

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

MEG Core Module

Classes: February 21th – March 11th, 2022
Research paper submission possible until: April 11th, 2022

Syllabus and Time Schedule

VERSION
19.2.2022

Updates are possible – check ILIAS regularly for updates

Direct Admission Link ILIAS:

https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_2561331&client_id=unifreiburg

Passcode: GEP_22

Module coordinators:

Dr. Niko Schäpke, niko.schaepke@envgov.uni-freiburg.de

Seirra Römmermann, meg.coordinator@envgov.uni-freiburg.de

Lecturers:

Prof. Dr. Heiner Schanz, heiner.schanz@envgov.uni-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Peter Poschen, peter.poschen@envgov.uni-freiburg.de

Leonard Frank, MA, MSc, leonard.frank@envgov.uni-freiburg.de

Dr. Niko Schäpke, niko.schaepke@envgov.uni-freiburg.de

Max Kleemann, MSc, max.kleemann@googlemail.com

Tutor:

Lukas Klasen, lukas.klasen@posteo.de

Module aim and overall structure

The goal of this module is (1) to review and evaluate the organizational structure of the global environmental governance system, and (2) to practice research and academic writing skills in the area of global environmental politics and development. Accordingly, the module consists of two interrelated parts.

In the first part of the module, students will gain knowledge of theoretical and analytical approaches to global environmental governance. Students will analyze the structure, authority, legitimacy and effectiveness of global environmental governance. We will move from a) introduction and core elements of global environmental politics, to b) tangible application examples, to c) critique and outlook of global environmental politics.

Teaching methods include interactive lectures, independent individual and group work in class, and reading assignments. Furthermore, students have the opportunity to attend a series of webinars with speakers from different international organizations. This “digital field trip”, due to the special circumstances of the pandemic, is an offer to deepen student’s knowledge and allow them to gain insights into the operation and functioning of various types of international organizations.

As second main part of the module, students produce a research paper, in which they independently investigate and critically assess one issue in global environmental governance using theoretical and analytical ideas from the first part of the module, and insights and contacts gained throughout the first semester including the guest speaker series. The overarching goal of the final part of the module – in the context of the Master’s program – is to encourage students to practice their research and writing skills for assignments and a Master’s thesis in the subsequent terms. Students have the opportunity to work on a paper over several weeks. The paper submission deadline is scheduled towards the end of the spring break (April 11th, 23:59 am Freiburg time).

Please be aware that you are not required to spend the time after the official end of the module (4.3.2022) to work on the research paper, but that this is an offer to you to dedicate a longer period of time to work on a research project. It is as well possible (and totally fine) to submit earlier (e.g. with the end of the module).

Learning objectives:

In this module students

- gain knowledge of, understand and critically assess the system of global environmental governance;
- understand historical origins of global environmental cooperation and sources of authority for international governmental and non-governmental environmental organizations;
- evaluate the role of various types of organizations, including development aid organizations, international organizations, and international non-governmental organizations, in global environmental politics and governance;
- understand and evaluate various pathways of influence of global environmental politics on domestic environmental policies;
- establish contacts and gain practical experience with the structure, functions and operations of governmental and non-governmental organizations in environment and development areas;
- acquire and practice research skills and academic writing skills in international environmental politics and governance

Grading:

- Paper outline (20% of the grade), due on March 7th, 23:59 o'clock CET
- Individual research paper (80% of the grade), due on April 11 at 23:59 CET

Research paper:

For a research paper, you are required to formulate a research question and support your answers and argumentation with reliable evidence. Examples of reliable evidence include, most importantly, findings from scientific studies published in academic journals and books. Other reliable evidence can include, for instance, official statistics, newspaper articles, recognized experts' opinions, as well as reports and other publications of international organizations, think-tanks or NGOs. For this paper, you are not required to provide a full theory section or to collect your own data. Yet, it may prove helpful to include some theoretical background or to draw on an analytical framework. Think of the paper as an argumentation piece, similar to an essay or a short "Hausarbeit".

