

Rio de Janeiro State University - UERJ

Graduate Program in Political Science

Graduate Program in Environment (SR2000088)

Environmental and Climate Policy in Brazil

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Tuesdays, 9am

Introduction and course objectives

This course will examine Brazilian environmental and climate policy since the 1988 Constitution, analysing the processes of institutionalisation of social demands for environmental protection and the systemic and national pressures of the development model. Content will be developed considering the role of social movements and civil society organisations, the responsibility of political institutions, and the environmental and ecological effects of political economy (national and international) on different biomes and territories under Brazil's sovereign jurisdiction.

Among others, the following topics will be addressed:

- A brief history of Brazilian environmental policy: key political, social and intellectual leaders.
- The role of environmentalism in the Global North and the construction of Brazilian socio-environmentalism: the relevance of political ecology.
- International conferences and their repercussions in Brazil: Stockholm (1972), Rio de Janeiro (1992), Rio+20 (2012) and Belém (2025). Analysis of the evolution of the agendas, their contents and the persistence of many (unresolved) issues.
- Institutional policy and environmental and climate governance in Brazil.
- Tensions between environmentalism and developmentalism in the formulation and implementation of national strategies (broad and sectoral). Positions adopted by social movements, civil society organisations and leading intellectual and academic figures in response to the contradictions between nature and society, nature and the economy, and nature and politics in recent years.
- Brazilian foreign policy, environment and climate.
- Tensions between sovereignty and responsibility in Brazil's environmental and climate diplomacy agenda. Contradictions between ministries (Foreign Affairs, Science, Technology and Innovation, Environment and Climate Change, Mining and Energy, etc.). Contradictions between spheres of power (municipal, state and federal) and social actors in Brazil in recent years.
- The climate emergency and divisions within Brazilian socio-environmental movements and networks. The green capitalism climate agenda and disputes surrounding transition and adaptation policies.

- Climate denialism and movements opposed to the role of science in the formulation of public climate policies in Brazil. Denialism (literal, interpretative and implied) and contemporary forms of climate obstruction in Brazil.
- Brazilian biomes in environmental and climate policy: the centrality of the Amazon.

The initial bibliography provided below will be studied in thematic blocks throughout the semester. Each student will present texts and topics for discussion and must formulate a final project proposal that addresses the content studied and, possibly, their own research agenda (for a master's or PhD).

Initial bibliography

Acselrad, Henry & Mello, Cecilia & Bezerra, Gustavo (2008). *O que é justiça ambiental*. Rio de Janeiro: Garamond (chapters. 1, 2, 3 e 5).

Alier, Juan Martínez (2002). *O Ecologismo dos pobres*. São Paulo: Editora Contexto (chapters “Correntes do Ecologismo”; “A justiça ambiental nos Estados Unidos e na África do Sul”; “As relações entre a ecologia política e a economia ecológica”).

Franchini, M.; Viola, E. & Barros-Platiau, Ana F. (2017) “The challenges of the Anthropocene: From international environmental politics to global governance”. *Ambiente & Sociedade*, vol. 20, p. 188.

Gudynas, Eduardo (2019). *Direitos da Natureza: ética biocêntrica e políticas ambientais*. São Paulo: Editora Elefante.

Leff, Enrique (2021). *Ecologia Política*. Campinas: Editora da UNICAMP.

Lourenço, Daniel Braga. *Qual o valor da natureza? Uma introdução à ética ambiental*. São Paulo: Editora Elefante.

Milani, Carlos R. S. (2008) “Ecologia política, movimentos ambientalistas e contestação transnacional na América Latina”. *Cadernos CRH*, v. 21, pp. 289-303.

Milani, Carlos R. S. (2022) “Antropoceno como conceito e diagnóstico: implicações para o multilateralismo e na perspectiva do Brasil”. CEBRI: policy paper series.

Rodrigues, T. (2012) “Segurança planetária, entre o climático e o humano”. *Ecopolítica*, n. 3, pp. 5-41.