POLS*3370: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

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Course description

POLS*3370 explores the politics of environmental policy in Canada and in other international settings, emphasizing particularly the ways in which different models of environmental governance have been used to address a number of critical environmental challenges, including deforestation, water pollution, soil contamination and climate change. By tracing the political history of environmentalism in Canada, the course offers critical insights about the ways in which governments, environmentalists and businesses are now shaping contemporary environmental policy. The course will include case studies on the Ontario Great Lakes Water Protection Act, the federal Species at Risk Act, and the commitment of federal and provincial governments to tackling global climate change. It will also explore the ways in which environmentalists, political parties, cities, provinces, First Nations communities and the courts are now shaping Canadian environmental policy. Finally, it will examine critically a number of competing policy models, including command and control regulation, decentralization and market instruments. By the end of the 12-week course, students will have an in-depth understanding of the ways in which environmental policies are designed, negotiated and implemented at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. They will also develop critical insights about the ways in which different policy instruments may be used in addressing local, national and global environmental challenges.

Required texts


Please note that both books can be bought together at a discount at the Campus and Coop Bookstore