Course Description:
The environmental problems of today present major challenges to current governmental structures and decision-making processes. This course examines key ideas of environmental governance and different approaches to the regulation of environmental protection. These challenges are common to many regions, but the course will generally look more in depth on Israel, while comparisons with other jurisdictional approaches, such as the US and the EU will be made where appropriate. The core aim of this course is to introduce the students with an appreciation of key issues that shape the development of contemporary environmental policy and equip them with critical tools to think about social-environmental interfaces.

Course Objectives:
- To think critically about human intervention in natural ecosystems and the ways to mitigate our environmental footprint.
- To understand the theory behind environmental policy and the core-principle of the environmental regulatory and law systems at the international and national scales.
- To appreciate and understand the role of different actors in the environmental policy arena.

Course Structure:

Lecture: 12  Exercise: 3  Field trip: 1  Total # of Credits: 2

Teaching Method:
The course will be conducted through a combination of formal lectures, class discussion and small group presentations. The lectures will be based on weekly reading assignments.

Course Requirements

- Compulsory attendance
- Critical reading
- Participation in class discussion

**Structure of Final Course Grad**

1. Participation  
   10%
2. Midterm assignment  
   20%
3. Final paper  
   40%
4. Student presentations  
   30%

100%

**Note:**
- Work handed in late, will not be graded!
- Penalties and course policies should be clearly articulated (i.e. students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 2 class meetings unexcused)

**Course Schedule Layout:**

**: Week 1**

**Weekly subject title:** Introduction

Weekly brief description: Overview of main issues in the course. Introduction to central components of environmental policy. Environmental values and the next generations.

**Readings:**


**: Week 2**

**Weekly subject title:** From government to governance

Weekly brief description: The most studied question in public policy- the role of the government and its critiques. Why the environment is a policy problem: challenges in designing government structures for the environment.

**Readings:**


**: Week 3**

**Weekly subject title:** Players in the environmental field
Weekly brief description: Environmental governance as a new model of sustainable development. The role of scientists and experts in environmental policy-making.

Readings:


Week 4

Weekly subject title: Top-down or bottom-up?


Readings:


Week 5

Weekly subject title: Making and taking environmental decisions

Weekly brief description: The messiness of policymaking, the policy cycle, policy formulation and agenda setting theories.


Week 6

Weekly subject title: Environmental policy integration

Weekly brief description: Integrating sustainability principles in policymaking and plans. Example from "Negev 2015: the national strategic plan for the development of the Negev".

Readings:


Week 7

Weekly subject title: International environmental governance and law

Readings:


Week 8

Weekly subject title: Environmental law and regulation


Readings:


Week 9

Weekly subject title: Guest Lecture

Weekly brief description: Environmental law in Israel

Readings: TBA

Week 10

Weekly subject title: Environmental standard setting.


Readings:


Week 11
**Weekly subject title:** Field Trip

Weekly brief description:

**Readings:** TBA

**Week 12**

**Weekly subject title:** Environmental assessment as a regulatory tool

Weekly brief description: Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on major projects and plans.

**Readings:**


**Week 13**

**Weekly subject title:** Students presentations

Weekly brief description: Each group presents its EIA on selected projects.

**Supporting materials, for example:**


**Week 14**

**Weekly subject title:** Summary of course and lessons learned