Research papers should have an appropriate structure (introduction, main body, and conclusion) and a substantial and complete list of references. Quotes taken verbatim and paraphrased ideas borrowed from the literature or other sources must be recognized either as a quote or as a citation according to the rules of academic writing and research ethics. Please consult the master's dissertation guidelines¹ carefully for further information. Plagiarism is taken seriously and will result in failing the class.

Paper length: 3200 words, (+/- 10% margin, excluding references). Within this range, quality and thoroughness of the argument is decisive, reflected in an appropriate length. Please, include a word count (excluding references).

Formatting guidelines: Font size 10-12; multiple line spacing 1,3 to 1,5; 2,5 cm margins on the upper, right and bottom side of the page; on one sided white pages. Use the possibilities of modern text software in the layout.

Submission: email your research papers to Niko Schäpke (niko.schaepke@envgov.uni-freiburg.de) **before April 11, 2022 (23:59, all times are Freiburg time)**. Please, convert your file into a pdf before submitting. Start the name of your file with your last name (e.g., Schaepke_Paper.pdf). **Late submission automatically leads to failing the class.**

Location/ Organization

The course will be held in a combination of selected **in-person** and generally **online meetings**. In-person meetings will allow for digital access ('**hybrid**'). We will be using **Zoom**. For rooms at the university, as well as Zoom coordinates of different days please **see timetable below**, as well as lecturer emails you will receive in due time.

Please make sure to have installed the latest version of Zoom and have your microphone and camera ready for participation in class.

Readings

Mandatory and optional readings are indicated below and are uploaded on ILIAS. Further readings can be suggested during class.

¹ MEG Guidelines on how to write a Master's Thesis by Malets and Schanz (2022): <https://www.meg.uni-freiburg.de/studying/thesis>

Class descriptions and readings:

Monday, February 21th:

- **Introduction to the module. Nations, states and the environment lecture** (Heiner Schanz).
- **Introduction to webinars with guests from international organizations and Memos on the organization's students will get to know during the webinars** (Peter Poschen, Leonard Frank, supported by Lukas Klasen).

After a general introduction to the module, we discuss the origins of states, the concept of 'nation states' and that of state formation and capacity building. Focus will be on the recurring issues of sovereignty and integrity in global environmental politics.

Next, we will provide you with background and details of the webinar series, which will involve interactive sessions with representatives of various international organizations. After the introduction to this digital 'field trip', we will discuss an memo assignment as a part of the preparations and sign up for small groups to prepare profile memos and questions to guest speakers (see Tuesday).

Required reading (to prepare for Tuesday 22nd):

Dryzek, J. S. (2013). Preface and Chapter 1: Making sense of Earth Politics: a Discourse Approach
In: The politics of the earth. Oxford university press.

Optional/ recommended readings:

O'Neill, Kate (2017). Introduction: The environment and international relations. In: The environment and international relations. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Speth, J. G., & Haas, P. M. (2007). Chapter 5: Key Actors, Expanding Roles: The United Nations, International Organizations, and Civil Society. In: Global environmental governance. Pearson Education India.

Tuesday, February 22nd:

- **An introduction to Global Environmental Politics: Issues, Actors and Institutions** (Leonard Frank, Niko Schöpke)
- **Framing environmental governance: core discourses** (Niko Schöpke, Leonard Frank)

The key questions for this class include, first, what global environmental politics is all about and, second, what kind of theoretical instruments we have at our disposal to understand it.

In this session, we will discuss examples of international environmental cooperation and get an overview of issues in global environmental politics, to get an understanding of what the system of global environmental politics looks like. On this basis, we will ask who *does* global environmental politics: what kind of actors and institutions are relevant in the field?

