

## **Course: Environmental Policy**

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### Course goals:

- enhance comprehension of policy processes, with specific focus on environmental policy and its features;
- increase understanding of the role of citizen participation in policy processes and environmental conflicts;
- introduce students to deliberative democratic theory and to negotiation and deliberative-dialogic methods.

Most degrees (including Political Science) of the Italian University system are now aligned with the European 3+2 format (the so called 'Bologna process'), i.e. 3 years of study for an undergraduate degree plus two years for a graduate degree.

I have included a module on DD within a course on Environmental Policy. The entire course lasts 12 weeks (54 hours of class lectures); the DD module occupies approximately half of the duration.

The first module of the course offers a framework that can enhance our understanding of how environmental policy processes develop; the emphasis is on the highly conflictual nature of decision-making and implementation of environmental policies and decisions -insofar as they require changes in our present ways of producing and living- and the need for political consensus to further such policies.

Stemming from this, the second module discusses environmental conflicts (especially connected to siting decisions). It then offers an overview of possible approaches that can be used to manage such conflicts pro-actively, i.e.:

- a) negotiation, namely the Mutual Gains Approach by L. Susskind and others (a role playing game developed by the joint Harvard-MIT Program on Negotiation is used);
- b) dialogic-deliberative processes; this section of the module focuses on the theory of deliberative democracy, the features of DD processes, and examples of processes and methods used in Italy and in other countries (also using websites to illustrate real world cases).

The teaching methodology is based on lectures; students are invited to read parts of the bibliographical materials beforehand and discuss them in class.

The readings are books or parts of books available in Italian:

- Ambiente Italia, Ambiente Italia 2007, *La gestione dei conflitti ambientali*, 2007 (pages 1-195).
- Bonanni, M e Penco, M., *Preferenze o argomentazioni congelate? Esperienze di democrazia discorsiva*, F. Angeli, 2006 (149 pages).
- Pellizzoni, L., *La deliberazione pubblica*, Meltemi, 2005 (pages 7-48).
- Ravazzi, S., *Civiczia. Quando i cittadini decidono*, Aracne, 2007 (pages1-52).