

# **Environmental Policy and Politics**

**MA in International Development Studies  
Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University  
Semester 1, 2011-2012**

## ***Lecturers***

Prof. Dr. Charles Elworthy  
Dr. Decharut Sukkamnerd (t.b.c.)  
Dr. Jakkrit Sangkhamanee  
Dr. Carl Grundy-Warr (t.b.c)  
Ms. Premrudee Daoroung (t.b.c)  
Dr. Carl Middleton

## ***Course Coordinator***

Dr. Carl Middleton  
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Office hours (Room 115, Political Science, Building 2): Tuesday and Thursday  
afternoons – open door

## **Course Description**

This course explores the key environmental challenges facing people and the planet, and the rise of the environment as a policy and a political issue. The course begins by critically discussing the range of ethics and ideological positioning towards the environment, from survivalism to preservationism to promethianism. Environmental policy-making and the principles and practice of environmental governance at the local, national and global scale will be thoroughly discussed, identifying the role, positioning and strategies of the key actors involved. Environmental issues, including natural resource use (forests, rivers...), energy, and global warming will be explored, illustrated with case studies from within Southeast Asia and globally. We will use the tools of political ecology, for example common property theory and theories on science, power and knowledge, to help us integrate our understanding of society's economic, political and cultural interactions with the environment. Overall, we will seek to define and refine our understanding of "sustainable development," and ask whether it is possible to achieve a form of "sustainable development" that encompasses economic growth, environmental protection and social justice?

## **Format**

The course format will be seminar-based and lecture-based, with several group exercises. Guiding questions on each week's reading materials will be provided to students one week in advance of the lesson. Weekly reflections on the reading materials are required for sessions 2-7, and 9 (see below).

### Reading

Most reading is provided in the Reading Pack. Some extra reading may be made available shortly before scheduled classes.

### Learning objectives

- To create an appreciation of the politicized nature of the environment and notions of sustainability through theory and case studies
- To explore the unique characteristics of the environment as a policy problem at a local and global level
- To critically discuss options for our 'sustainable' common future

### Grading

- *Class participation (10%)*: Each student is expected to come to the class prepared to discuss the week's required reading materials. All students are expected to actively share their knowledge, experience and opinions in the class discussions.
- *Weekly reflections (30%)*: Each student is expected to write a weekly reflection on the reading materials for sessions 2-7 of **500-600 words maximum in a Word Document**, which should therefore be concise and clear. Each submission is worth up to 5% of the total course grade. These should be emailed to [Carl.Chulalongkorn@gmail.com](mailto:Carl.Chulalongkorn@gmail.com) one day before the class to be circulated for others to read. You should also send the reflection to your "reflection-partner" who will provide you direct feedback. The intention of this process is to stimulate thinking and discussion before the class amongst the students participating.

Grades are:

- 5%: Demonstrates excellent comprehension of the readings and engages with them through critical analysis.
- 4%: Demonstrates good understanding of the readings but contains minimal analysis.
- 3%: Demonstrates a limited understanding of the readings and no analysis
- 1- 2%: Incomplete and poorly written
- 0%: Did not submit by the 4 pm deadline
- *Final paper (40%)*: Each student will prepare a paper on a topic of interest that is relevant to the course, as agreed with the lecturer. Please submit a brief outline on your proposed topic (one paragraph) no later than Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011 stating the background and significance of the essay topic, the key question that the essay seeks to address, and an outline of the essay structure. The paper itself should be submitted by 5 pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011. See essay guideline paper for more details.
- *Class presentation 20%*: You will formulate a presentation of 15 minutes for class 15 on the theme "Our Common Future." The presentation should be based on at least two academic papers that you have researched yourself and that you have used to inform your own opinion, and that should be circulated to the class in advance.

### Course policies

- Punctual attendance is required at all classes. Students missing more than one week of class are required to provide an excused absence from the MAIDS course coordinator. Attendance sheets will be circulated 5 minutes after class begins.
- Please bring the classes reading materials to the class, as we will discuss them directly in class.
- For those students that prefer, laptops are permitted in the class room for note-taking. However, connection to the internet is not allowed (because the temptation to use Facebook will prove to great) and if any student is found doing work other than that related to the class all laptops will be banned for the rest of the semester. **For guest lecturers, whether laptops are permitted is at the discretion of the individual lecturer.**
- All assignments must be handed in at the designated date. Late assignments will only be accepted if lateness is due to health or other emergencies that must be documented. Please contact me as ahead of time as possible so that we can discuss the situation and reach an agreement.
  - The score of late essays will be reduced by 3% per 24 hours that the paper is late. Any papers that are more than 7 days late will not be accepted, except under exceptional circumstances. Please see additional handout for further information on essay grading and other criteria.
- Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and could result in a fail grade for the course.