The second part of this session will include a group work related to core discourses in environmental governance. We will explore how the different discourses frame issues of environmental concern, underlying assumptions and key actors and activities proposed for environmental governance.

Afternoon Group Work: In small groups, please prepare a short profile memo on one of the organizations you will be getting to know in the webinars. Based on your memo, prepare at least two questions you will ask the organization's representative during the sessions. Upload your memos and questions to ILIAS. Deadline for uploading your memos: **Tuesday, February 22 (23:59)**

Wednesday, February 23rd:

- **Introduction to research paper assignment**
- **Explaining global environmental politics: Theoretical approaches to international order (Leonard Frank)**

First, we will provide you with an overview on the process of developing a research paper assignment, including three steps of 1) developing a draft paper outline, 2) a paper outline incorporating feedback from research paper writing cafés, and 3) a final research paper. After an introduction to the assignment, we introduce research paper requirements and evaluation criteria. You will find instructions on the research paper outline and research paper on ILIAS.

Second, and building on the previous classes we focus on different theoretical approaches to explaining global environmental politics. Through various theoretical schools of thought in international relations, including rather “classical” as well as critical ones, we discuss under which conditions and constraints international cooperation on environmental issues emerges. We also discuss the effectiveness of global environmental governance and politics.

Required readings (to prepare Thursday, Friday and Monday):

Please, read the profile memos of the other groups, to prepare for discussions with guest speakers. Please, make sure to at least read the memos on the upcoming speakers and organizations for the next day.

Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Monday 28th of February:

- **Webinars with guests from international organizations and international non-governmental organizations**

Presentations of and discussions with speakers from various international organizations engaged in the field of global environmental governance. Sessions and discussions shall be chaired by students. More information on this will (have) be given on Monday 21th.

Please see detailed, separate schedule for individual speakers and times.

Following the guest speaker series on Monday, we will reflect on the overall experience.

Webinars take place in the **GEP digital lecture room:**

<https://uni-freiburg.zoom.us/j/68559852823>

Meeting-ID: 685 5985 2823

Kenncode: rcs2e8pJh

Required reading (for the afternoon of Thursday 24th):

Dauvergne, P. (Ed.). (2012). Chapter 1: Research Trends in global environmental politics. In: Handbook of global environmental politics. Edward Elgar

Tuesday, March 1:

- Exemplary studies in Global Environmental Governance
- Self-Study on research paper outlines
- Open office hours (Niko and Leonard)

In class we will discuss recent studies putting the concepts, terms and approaches of Global Environmental Governance from prior lectures and guest speaker organizations to use. This aims to show application examples and to inform the development of the research papers of students.

We will also form small working groups for writing and discussing research paper outlines in the research paper writing cafés (see below).

After class there is ample time for students work on their research paper outlines of 500-700 words (1-1,5 pages). The outlines should sketch a to be written research paper by outlining a (research) problem statement, preliminary research question(s) as well as related literature and (potentially) other sources of evidence/ data. Please upload your draft research paper outline to ILIAS before Tuesday, March 1, 23:59.

“Open office hours” – Possibility for individual appointments with lecturers (on Tuesday 1st and Friday 4th)

The individual appointments with lectures offer you the possibility to discuss your research paper proposal in more detail. They are not mandatory, but an additional offer to support you. You can bring any question or issue you want – whatever serves you best in taking the next steps in your work. Lectures will aim to be critically constructive.

To make good use of the time, and building on experience from prior courses, **we strongly recommend to:**

Come well prepared, so that you can provide a short(er) overview on where you stand in your proposal development, and pose clear questions/ topics/ or challenges that you want to discuss.

Please provide us with the necessary information on your ideas and plans in the appointment directly, as we will most probably have not had the chance to learn about your ideas before or to fresh up our memory. Many thanks for your consideration.

We will provide you with details on how to make use of this offer, that is how to book an appointment, during the first week.

