

INT 4003 Global Environmental Politics

Fall 2023

Instructor: Sangbum Shin

Class Meeting: Mondays, 14:00-16:50

Classroom: Justice Hall 346

Office Hour: Tuesdays 14:00-15:00 or by appointment

Office: Justice Hall 346

Email: sshin@yonsei.ac.kr

Course Overview

Politics is a process of various types of interaction between people who seek for their own interests. If the interactions happen around environmental matters, it is called environmental politics. If these interactions occur in the global level, it is called global environmental politics. This course introduces students to a variety of interactions among key actors in global environmental politics. Actors include sovereign states, international organizations, environmental non-governmental organizations, firms, advocacy groups, local governments, and individuals. They meet each other in many different arenas such as international environmental conventions, a country's domestic political process, and my neighborhood. In this course, instructor first explains the nature of global environmental problems, historical overview of global environmental politics, key concepts and theories in this field, and specific issues such as global warming, endangered species, industrial pollution, desertification, ozone, and so on. The course then moves to specific topics such as the effectiveness of international environmental laws, trade and environment nexus, the role of global advocacy network, North-South environmental relations, market incentive mechanisms, circular economy, and carbon neutrality. Along with these lecture sessions, this course includes a problem solving learning session called living lab. Students, as a group, find local environmental problems in the city where their campus is located in, and come up with solutions to tackle the problems. In the final, each group present their problems and ideas for solutions. These processes of group project (preparation and presentation) will be shared with partner universities at the final period. The group project is based on the notion of "glocal" approach meaning that global environmental problems should be addressed in each local place. This approach assumes that international environmental cooperation to date has not been effective in tackling global environmental problems. This means that global environmental problems are eventually managed and solved "in my neighborhood."

References

Sangbum Shin, 2022, Global Environmental Politics (*in Korean*)

Sangbum Shin, 2023, If My Neighborhood Becomes a Lab for Experiment? (*in Korean*)

Course Structure

Lecture by instructor (70%)

Preparation for Living Lab (LL) project (25%)

Final LL Presentations (5%)

Students Requirements

- Students should attend every class session on time.
- Students should take weekly quiz in every week (no make-up in any case).
- Students should take midterm and final examinations (no make-up in any case).
- Students should carry out LL group project and present at the end of semester.

Evaluation

Attendance 10

Midterm 20

Final 30

Living Lab Project 40

About Living Lab Project

Living labs (LLs) are a series of problem solving activities organized voluntarily by residents in cooperation with professors, researchers, governments, and firms, in order to address local problems in their communities. They are processes and arenas for setting up spaces to explore, examine, experiment, test, and evaluate creative ideas and innovative solutions in real-life environments. When we apply LLs to university education, they can be another example of Community Based Learning and Problem Based Learning. Students work in small groups, find problems in the cities where their universities are located in, design and implement experiments to solve the problems, produce a prototype, and apply it to the designated problems. In this project, students' activities include only finding problems, seeking for solutions, and designing experiments. After the semester is over, students, if they want, can apply for a LL competition organized by the local government, which is held in every summer.

Schedules

Week	Date	Topic/Issue	Notes
1	Sep 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introduction: Global Environmental Politics (GEP)▪ Syllabus Overview▪ Living Lab Project Orientation▪ The Meaning of Circular Economy▪ The Meaning of “Glocal” Approach	Tragedy of the Commons Game
2	Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Meaning of Tragedy of the Commons▪ Historical Overview: From Stockholm to Rio▪ From Rio to Uncertainty▪ From International Environmental Politics (IEP) to GEP	Video Watching “Endangered Planet” (People’s Century, PBS)
3	Sep 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ International Relations (IR) Approaches and GEP▪ Different Explanations on International Environmental Cooperation and Conflict	Pre-Project Survey

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key Concepts and Theories of GEP 	
4	Sep 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Environmental Law ▪ International Environmental Regimes ▪ Regime Formation and Effectiveness ▪ Cases: Whaling, CITES, Ozone, Waste Dumping 	
5	Oct 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living Lab Project In-Class Group Meeting ▪ Domestic Environmental Politics of the United States, Germany, and Japan ▪ Environment and Development 	LL Project Preparation
6	Oct 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living Lab Project In-Class Group Meeting ▪ Guest Speakers: Local Environmental Activists (or Students in Previous Classes) ▪ Various Actors in GEP (International Organizations, Advocacy Groups, Business, Epistemic Community, and Cities) 	LL Project Preparation
7	Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Politics of Climate Change ▪ UNFCCC and the Big Failure of Kyoto ▪ Paris Agreement as a Non-Binding Declaration ▪ Carbon Neutrality and Green New Deals 	Study Session
8	Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Midterm Examination 	
9	Oct 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living Lab Project In-Class Meeting ▪ Renewable Energy and Energy Transition ▪ The Perils of Nuclear Power Plants ▪ Nuclear Energy as a Political Issue in Korea 	LL Project Preparation
10	Nov 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Command and Control vs. Market Incentive ▪ Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) ▪ The Politics of Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) ▪ Possible Linkage of ETS in China, Japan, and Korea 	
11	Nov 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final Check for Presentation ▪ Authoritarian Environmentalism and China's Environmental Politics ▪ Democracy and the Environment: The Case of United States 	LL Project Preparation
12	Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living Lab Presentation and Discussion ▪ Preparation for Making Video-Clips 	Presentation
13	Nov 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Cooperation in Northeast Asia ▪ Transboundary Air Pollution in Northeast Asia ▪ Haze Problem in Southeast Asia ▪ The Politics of Japanese Nuclear Waste 	

		Release	
14	Dec 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conclusions: Glocal Approach to Tackle Climate Change ▪ Watching Video Clips of Partner Universities and Making Comments by Group Discussion 	Comments for Partner Universities Study Session
15	Dec 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final Examination 	Post Project Survey