### Course outline

Session	Date/ time	Session title	Lecturer
1	6 <sup>th</sup> October, 9-12 pm	Introduction to the course: An environmental crisis?	Dr. Carl Middleton
2	13 <sup>th</sup> October, 9-12 am	Environmental ethics and political thought	Dr. Carl Middleton
3	20 <sup>th</sup> October, 9-12 am	Concepts of sustainable development	Dr. Carl Middleton
4	27 <sup>th</sup> October, 9-12 am	The environment as a policy problem: Technocracy, Democracy, Economy (part 1)	Dr. Carl Middleton
5	3 <sup>rd</sup> November, 9-12 am	The environment as a policy problem: Technocracy, Democracy, Economy (part 2)	Dr. Carl Middleton
6	10 <sup>th</sup> November, 9-12 am	The global commons and environmental governance	Dr. Carl Middleton
7	17 <sup>th</sup> November, 9-12 am	Enclosure and Commodification of the Commons	Dr. Carl Middleton
8	24 <sup>th</sup> November, 9-12 am	Geopolitics and Policy of Climate Change	Prof. Dr. Charles Elworthy
9	1 <sup>st</sup> December, 9-12 pm	Environmental Security, Conflict and Migration in SE	Dr. Carl Middleton

		Asia	
10	8 <sup>th</sup> December, 9-12 am	Knowledge, Empowerment and the Environment	Dr. Jakkrit Sangkhamanee
11	14 <sup>th</sup> December, 1-4 pm	Environmental Justice: Energy Policy and Politics in the Mekong Region	Dr. Carl Middleton
12	22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 9-12 pm	Health and the Environment: Legal reform and Innovation in Thailand	Dr. Decharut Sukkamnerd
13	11 <sup>th</sup> January, 9-12 am	Sacred Ecologies of the Mekong	Dr. Carl Grundy Warr (t.b.c)
14	12 <sup>th</sup> January, 9-12 am	Development and the Environment in the Mekong Region: Civil Society's response	Towards Ecological Recovery and Regional Alliance (TERRA) (t.b.c)
15	19 <sup>th</sup> January, 9-12 am	Our Common Future	Dr. Carl Middleton

**Recommended general texts (not provided and not required reading)**

Berkes, F.(1999) Sacred Ecology Routledge: London and New York

Dobson, A. (2007) Green Political Thought Routledge: London and New York

Robbins, P. (2004) Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction Blackwell: Malden, Oxford and Carlton

Robbins, P., Hintz, J., and Moore, S.A. (2010) Environment and Society Wiley-Blackwell: Chichester

Li, T.M. (2007) The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development and the Practice of Politics Duke University Press: Durham and London

Lebel, L. Snidvongs, A., Chen, C-T. A. and Daniel, R. (2009) Critical States: Environmental Challenges to Development in Monsoon Southeast Asia Strategic Information and Research Development Center: Petaling Jaya Selangor

Nevins, J. and Peluso, N.L. (2008) Taking Southeast Asia to Market: Commodities, Nature and People in the Neoliberal Age Cornell University Press: Ithaca and London

## **Reading materials**

### **Week 1: Introduction to the course: An environmental crisis?**

Peet, R., Robbins, P., and Watts, M.J. (2011) “Global Nature” (pp 1-47) in Peet, R., Robbins, P., and Watts, M.J. (ed.) Global Political Ecology Routledge: London and New York

Dryzek, J.S. (2005): “Making Sense of Earth’s Politics: A Discourse Approach” (pp 3-23) The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses (2 ed.) Oxford University Press: Oxford

### **Week 2: Environmental ethics**

Carter, N. (2007) “Chapter 2: Environmental Philosophy” (pp 13-39) and “Chapter 3: Green Political Thought” (pp 40-81) The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy (2 ed.) Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

### **Week 3: Concepts of sustainable development**

Carter, N. (2007) Chapter 8: Sustainable Development and Ecological Modernization” (pp 207-239) The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy (2 ed.) Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

Drummond, I., and Marsden, T. (1999) “Sustainable Development: The Impasse and Beyond” The Condition of Sustainability Routledge: London

UNEP (2011) Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication - A Synthesis for Policy Makers [www.unep.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy)

### **Week 4: The environment as a policy problem: Technocracy, Democracy, Economy (part 1)**

Carter, N. (2007) “Chapter 7: The Environment as a Policy Problem” (pp 173-206) The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy (2 ed.) Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

Dryzek, J.S. (2005): “Chapter 4: Leave it to the Experts: Administrative Rationalism” (pp 75-98), “Chapter 5: Leave it to the People: Democratic Pragmatism” (pp 99-120) and “Chapter 6: Leave it to the Market: Economic Rationalism” (pp 121-142) The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses (2 ed.) Oxford University Press: Oxford

**Week 5: The environment as a policy problem: Technocracy, Democracy, Economy (part 2)**

Carter, N. (2007) “Chapter 12: Policy instruments and implementation” (pp 321-352) The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy (2 ed.) Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

Kramer, R.A. (2007) “Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services” in Pretty, J. et al (eds) The Sage Handbook of Environment and Society Sage Publications: Los Angeles, London, New Delhi and Singapore.

