

**Masters of International Affairs**  
**Masters of International Development**

Academic year 2020–2021

**International Environmental Institutions**

MINT038 – Spring – 6 ECTS

**Course Description**

Formal international institutions represent one common way in which states attempt to solve global environmental problems that they recognise that they cannot solve alone. However, their prevalence, design, operation, efficacy, and engagement with other institutions and actors, both public and private, varies. This course seeks to understand how and why institutions vary in different contexts to better understand how to institute solutions to environmental problems. The course has an innovative structure, in which class activities are used to draw out general lessons from the literature and provide a rich set of learning experiences, while also offering ways for students to tailor the course to the specific environmental problems that they are interested in.

**PROFESSOR**

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Office hours:

Zoom 945-053-3848,

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**ASSISTANT**

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Office hours:

By appointment

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**Syllabus**

**Course Aims**

The overarching aim of this course is to practice applying general insights gained from scholarly work on international institutions to the specifics of the environmental topics that students are interested in, while practicing various professional skills.

**Course Structure**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this course will be taught online. The course structure is chiefly based around practical exercises in class, sometimes requiring some additional preparation before class. Each class session will begin with the practical activity, before we reconvene in plenary to discuss the takeaways from the activity in light of the readings, and to detail any assignment for the following class session.

## Course Evaluation

**Blog (50%):** The main product from the course is a blog post that uses insights from the course and material you have developed throughout the course to inform readers about the institutional solutions to the environmental problems you care about. A grading rubric will be shared on Moodle in the last half of the course.

**Preparations (x6, 50%):** Six of the practical activities require some preparation. Often this preparation can also double as material that you can reuse for your blogs. An outline of these tasks will be shared in the introductory lecture, and more details given the week prior to the session.

**Participation:** While ungraded, your regular participation in this course is expected so that the course is most valuable for everyone. Where your final grade lies near the border between two grades, we will make a final judgment based on your participation.

## Course Policies

*Plagiarism* means presenting another's thoughts, ideas, or expressions as one's own, and is a breach of academic integrity that is **not tolerated at the Graduate Institute**. Students who present others' work as their own may receive a 0. Please cite appropriately and contact the TA if you have any doubts.

Planned or unplanned *absences* from class should be communicated to the TA as soon as possible, as the construction of some exercises depend on accurate class numbers.

Please upload work to Moodle with the following filename structure, e.g.: E1\_Surname.pdf. This makes sure we don't have twenty files named Essay1.docx. Submitting as PDF ensures we read it as you wrote it.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1 (25 Feb): Introduction

- Wapner, Paul, & Willoughby, John (2005). "The Irony of Environmentalism: The Ecological Futility but Political Necessity of Lifestyle Change". *Ethics & International Affairs*, 19(3), 77–89.
- Mitchell, Ronald B. (2003). "Of Course International Institutions Matter: But When and How?". In H. Breit, A. Engels, T. Moss, & M. Troja (Eds.), *How institutions change* (35–52). Springer.

### Week 2 (4 Mar): Environmental Problems: **Framing analysis**

- O'Neill, Kate. (2017). "Global environmental problems." In *The Environment and International Relations*, 28–50. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Mitchell, Ronald B. (2009). "Sources of international environmental problems." In *International Politics and the Environment*, 48–79. London: Sage.

**Week 3 (11 Mar): – No class –**

Please submit your topic for the final blog post to the TA.

**Week 4 (18 Mar): Institutional Setting: Actor analysis**

- O'Neill, Kate. (2017). "Actors in Global Environmental Politics." In *The Environment and International Relations*, 51–. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bäckstrand, Karin, Kuyper, Jonathan W., Linnér, Björn-Ola, & Lövbrand, Eva (2017). "Non-state actors in global climate governance: from Copenhagen to Paris and beyond". *Environmental Politics*, 26(4), 561–579.

**Week 5 (25 Mar): Institutional Creation: Negotiation simulation**

- Sebenius, James K. (1991). "Designing negotiations toward a new regime: The case of global warming". *International Security*, 15(4), 110–148.
- Tallberg, Jonas (2010). "The Power of the Chair: Formal Leadership in International Cooperation". *International Studies Quarterly*, 54(1), 241–265.

**Week 6 (1 Apr): Institutional Design: Jigsaw puzzle**

- Koremenos, Barbara, Lipson, Charles, & Snidal, Duncan (2001). *The rational design of international institutions*. 55(04), 761–799.
- Mitchell, Ronald B., & Keilbach, Patricia M. (2001). *Situation structure and institutional design: Reciprocity, coercion, and exchange*. 55(4), 891–917.

**Week 7 (8 Apr): – Easter, no class –**

**Week 8 (15 Apr): Institutional Membership: Public presentation**

- Bernauer, Thomas, Kalbhenn, Anna, Koubi, Vally, & Spilker, Gabriele (2013). "Is there a "Depth versus Participation" dilemma in international cooperation?". *The Review of International Organizations*, 8(4), 477–497.
- Sprinz, Detlef F., & Vaahtoranta, Tapani (1994). "The interest-based explanation of international environmental policy". *International Organization*, 48(01), 77–105.

**Week 9 (22 Apr): Institutional Complexity: Debate**

- Alter, Karen J., & Meunier, Sophie (2009). "The Politics of International Regime Complexity". *Perspectives on Politics*, 7(1), 13–24.
- Oberthür, Sebastian, & Gehring, Thomas (2004). "Reforming international environmental governance: an institutionalist critique of the proposal for a World Environment Organisation". *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, 4(4), 359–381.

**Week 10 (29 Apr): Institutional Operation: Podcast**

- Barnett, Michael, & Finnemore, Martha (1999). *The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations*. 53(4), 699–732.
- Hall, Nina (2015). "Money or Mandate? Why International Organizations Engage with the Climate Change Regime". *Global Environmental Politics*, 15(2), 79–97.

**Week 11 (6 May): Institutional Effectiveness: Infographic Karaoke**

- Young, Oran R. (2011). "Effectiveness of international environmental regimes: Existing knowledge, cutting-edge themes, and research strategies". *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 108(50), 19853–19860.
- Gutner, Tamar, & Thompson, Alexander (2010). "The politics of IO performance: A framework". *The Review of International Organizations*, 5(3), 227–248.

**Week 12 (13 May): – Ascension Day, no class –**

**Week 13 (20 May): Institutional Studies: Escape room**

- Hall, Peter A., & Taylor, Rosemary C. R. (1996). "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms". *Political Studies*, 44(5), 936–957.
- Hysing, Erik, & Olsson, Jan (2017). "New Political Institutionalism". In *Green inside activism for sustainable development* (23–45). Springer International Publishing.

**Week 14 (27 May): Consultations**

**Week 15 (3 Jun): Blog post due**

– This syllabus is subject to change –