

SABANCI UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES – POLITICAL SCIENCE
SPS 384 – GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

2020-2021 SPRING

Dr. Ümit Şahin

Course Description

Global climate change and environmental problems create an enormous challenge for the society. Human-nature relationships, production and consumption patterns, political systems and governance forms are among the dynamics that influence environmental challenges. Environmental politics should explore the interface between political, economic, social and ecological processes. This course introduces the essence, as well as the causes and effects of ecological crisis and environmental problems; historical and political background of the efforts to tackle these questions; essential concepts of environmental politics and political ecology; science and policy aspects of the environmental issues and exclusively of the global climate change.

Climate change is not only the most alarming planetary challenge, but also is the nexus of debate around international politics, environmental law, social movements and sustainable economic alternatives. Climate policies are inevitably connected to sectorial policies such as energy, transport, agriculture, industry, technology as well as the global economy. Therefore, a thorough insight about global climate change and climate policies would give students a better understanding of the relations of contemporary political, economic and environmental issues. On the other hand, characteristics of various environmentalisms, green politics and global activism for climate justice picture the landscape of one of the most important current social movements.

This course aims to introduce the basic notions of environmental politics which are among the novel concepts of political theory, such as ecological modernization, ecological citizenship and environmental justice. International environmental politics, climate governance and policy processes will be among the topics. The most recent issues such as food politics and urban environments, as well as the history and current state of the green politics will also be discussed. Major environmental issues in Turkey with their relations to local ecological conflicts, actors and institutions of environmental and climate policies and state of affairs of the environmental movement will be the primary focus of relevant case studies.

COURSE GRADE

30% Midterm

40% Final Exam

30% Attendance, Participation, and Quizzes

Syllabus

WEEK 1 (24.02.2021)

Introduction: What are ecology, environment and green?

Ecological crisis and Anthropocene: A green history of the world and today's challenges.

WEEK 2 (3.03.2021)

Science and policy aspects of environmental problems. Risk and precautionary approach.

WEEK 3 (10.03.2021)

Quiz 1

Climate change: From science to politics 1 (Climate Science)

WEEK 4 (17.03.2021)

Climate change: From science to politics 2 (Impacts)

WEEK 5 (24.03.2021)

Quiz 2

Climate change: From science to politics 3 (Mitigation)

WEEK 6 (31.03.2021)

Climate change: From science to politics 4 (International Climate Politics)

WEEK 7 (07.04.2021)

Midterm exam

Introduction to environmentalism, green political thought, and political ecology

WEEK 8 (14.04.2021)

Ecological citizenship

WEEK 9 (21.04.2021)

Justice in the environmental politics

WEEK 10 (28.04.2021)

Quiz 3

Environmental justice, climate justice

WEEK 11 (05.05.2021)

From sustainable development to the ecological modernization

12.05.2021 Administrative Holiday (Bayram Eve)

19.05.2021 National Holiday

WEEK 12 (26.05.2021)

Focus discussions: Political ecology of food, urban environments and biodiversity (case studies)