GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE
Course Code - INRL 6012 - Michelle Scobie, PhD

THE INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MASTERS IN GLOBAL STUDIES

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE
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DR. MICHELLE SCOBIE
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is one of the electives offered at the Masters in Global Science Program at the Institute of International Relations.

International environmental governance has rapidly widened and deepened since the Stockholm Declaration of 1972, and covers areas ranging from climate change, integrated maritime governance, and biodiversity, to security, poverty, development and human rights as they relate to the environment. There are hundreds of environmental treaties and international and regional intergovernmental agencies responsible for the implementing of these agreements. 2019 is just 4 years since the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate agreement and importantly for the Caribbean, the year in which negotiations continue to possibly amend the Law of the Sea Agreement to govern the management of ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Environmental Governance is one area where successful outcomes depend on collaboration between states and non-state actors, where education, implementation, enforcement and compliance is of global and not merely international in nature.

The transnational nature of and in many cases existential risks associated with environmental problems brings new perspectives to bear on well-known concepts such as governance, citizenship, national and regional environmental regulation and policy. The environmental transformations of the Anthropocene also require new thinking on environment and global inequalities, democracy, power, justice and environmental rights.

This course introduces students of the MSc Global Studies Program of the Institute of International Relations to the rapidly changing and very engaging field of global environmental governance. The perspectives, challenges and policies of the developing world, particularly of the Small Island Developing States are an integral part of the analyses on all issues.

How should states, non-state actors and individuals respond to the need to work together to solve complex environmental issues? Who have been, are and should be the actors involved in the shaping
of environmental policy and agreements? What is the relevance of environmental issues to global economic and social concerns?

Students should read widely and actively participate in class discussions. Rather than the traditional lecture modules, classes will be a meeting of minds of learners where informed views on global environmental governance are shared, critiqued and revisited. This method will allow students to be able to take proactive, critical stands on policy formulation regarding environmental governance and be able to contribute to the same on the completion of their degree in Global Studies.

The mix of reading weeks and classes are designed to give the students more time to read and digest the material and the time for class discussions allow students to develop the analytical skills needed for the course.

The content will review inter alia:

- Nature and theories of environmental politics
- Perspectives on environmental degradation (ethical, political, scientific, economic, legal, social)
- Main actors in global environmental governance and their role/s (scientists, governments – of the north and south, private sector, environmentalists and interest groups)
- Indicators of environmental degradation- the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, depletion of the ozone layer, desertification, water scarcity and poor water quality, world forestry issues and regimes, marine pollution, loss of biodiversity, disposal of toxic wastes etc.
- Forums for and effectiveness of global environmental governance (global summits and international secretariats etc.)

Global Environmental Governance is an integral part of the global governance debate and an important component of the MSc Global Studies Program. It is an area of particular relevance to SIDS who are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation where both sources of such degradation and the solutions to these problems often lie beyond the borders of these small states.

The Course will be divided into two parts- the first a discussion and analysis of the main themes highlighted above, the second an analysis of global responses to specific environmental issues, designed to develop both the students’ understanding of these issues as well as critical thinking and presentation skills.

**GOALS/AIMS**

The aim of this course is to prepare professionals trained in Global Studies to be able to lead and guide debates both in academia and in the area of domestic and foreign Government Policy formulation on the very important and evolving issues of global environmental governance.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- analyse history, present state and future trends- with regard to theory and policy of international environmental politics and governance
- describe the challenges for national, regional, international and global policy makers and actors regarding environmental problems
- demonstrate knowledge of international environmental law- evolution and current trends, relevance and effectiveness
- illustrate the interconnectedness of environmental issues and solutions with political, economic, social and power realities
- display a sense of the importance of non-state actors in shaping global environmental policy especially as it relates to policy in many other areas- including environmental justice, economics and trade, human rights and law
- present (orally and in writing) an informed opinion as to the types and effectiveness of the different regimes of global environmental governance
- inform environmental policy and contribute to effective international responses on