

**SABANCI UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (FASS)**

**SPS 384**

**GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

**Spring 2023-2024**

**Course Syllabus**

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### **Course Description**

Global climate change and environmental problems pose enormous challenges to society. Human-nature relationships, production and consumption patterns, political systems and forms of governance are among the dynamics that influence environmental challenges. Environmental policy should explore the interface between political, economic, social and ecological processes.

This course introduces the nature, causes and effects of global climate change; the historical and political background of efforts to address the problem; key concepts of environmental politics and political ecology; scientific and policy aspects of environmental issues; and solutions to the climate crisis.

Climate change is not only the most alarming planetary challenge, but also the nexus of debates about international politics, environmental law, social movements and sustainable economic alternatives. Climate policy is inextricably linked to sectoral policies such as energy, transport, agriculture, industry, technology and the global economy. Therefore, a thorough insight into global climate change and climate policies would give students a better understanding of the relationships between contemporary political, economic and environmental issues. On the other hand, the characteristics of different environmentalisms, green politics and global activism for climate justice form the landscape of one of the most important current social movements.

This course aims to introduce the basic concepts of environmental politics, which are among the new concepts in political theory, such as ecological modernisation, ecological citizenship and environmental justice. International environmental politics, climate governance and political processes will be among the topics covered.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be expected to be able to

- Explain the causes and impacts of anthropogenic climate change, international climate policy and Turkey's climate policy;
- Discuss how the climate crisis could be mitigated;
- Discuss how and why climate and environmental science needs to be used for public policy making;

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- Discuss how environmental policy theories could be used to address the climate crisis and other environmental challenges;
- Discuss the need for energy transition, phasing out fossil fuels and an energy system based on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**Course Policies**

- Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded.
- Slide sets for the lectures will be available on SuCourse+.
- There will be short quizzes at the beginning of some lectures.

**Grading Policy**

- Quizzes, attendance, and participation (30%)
- Midterm exam (30%)
- Final Exam (40%)

**Course outline**

- Introduction
- Ecological crisis and Anthropocene
- Science and policy aspects of environmental problems and climate change
- History of climate change
- Basics of climate science
- Climate change indicators today
- Impacts of climate change
- Climate policies: Mitigation and Adaptation
- International climate politics, actors, and institutions
- Introduction to environmentalism, green political thought, and political ecology
- Major environmental political theories 1 - Ecological citizenship
- Major environmental political theories 2 - Environmental justice
- Major environmental political theories 3 - Sustainable development and ecological modernization.
- Solutions to climate crisis and net zero transition.