Wednesday, March 2nd:

- **World Climate – Climate Change Negotiations Game and EnRoads Climate simulator** (Max Kleemann, supported by John Walsh)
- **Prepare research paper writing cafés**

On this day you will be part of a negotiating party participating in a simulated UN Climate Change Conference. The immersive experience of this role-playing exercise will give you a first-hand experience of some of the challenges of international negotiations aimed at global environmental governance. You will face the climate science, engage in the drama and tensions of global politics, test your ambitions against an interactive computer simulation tool used in actual climate negotiations, and then reflect on how the experience challenges your assumptions about climate action and international governance. Besides negotiations, you will as well engage in modelling possible solutions to put your agreement into practice.

Please, see emails by Max Kleemann and Seirra Römermann for details and Zoom login.

In the afternoon, and to prepare for Thursday 3rd, please read your group members' outlines. You will be assigned as discussant to two of your peers. For them, please prepare a short memo or a list of bullet points. Your feedback should include at least two things you like about the outline and two ideas for how you think the outline can be improved. Please, bring your **written feedback** to our meeting on Thursday, 3rd.

Thursday, March 3: Research paper writing cafés – group feedback (Niko Schöpke, Leonard Frank)

Students meet in small groups to present and discuss their research paper outlines. The goal is to receive (and provide) feedback from other students and the lecturers and generate ideas for your research papers. Feedback from students acting as discussants to their peers will be very central in this (remember to bring your written feedback).

The cafes on Thursday are planned to take place in person at Herderbau.

A small number of cafés will allow hybrid access via the GEP lecture room. More information will follow, depending on needs of students.

Friday, February 26:

- **Self-study to develop research paper outlines**
- **Open office hours** (Niko Schöpke, Leonard Frank)

Open office hours with Leonard and Niko – in case needed, drop by with any questions regarding the research paper or contents of the module. For details see Tuesday above. Contact details will be provided.

Monday, March 1:

- **Critical reflection and outlook of Global Environmental Governance**

- **Final reflections, Wrap up and Feedback**

In the first part of class, we will get to know and discuss a variety of critical reflections on the state of the art of Global Environmental Governance state as well as necessary changes and potential future developments of the field.

The second part of class will be dedicated to final reflections on the course content and learning experience and wrap up. There will be space to provide feedback.

Final research paper outlines due by 23:59 CET. Please email to niko.schaepke@envgov.uni-freiburg.de and leonard.frank@envgov.uni-freiburg.de.

Tuesday until Friday, March 2-5:

- **Self-study**

These days are for self-study and work on the research paper. Students are invited to self-organize in small groups, and there will be digital meeting spaces (BigBlueButton) available via ILIAS.

Final research paper can be submitted until April 11th, 2022, 23:59 CET (hard deadline, late submission will lead to failing the class). Please email to niko.schaepke@envgov.uni-freiburg.de and leonard.frank@envgov.uni-freiburg.de.

Please be aware that you are not required to spend the time after the official end of the module (4.3.2022) to work on the research paper, but that this is an offer to you to dedicate a longer period of time to work on a research project. It is as well possible (and totally fine) to submit earlier (e.g. with the end of the module).

