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Environmental Policy in Comparative Perspective

Course Description

Environmental problems today are a major area of policy making for national governments. In this course, applying a comparative perspective, we set out to explore and understand the environmental performance of countries. On the one hand, we will ask how national environmental performance can be measured, on the other hand, we will explore which factors influence differences in countries' performance. The focus of the course will be on the following aspects: (1) the environmental performance of democracies compared to more authoritarian regimes, (2) the effects of political institutions and institutional characteristics on countries' ability to deal with environmental problems, (3) the relationships between economic factors (economic growth, development, trade) and environmental protection. We will study environmental problems related to the national level, such as air and water quality, but also look at how countries perform regarding global environmental problems, such as climate change.

Master course: HS: Ausgewählte Politikfelder

Date and venue: Monday, 10-12:00pm, Room FMA/00.07 (Starting: 13.04.2015)

Registration: FlexNow, 01.04.2015 - 20.04.2015 (Deregistration until 27.04.)

Requirements: Finished BA or equivalent for visiting Students

Grading: Term Paper (75%), Presentation (25%)

ECTS: 8

Introductory Readings

Steinberg, P., & S. VanDeveer (2012): *Comparative Environmental Politics. Theory, Practice, and Prospects*. Boston: The MIT Press.

Fiorino, D. (2011): Explaining national environmental performance: Approaches, evidence, and implications. *Policy Sciences* 44(4), 367-389.

McBeath, J. & J. Rosenberg (2006). *Comparative Environmental Politics*. Dordrecht: Springer.