will nonetheless benefit from the

application of these concepts and theories in a series of simulations and interactive sessions.

Please note that funding for travel and accommodation can only be provided to students from the ClimBEco graduate research school. We ask for your understanding that we will not be able to reserve any hotels or make recommendations.

Please apply for participation **by 6<sup>th</sup> October** by sending an e-mail to [Fariborz.zelli@svet.lu.se](mailto:Fariborz.zelli@svet.lu.se), providing the following information: your name; university; discipline; faculty status (Ph.D. student or different); ClimBEco status (currently member of 2-year ClimBEco programme or external applicant); and whether you like to acquire ECTS credits or just a participation certificate. We look forward to welcoming you in Lund.

## **2. Learning Outcomes**

Participants will be able to accomplish the following objectives by the end of the course:

1. Identify and compare different understandings of environment, governance and sustainable development.
2. Describe and critically analyse the development of the UN environmental architecture.
3. Compare governance architectures for different environmental problems like climate change and biodiversity.
4. Distinguish different political dimensions (actors, institutions, interlinkages) and their relevance for the success or failure of global environmental politics.
5. Apply major theories of political science to identify and examine social barriers of global environmental governance.
6. Identify limits of and realistic options for political reform.

Achieving these objectives will be of particular benefit for students with career goals that include serving as a practitioner in environmental politics or providing policy advice and consultancy.

## **3. Course Content**

During the global climate conference in Paris, countries around the world subscribed to staying below an average warming of 2°C and submitted targets to reduce their carbon footprint. But how effective will these targets be, and how will recent changes in government, in the US and elsewhere, influence the probability of meeting them? Are economic growth, political interest and human development compatible with environmental conservation? And is scientific knowledge about the state of the environment enough to mobilize a change in behavior?

The course frames this dilemma of global environmental governance as a problem of human interaction. It starts from the premise that, in addition to

natural and physical barriers, there are severe social and political barriers that often stand in the way of an effective management of transboundary environmental threats. In other words: political processes and actors are not only the target of scientific advice (science for politics), but part of the problem – and hence objects of examination (science of politics), e.g. due to underlying constellations of power and interests or behavioural norms.

Based on concepts and theories of political science, the course seeks to provide Ph.D. students from different disciplines with an understanding of the current state of global environmental governance, its underlying causes and possible response options. The main modules of the course are:

- Module 1: introducing the state of play in global environmental governance today (icebreaker; key concepts; development of the United Nations system from early 1970s until today; reform discussions);
- Module 2: core dimensions of global environmental governance (actors; institutions; overlaps with other policy fields like security, trade, health, development);
- Module 3: explaining and understanding (rationalist theories; constructivist theories; and their application).

Each of the modules above will conclude with an intensive simulation or group work session where students apply some of the presented concepts, theories and empirical information. Moreover, students will, after the end of the course, write short final papers in which they apply selected political theories to help them explain governance developments in their own field of Ph.D. research.

#### **4. Teaching and Assessment**

The course will consist of 15 sessions that will all take place in one week, including three interactive seminars where students engage in group work and simulations.

The course is particularly designed to be accessible for students from very different backgrounds, including different natural science disciplines. Therefore, the introduction of key political concepts and international relations theories will include some elementary aspects. Students with a more advanced theoretical background in political science will nonetheless benefit from the application of these concepts and theories in a series of simulations and interactive sessions.

For the first session, every participant is asked to prepare a short (3 min) ‘show and tell’ presentation of themselves, their subject of research, and where they see a connection to issues of global environmental governance. Rather than using Power Point, we ask participants to bring one tangible object that relates to their research in some manner.

We also ask all participants to block sufficient time, i.e. about a day, in the week before the course begins so that they can prepare the reading material. (Further instructions will be sent around to registered students in due time). Evaluation will take place on the basis of participation and a short final paper of 1,500 words to be submitted about 3-4 weeks after the end of the course. In the paper, participants will apply the discussed theories and concepts to their own field of research or to an equivalent issue of their choice.

Re-examination is offered after the conclusion of the course. If necessary, a second opportunity for re-examination will be arranged at a later date.

## **5. Grades**

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail. To be awarded a Pass the student must fulfill the learning outcomes specified and also demonstrate an independent, reflective and critical approach to the research field and to the theories presented in the course.

## **6. Admission Requirements**

The course is open to Ph.D. students from all disciplinary backgrounds. The number of participants is limited however; in case of too many applications, priority will be given to students of the ClimBEco graduate research school and Ph.D. students of the department of political science at Lund University. Before applying, please liaise with your supervisor on the acceptance of course credits in your programme or university.

B.A. and M.A. students as well as post-doctoral fellows are more than welcome to participate as guests.

## **7. Literature**

*Recommended readings for preparation:*

Axelrod, Regina S., and Stacy D. VanDeveer (eds.), 2014. *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press. 360 pp.

Baylis, John, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, 2016. *The Globalization of World Politics: an introduction to international relations*. 7th ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapters 6, 7, 9 & 10. 51 pp.

Biermann, Frank, and Philipp Pattberg (eds.), 2012. *Global Environmental Governance Reconsidered*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. 301 pp.

Clapp, Jennifer, and Peter Dauvergne, 2011. *Paths to a Green World. The*

*Political Economy of the Global Environment*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge: MIT Press. 336 pp.

*Further readings:*

Betsill, Michele, Kathryn Hochstetler and Dimitris Stevis (eds.), 2014. *Advances in International Environmental Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan. 424 pp.

Nicholson, Simon, and Paul Wapner, 2014. *Global Environmental Politics. From Person to Planet*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers. 384 pp.

O'Neill, Kate, 2017. *The Environment and International Relations*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 264 pp.