Syllabus EDS346 2013:

National Environmental Governance:

Politics, Policy and Conflict Resolution

Course Contents:
In this course we look at the complexities of environmental governance and specific contexts of environmental and resource-based conflicts. Study is furthermore made in the course of the politics of governance and discussions made of the possibilities and limitations of responding to contestation. The course encompasses national and local environmental politics with cases from both developing and developed countries. In the first part of the course examination is made of key issues and themes in environmental governance including competing conceptualizations of the state, law, power, bureaucracy, institutionalism, democratic participation, the resource curse and the political economy of resource conflict. In the second part of the course introduction and discussion is made of the basis and operation of different regulatory tools in environmental
governance. In the third part of the course examination is made of particular globally traded commodities, the history of power relations and political economies that shape their exploitation and extraction, and contemporary efforts to moderate, protect and/or commercialize them. During the course students are expected to produce an individually produced term paper or digital-story in which theory is used to analyze a particular resource context or problem. The course demands students to be prepared to participate in 'problem-based' group discussions and tutorials. Students will also sit a final written exam, on which the majority of their mark will be based. The course includes 4 days of mandatory excursion.

**Theoretical goals:**
Students shall acquire deeper insights into the theories of environmental governance and resource regimes. The course makes explicit and critical use of theoretical approaches drawn from anthropology, economics, political science, political economy and political ecology. Students shall develop the capacity to undertake interdisciplinary analyses and obtain higher level understanding of the ways in which social, resource and ecosystem dynamics and complexities influence the way different governance structures work. They shall moreover acquire the skills to study various management strategies for the use and maintenance of various environmental resources. Students shall acquire the capacity to use theory to study concrete cases concerning environmental governance at the national and local level. These cases are furthermore studied within the context of international agreements, national policies and local politics. In relation to this, the inter-relationship between state and civil society is emphasized. Students shall, finally, be able to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of existing governance structures, and develop and evaluate ideas for alternative solutions.

**Skills goals:**
The students will learn to connect theoretical perspectives and approaches to practical political issues, and through analysis suggest political solutions where efficiency, legitimacy and political viability are considered important criteria. The course emphasizes a tools approach to environmental governance where critical awareness is built regarding the possibilities and limitations of a series of standard approaches and methodologies for resource governance.

**Attitude goals:**
Students develop their skills in critical thinking, in understanding both own and other people's attitudes, values and norms and develop a self-reflection around both scientific and interpersonal relationships.

For further information on course practicalities see: [http://www.umb.no/search/courses/eds346](http://www.umb.no/search/courses/eds346)

Course Responsible: [john.mcneish@umb.no](mailto:john.mcneish@umb.no)
Classes and Reading List

Part I: Power and Nature: The Politics of Ecological Regulation

30th January: Introduction: Environment and Development Challenges


1st February: Approaching Environmental Regulation


6th February: A History of Environmental ‘Regulation

8th February: Environment, Security, Violence: The Malthusian Legacy

13th February: Problems of “Regulating” Nature

20th February: Student-led Summary and Discussion of Part 1 of the Course

22nd February: Essay/Digital Storytelling

Part II: Managing Resources


27th February: Economic Instruments (Kassim Kalindwa)

1st March: Legal, Pedagogic and Organisational Instruments

6th March: Social Instruments? (Camilla Houland)
8th March: Management or Resolution?


13th March: Student-led Summary and Discussion of Part 2 of the Course

**Part III: Contested Resources**

15th March: Water

  *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 61, 1. 81-98. (In Folder)
- Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 26 (6): 959-982. (In Folder)

20th March: Forests


22nd March: Carbon Trading


---------------------------------------------------Easter 25th - 29th March-------

3rd April: Bio-prospecting/Piracy


5th April: Mining


10th April: Hydrocarbons Extraction


12th April: Film: Crude

24th April: Oil Spillage


19th April: Student Self-Study
26th April: Student-led Summary and Discussion of Part 3 of the Course

30th April- 3rd May Field Excursion

8th & 10th of May: Course Review and Preparation for Exam