

Critical Issues of the Mexican and Global Environmental Agenda

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The purpose of this course is to present an overview of the international environmental problem and to place within that international framework the environmental situation of Mexico. The course begins with a critical analysis of environmental issues, placing them in their social and political contexts. The central axis of the first part of the course is the international politics of climate change since it synthesizes the global character of the contemporary environmental crisis. It analyzes the process of negotiations carried out by the international community, from Kyoto to Paris, to contain global warming, placing the successes and failures of the negotiations in the context of science, economics, politics and trade between countries and blocs of countries.

Then we will discuss the case of Mexico, describing the main environmental problems and policies implemented. The aim is to analyze the governmental response to environmental problems in a developing country. It is not only a question of taking decisions in a context of budgetary constraints, but of conceiving and implementing a public policy in a social and political scenario lacking of the necessary institutional arrangements for a public policy to be really put into action.

In order to illustrate these problems, the course proposes an overview to national environmental policies (from the seventies to nowadays). The emphasis is made on the double influence: from international agenda and from internal social mobilizations. The case of air pollution in Mexico City is presented as an example of environmental concerns of Mexican government and citizens, critically analyzing their successes and failures.

Another case to be analyzed is the Mexican hazardous waste policy (a national one but completely affected by the international agreements) not only at national but also at the municipal level, as is the case of the municipal urban waste policies. Other session analyzes the Mexican environmental regulation compliance, and another is devoted to study the environmental inspection services in the industrial sector.

The course closes with a reflection on the implications, for global and international climate change policy, of President Trump's environmental proposals.

Course Contents

- 1) Environment and Society
- 2) The Contemporary Environmental Crisis
- 3) Emergency and Governing of Environmental Global Problems
- 4) The Science and the Politics of Climate Change
- 5) The International Policy of Climate Change: From Kyoto to Paris
- 6) The Paris Agreements for the Climate: Developed and Developing Countries
- 7) The Mexican and the International Environmental Agenda

- 8) Mexico City Air Pollution Problems
- 9) Governing Air Pollution in México City
- 10) Air Pollution Problems in Mexico City and Beijing
- 11) The Mexican Hazardous Waste Policy
- 12) The Municipal Urban Waste Management in Mexico
- 13) The Urban Environmental Regulation Compliance
- 14) The Environmental Inspection Services in México
- 15) The Environmental Policy of President Trump in the International Context

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