Jacobs, M. (1997) “Environmental Valuation, Deliberative Democracy and Public Decision-making Institutions” in Foster, J. (ed) Valuing Nature? Economics, Ethics and the Environment Routledge: London and New York

**Week 6: The global commons and international environmental policy**

Carter, N. (2007) “Chapter 9: Global Environmental Politics” (pp 241-270) The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy (2 ed.) Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

Lemos, M.C and Agrawal, A. (2009) “Chapter 3: Environmental Governance and Political Science” (pp 69 – 97) in Delmas, M.A. and Young, O.R. (eds) Governance for the Environment Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

Young, O.R. (2009) “Chapter 1: Governance for Sustainable Development in a world of rising interdependencies” (pp 12-40) in Delmas, M.A. and Young, O.R. (eds) Governance for the Environment Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

**Week 7: Political Economy and the Commodification of the Commons**

Dietz, T., Dolsak, N., Ostrom, E., and Stren, P.C. (2002) “The Drama of the Commons” (pp 3-35) in Ostrom, E., Dietz, T., Dolsak, N., Stern, P.C., Stonich, S., and Weber, E.U. (eds.) Drama of the Commons Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change, National Research Council

Peluso, N.L. (2003) “From Common Property Resources to Territorializations: Resource Management in the Twenty-First Century” in Cuasay, P., and Vaddhanaphuti, C. (eds) Commonplaces and Comparisons: Remarking Eco-Political Spaces in Southeast Asia. RCSD, Chiang Mai University: Chiang Mai

Robins, P., Hintz, J., and Moore, S.A. “Chapter 7: Political Economy” (pp 96-115) in Environment and Society Wiley-Blackwell: Chichester

Peluso, N.L. and Nevins, J. (2008) “Introduction: Commoditization in Southeast Asia” in Nevins, J. and Peluso, N.L. (eds) Taking Southeast Asia to Market: Commodities, Nature and People in the Neoliberal Age Cornell University Press: Ithaca and London

Barney, K. (2008) “China and the Production of Forestlands in Lao PDR: A Political Ecology of Transnational Enclosure” in Nevins, J. and Peluso, N.L. (eds) Taking Southeast Asia to Market: Commodities, Nature and People in the Neoliberal Age Cornell University Press: Ithaca and London

### **Week 8: Geopolitics and Policy of Climate Change**

*To be provided*

### **Week 9: Environmental Security, Conflict and Migration in SE Asia**

Peluso, N.L. and Watts, M. (2001) “Chapter 1: Violent Environments” (pp 3-38) in Peluso, N.L. and Watts, M. (eds) Violent Environments Cornell University Press: Ithaca and London

Dokken, K (2001) “Environment, security and regionalism in the Asia-Pacific: is environmental security a useful concept?” *The Pacific Review* 14: 4, 509 — 530

Fox C.A. and Sneddon C. (2007) “Transboundary river basin agreements in the Mekong and Zambezi basins: enhancing environmental security or securitizing the environment?” *Int Environ Agreements* 7:237–261

### **Week 10 Knowledge, Empowerment and Environment**

*Reading materials to be provided*

### **Week 11: Environmental Justice: Energy Policy and Politics in the Mekong Region**

Liu, F. (2001) “Chapter 1: Environmental Justice, Equity and Policies” Environmental Justice Analysis: Theories, Methods, and Practice Lewis Publishers: Boca Raton, London, New York and Washington DC

Schroeder, R., St. Martin, K., Wilson, B., and Sen, D. (2008) “Third World Environmental Justice” Society and Natural Resources 21: 547-555

Gracen, C. S. and Gracen, C. (2004) “Thailand’s Electricity Reforms: Privatization of Benefits and Socialization of Costs and Risks” *Pacific Affairs* 77 (no 3): 517 – 541

Hirsch, P. 2010. The changing political dynamics of dam building on the Mekong. *Water Alternatives* 3(2). pp. 312-323.

**Week 12: Health and the Environment: Legal reform and Innovation in Thailand**

*Reading materials to be provided*

**Week 13: Sacred Ecologies of the Mekong (t.b.c)**

*Reading materials to be provided*

**Week 14: Development and the Environment in the Mekong Region: Civil Society's response**

*Reading materials to be provided*

**Week 15: Our Common Future**

Beck, U. (2007) "Chapter 1: Introduction" (pp 1-23) World at Risk Polity Press: Cambridge

Maniates, M.F. (2010) "Chapter 2: Cultivating Consumer Restraint in an Ecologically Full World: The Case of 'Take Back Your Time'" in Lebel, L., Lorek, S., and Daniel, R., (eds) Sustainable Production-Consumption Systems: Knowledge, Engagement and Practice Springer: Dordrecht, Heidelberg, London and New York

Lebel, L and Lorek, S. (2008) "Enabling Sustainable Production-Consumption Systems" *Annu. Rev. Environ. Resour.* 33:241–75