Course Title

Environmental Social Movements

Course Number
ENVST-UA.9480

Instructor Contact Information
Dr. Jan-Henrik Meyer
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Course Details
Fall 2014
Thursdays, 3 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Location of class: NYUB, Room Charlottenburg

Prerequisites
none

Units earned
4

Course Description
How do social movements form in response to environmental concerns? What makes them effective or ineffective? This course analyses the various social movements that organized in response to environmental concerns. Both historical and sociological dimensions of environmental movements are covered, with particular attention given to how issues of environmental protection and social justice intersect. At NYU Berlin, the course includes American (I), European, and in particular German (II), as well as global movements (III).

Course Objective
The first goal of the course is to familiarize students with the historical emergence and contemporary activities of groups and movements engaged in protecting nature, natural resources and the environment. We will address their changing goals and perennial organizational problems. The second goal of the course is to introduce students to relevant sociological theories of social movements and train students in the skills of theory-based analyses of environmental movements. The third goal is to engage students in a critical discussion on the role of environmental movements in a rapidly globalizing world, on issues of social and environmental justice, and on contradictions emerging between them.