

Geo 718-001 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS.

Wed 2-4.45 CB 305

P. P. Karan, 1439 POT. Tel 257-6953 E-mail ppkaran@uky.edu

There is resurgence of interest in environmental issues facing various regions and countries. However, the contribution of social sciences to the understanding and development of environmental management policies has been lagging. Environmental problems are not just of a technical nature; they are defined by both social and natural relationships. The persistence of environmental crisis is raising important social and political questions, and have led to the emergence of grassroots environmental movements in various parts of the world for sustainable management of the local environment.

This seminar will explore three principal topics:

- **Environment and Social Science Research.**

Major areas of social science research on environment.

Political economy of transformation of the environment with capitalism, particularly the relationships between production, sustainability, environmental movements, and gender.

Role of technology (such as monitoring systems and GIS) in the analysis of resource allocation and environmental management within a socio-economic context.

Inter-relationships between development and environmental management.

- **Environmental Management Policies in Selected Countries.**

United States, Japan, European Union, Russia, China, India, Latin America, and Africa.

- **Grassroots Environmental Movements to Manage the Local/Regional Environment.**

These movements represent an amalgamation of new political energy, composed of old conservationists, new environmentalists or ecologists, and local activists protesting against the ever increasing number of cases of environmental degradation in various parts of the world. These movements are replacing the old class-based politics of the industrial society with a new post-material, value oriented politics. These local or regional based movements stand for a new post-modern, environmental consciousness signaling new relations between society and nature. We will discuss 3 or 4 local/regional based grassroots environmental movements (1) to identify those elements which characterize the movement as a specific form of social and political criticism; (2) to illuminate the nationally specific factors which influenced their development to an active citizen's movement to manage their local environment; (3) to analyze the current state of the grassroots movements in the country including a study of how environmentalism emerged and developed in the

country; and (4) to relate our analysis to current theories of social movement, social change and environmental management.

Seminar Requirements

The seminar will rely on the use of group discussions and individual presentations. A reading list will be supplied for each of the above topics. Each seminar participant will submit two short critical reviews (not exceeding 5 double spaced typewritten pages) on (1) environment and social science research, and (2) environmental management policy in a selected country. These two short papers should focus on strengths and weaknesses of social science research on environment; and the relative success or failure of environmental management policy in the selected nation.

Participants are required to submit a final research paper on grassroots environmental movement in a specific country or region. This paper should be 25-30 pages long; it should emphasize (a) the intellectual roots and the ideological message that guide the environmental movements within the context of the social and political economy of the nation; (b) characteristics and environmental activism of the movement; and (c) link the ideological message and activism of the movement with the concerns for regional or local environmental management to discover the relative success or failure.