

## **Politics of Climate Change in South Asia: Perspectives on Global Governance**

This seminar examines the politics of climate change at the global and domestic level with specific focus on South Asia. Climate change has devastating impact on the South Asian countries making them vulnerable to rising temperatures, floods, hindering economic growth and intensifying poverty. Additionally, the region faces a paradox of developmental needs and growth imperatives versus policy adaptation and mitigation around climate change. This entails that in the context of domestic and global governance these countries have to strike a judicious balance between the global and domestic imperatives. In this light the South Asian countries have a unique positioning in the global governance architecture (such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change-IPCC) that collectively deliberates on the adaptation and mitigation challenges in order to construct a global agreement on climate change. The seminar aims to understand the politics behind the policy positioning of the South Asian nations and how these countries engage with the climate negotiations at the global level. Can these countries align together? How, why and when do the policy positions depart or converge? Can we entangle the web of global and domestic imperatives? Exploring these questions will explain the continuities and change in the global climate change discourse.

### **Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this course the students will be able to

1. Gain knowledge on climate change
2. Understand the global and domestic climate change discourse
3. Comprehend international relations theories on global institutions and governance
4. Will get orientation towards comparative and international politics
5. Will be able to link the theoretical concepts to the empirical material

### **Prerequisite**

No prior knowledge is required. However, students taking this course need commitment to the area while being rooted in the discipline of social science. Some amount of sensitivity to the issues covered in this seminar will enrich the discussions.

### **Moodle Password: Climate1819**

### **Assessment**

I will evaluate students on the basis of: 1. Final Term Paper; 2. Presentation, Participation and Attendance

**Final Term paper:** Students are expected to write a term paper on a topic of their choice by the end of this seminar. Term papers are to be 4000 words in length including footnotes and references. Term papers are due by 30 September 2018.

**Class Presentation, Participation and Attendance:** Evaluation will be based on student's engagement with the topic and demonstrated understanding of the assigned

readings. Since, this is a seminar style class, discussions and engagement with the topic assigned will be appreciated. Students are expected to present in the last and final session of this seminar. Based on the readings (and perhaps beyond) it is also encouraged to think deeply about the issues assigned each week.

Students are expected to attend the seminar regularly and are encouraged to actively participate in the discussions. They will be evaluated on the basis of their preparation for this seminar. *It is pertinent for the students to come prepared in the class which necessitates engagement with the essential readings provided in the course outline.*

Seminar is thematically divided in four parts.

### **I. Global Governance: Unpacking the Climate Regime**

In the first part we will discuss the emerging global regime around the climate change related issues. This will enable us to unpack the complex world of global governance and its linkages with the climate related issues. Platforms of global governance are also a hot bed where national stance on climate change are articulated, negotiated or accommodated.

#### **Essential Readings**

Robert O. Keohane: “The Global Politics of Climate Change: Challenge for Political Science”

Bodansky, D. (2001). The history of the global climate change regime. *International relations and global climate change*, 23(23), 505.

Keohane, R. O., & Victor, D. G. (2011). The regime complex for climate change. *Perspectives on politics*, 9(1), 7-23.

#### **Supplementary Reading**

Mark Maslin: Climate Change: A Very Short Introduction

### **II Global Climate Discourse: Shifts and Transitions**

The second part will trace the transitions that have occurred around the climate related issues globally. Especially related to South Asia we will unpack the shifts – starting off with a discourse which was squarely within the north-south divide and a gradual movement towards a deeper and a more structured engagement with the global governance regime around climate change.

#### **Essential Readings**

John Gerard Ruggie, ‘International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order’(Spring, 1982) International Organisation, Volume 36, Issue 2, International Regimes, 379-415

Rahul Mukherji, "India and Global Economic Governance: From Structural Conflict to Embedded Liberalism" accepted in Forum section, *International Studies Review* Vol. 16, No. 3 (September 2014): 460-466.

Rahul Mukherji and Himanshu Jha. India and Bangladesh in Climate Change Negotiations: From Structural Conflict to Embedded Liberalism. (Unpublished Manuscript)

### **Supplementary Reading**

Steven D Krasner, *Structural Conflict* (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1985);

### **III The Local-Global Linkages**

Countries often project a stance externally but at the same time they are driven by the domestic imperatives. In this part we will explore the emerging domestic environment around the issues of climate change. The domestic politics, debates and discourse help provide a holistic picture to the emerging politics of climate change.

### **Essential Readings**

Bang, G., & Underdal, A. (Eds.). (2015). *The Domestic Politics of Global Climate Change: Key Actors in International Climate Cooperation*. Edward Elgar Publishing. (Read Chap 5)

Sprinz, D. F., & Weiß, M. (2001). Domestic politics and global climate policy. *International relations and global climate change*, 67, 94.

Vij, S., Biesbroek, R., Groot, A., & Termeer, K. (2018). Changing climate policy paradigms in Bangladesh and Nepal. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 81, 77-85.

### **Supplementary Reading**

Dubash, N. 2012 Climate Politics in India: Three Narratives, In Dubash, N. (Ed.). *Handbook of climate change and India: development, politics and governance*. Routledge.

### **IV. Narratives outside the state: the non-state actors**

An environment exists outside the realm of the states consisting of advocacy groups, civil society organizations, scientists - who are always nuancing and often shaping the discourse around climate change globally and at the domestic level.

### **Essential Readings**

McGregor, I. M. (2008). Organising to influence the global politics of climate change. In *Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management Conference*. ANZAM.

Giese, L. J. (2017). The Role of NGOs in International Climate Governance: A Case Study of Indian NGOs.

Epistemic networks – Cases of Bangladesh, India and Srilanka

### **Supplementary Reading**

Haas, P. (1992). Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination. *International Organization*, 46(1), 1-35.

Bulkeley, H., Andonova, L. B., Betsill, M. M., Compagnon, D., Hale, T., Hoffmann, M. J., & Roger, C. (2014). *Transnational climate change governance*. Cambridge University Press.