

# **Political Economy, Ethics and the Environment**

Department of Urban and Environmental Policy  
Tufts University  
UEP 203  
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## **Course Objectives**

The class offers a probing and critical investigation into the root causes of environmental degradation and explores moral, economic, and social perspectives on conserving scarce natural resources and mitigating environmental pollution. The leading questions are: What factors play a primary role in fostering the abuse and neglect of nature: culture, science, technology, population growth, consumerism, the political economy? How can one construct a coherent view of the "ecological crisis?" What alternatives are available to the present course of human development? What is the role of environmental ethics in establishing a proper balance between economic ends, preventing environmental illness and preserving the quality and the diversity of the earth's biosphere.

Students are encouraged to develop a critical and informed perspective and apply their own framework for the diagnosis and resolution of environmental controversies.