SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Course Code : ENVST-UA 422.001
Class time : Tuesday/Thursday 11:00AM–12:15PM
Classroom : TBD

Instructor : Ritwick Ghosh
Office : TBD
Email : TBD
Office Hours : TBD and by appointment

INTRODUCTION
Science plays a critical role in making environmental policy. Science can help identify environmental problems, tipping points and causal links, as well as predict outcomes of different interventions, develop solutions, and monitor progress.

But science is not produced in an ivory tower, away from society. To develop effective policies, it is important to understand how science both shapes and is shaped by history, politics, and institutions.

In this course, we apply theoretical insights from the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS) to analyze some hotly debated environmental topics including climate change, nuclear energy, GMOs, and sustainable development. Through the cases, students will scope out the principal stakeholders and processes through which science has come to matter in political debate.

We will rely on an assortment of written and media sources – academic publications, popular books, reports by think tanks and large international institutions, editorials, blogs, and videos. Discussions with invited speakers will offer students real-work experience in navigating the science–policy interface.

The critical approach followed in the course will help students identify the mechanisms by which science can meaningfully impact environmental policies at different scales and contexts. The course will leave students with a modest skepticism of master narratives and appreciation for the multiple ways science may shape environmental policy.