

## **Comparative Environmental Politics**

### **Master's Level**

*Course leader: Marina Povitkina*

#### **Course content**

In the course, we will discuss why countries respond to environmental problems differently. First, we will talk about the nature of environmental problems and challenges associated with commitments to solve environmental problems. Second, we will discuss collective action theory and how to use it to analyze current small- and large-scale environmental problems. We will delve into the role of the state in tackling collective action problems and cover the basics of environmental policy-making. Third, we will talk about different political institutions and discuss whether they are favorable for tackling environmental problems. Among these institutions, we will discuss democracy vs authoritarian rule, bureaucratic capacity, corruption, rule of law and state-society relations. Fourth, we will analyze the role of public support in environmental policy-making and drivers of such public support.

#### **Learning outcomes:**

##### **Knowledge:**

After the successful completion of the course students will:

- Have in-depth understanding about various conceptualizations of environmental problems
- Have in-depth understanding about collective action theory and social dilemmas, as well as become familiar with factors driving collective action, including trust.
- Understand the role of the state in environmental governance and learn about the environmental policy-making process
- Understand factors driving differences in countries' responses to environmental problems, including countries' regime types, quality of government, state-society relations, as well as people's values and public support for environmental policies.
- Know main data sources on environmental policies, environmental outcomes and environmental values

##### **Skills:**

- Use institutional theory to explain causes of environmental problems and lack of collective action as well as how institutions hold solutions to environmental problems
- Apply collective action theory to understand various small-scale and large-scale environmental problems

##### **Examination:**

A term paper of 5000-7500 words in combination with a compulsory oral presentation at the final seminar.

##### **Language:**

The course will be given in English.