

**COURSE TITLE**  
**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

Study programme  
International Relations

LM-52

LAUREA (MAGISTRALE)

A.Y. 2021-22

Teacher: VALERIA SODANO

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SSD

CREDITS

Year of study (I, II)

Semester

**EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Some environmental problems have effects which impact large geographic regions and are therefore referred to as global pollution. Global pollution is difficult to control, both because the associated risks are widespread and because international cooperation is needed to achieve effective solutions. Examples of transboundary pollution problems are: ozone depletion, global warming, biodiversity loss, acidic deposition, surface water pollution, marine microplastic pollution.

Global environmental politics is a relatively new field of study, initiated in the 1990s, which extends the previous focus of international relation studies on the role of natural resources in global security to the new emerging global pollution problems. Global environmental politics exhibits a strong interdisciplinary approach, integrating research from a range of fields including geography, economics, history, law, biology, and numerous others.

The goal of the course is to offer an introduction to this new field of study, addressing both its theoretical underpinnings and its practical achievements in the context of some recent international agreement aimed at tackle global pollution. Case studies will be presented, also through the testimony of leading scholars, who will be invited to speak during the course

**Knowledge and understanding**

Students will be able to describe the main global environmental problems and to understand the different intervention options available to international bodies and states.

**Applying knowledge and understanding**

Students will be able to read the international treaties and fully understand their meaning and their implementation value. They will also be able to understand the different aspects of the negotiation processes, with reference both to the practical organizational issues and to the diplomacy-related issues.

**Further expected learning outcomes:**

- **Making judgements:** Students will be able to identify the fields of application of the addressed subjects and will also be able to express an independent judgment on the different policies carried out to tackle global environmental problems
- **Communication skills:** Students will acquire the necessary skills to communicate with non-governmental associations and the ministerial bodies involved in the negotiation processes of international environmental treaties
- **Learning skills:** learning skills will be stimulated both theoretically and empirically; students will be asked to exemplify the application of the theoretical concepts through the analysis of case studies

**CONTENTS**

The environment and international relations  
Classification of global environmental problems  
Presentation of the main international treaties  
Actors in global environmental politics  
State –led global environmental governance  
The impact and effectiveness of global environmental governance  
Global economic governance and the environment  
Non-state global environmental governance  
The global politics of market mechanisms  
Case study: climate change and geopolitics, from The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, in 1992 to Paris Agreement in 2017.  
Case study: reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, understanding the politics of REDD+ benefit-sharing schemes.

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**RECOMMENDED READING:**

Kate O'Neal - The environment and international relations. Second edition, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Readings on topics of in-depth case studies.

**ASSESSMENT METHOD**

a) **Learning results to be verified:** comprehensive understanding of global environmental topics

b) **Assessment method:**

The exam will consist of	Written and oral examination	X	Written examination		Oral examination	
In case of a written exam, questions are*	Multiple choices	X	Open questions		Numerical exercises	

(\*) more answers possible