Monday, 21.02. In Person/ Hybrid Room R100 Herderbau	Tuesday, 22.02. Online/ Zoom (GEP digital lecture room)	Wednesday, 23.02. Online/ Zoom (GEP digital lecture room)	Thursday, 24.02. Online/ Zoom (GEP digital lecture room)	Friday, 25.02. Online/ Zoom (GEP digital lecture room)
<p>9:45-13:30</p> <p>Welcome and introduction to the module Niko Schöpke/ Leonard Frank</p> <p>Nations, states and the environment Heiner Schanz</p> <p>Introduction to the UN guest lecture series, and memo assignment Peter Poschen, Leonard Frank & Lukas Klasen</p> <p>Outlook</p>	<p>09:30-13:30</p> <p>An introduction to Global Environmental Politics: issues, actors and institutions Leonard Frank/ Niko Schöpke</p> <p>Framing environmental governance: core discourses Niko Schöpke/Leonard Frank</p>	<p>09:30-12:30</p> <p>Introduction to research paper assignment Niko Schöpke/Leonard Frank</p> <p>Explaining global environmental politics: Theoretical approaches to international order Leonard Frank/ Niko Schöpke</p>	<p>10:40-14:00 (including lunch break)</p> <p>(Internal) Introduction Peter Poschen, Niko Schöpke, Leonard Frank</p> <p>Guest Lecture Series</p> <p>United Nations and international NGOs</p>	<p>9:45-17:00 (including lunch break)</p> <p>Guest Lecture Series</p> <p>United Nations and international NGOs</p>
<p>Self-study/ reading assignments</p>	<p>Afternoon Group Work: Prepare profile memos on international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and questions for guest speakers</p>	<p>Read through memos/ Prep Guest Lecture Series</p>	<p>Self-study, work on research paper outline</p>	<p>Self-study, work on research paper outline</p>

ZOOM Details: For Monday hybrid access, as well as the online lectures use **GEP digital lecture room:** <https://uni-freiburg.zoom.us/j/68559852823>

Meeting-ID: 685 5985 2823 Kenncode: rcs2e8pJh

Monday, 28.02. Online/ Zoom (GEP digital lecture room)	Tuesday, 01.03. Online/ Zoom (details TBA)	Wednesday, 02.03. Online/ Zoom (details TBA)	Thursday, 03.03. In Person/ Hybrid Room R200 Herderbau	Friday, 04.03. Online/ Zoom (details TBA)
<p>8:40-14:00 (approx.) (including lunch break)</p> <p>Guest Lecture Series</p> <p>United Nations and international NGOs</p> <p>Reflections and wrap-up of speaker series</p>	<p>9:30-11:30</p> <p>Exemplary studies in Global Environmental Governance</p> <p>Niko Schöpke and Leonard Frank</p> <p>Self-Study/ Work on prep for CC Negotiation Simulation</p> <p>14.00-17:30</p> <p>Open office hours/ Possibility for individual meetings with lecturers</p> <p>On demand: Online sign up Leonard Frank/ Niko Schöpke</p>	<p>Approx. 09:00-16:00 (concrete times TBC, including lunch break)</p> <p>World Climate: Climate Change Negotiation Simulation</p> <p>Max Kleemann</p>	<p>09:30-18:30</p> <p>Research paper writing cafés</p> <p>Niko Schöpke and Leonard Frank</p> <p>Group seminar</p> <p>Individual group times TBA</p>	<p>Self-study</p> <p>9.30-12:30, 14:00-17:00</p> <p>Open office hours/ Possibility for individual meetings with lecturers</p> <p>On demand: Online sign up Leonard Frank/ Niko Schöpke</p>
<p>Research Paper Outline/ Reading assignments</p>	<p>Work on Research Paper Outline/ Finalize and submit Outline Draft</p>	<p>Comment on fellow group member outlines</p>	<p>Work on Research Paper Outline</p>	<p>Work on Research Paper Outline</p>

Monday, 07.03. Format to be decided	Tuesday, 08.03.	Wednesday, 09.03.	Thursday, 10.03.	Friday, 11.03.
<p>10:00-13:30 Critical reflection and outlook of Global Environmental Governance</p> <p>Final reflections, Wrap up and Feedback</p> <p>Niko Schöpke and Leonard Frank</p> <p>Research Outline <u>due 23:59 CET</u></p>	<p>Self-Study/ Work on Research paper</p>	<p>Self-Study/ Work on Research paper</p>	<p>Self-Study/ Work on Research paper</p>	<p>Self-Study/ Work on Research paper</p> <p>End of module</p> <p>Research paper can be submitted until 11.4.2022, 23:59 CET (hard deadline)</p>