Course Description

Catalog course description

This course is an advanced undergraduate course. We will examine the central dimensions of environmental politics and policy in the United States.

The course will provide an overview of the development of environmental policy issues, including a brief history on the development of environmental politics in the U.S. In addition, the course will also provide a theoretical base for understanding policy changes in the U.S. Major portions of the course will be devoted to examining the fundamental beliefs and attitudes that have shaped environmental policies; the major political institutions in the U.S. that conceive, design, implement, and revise environmental policies; the role of science in environmental policy; and the application of economic principles to environmental issues.

This course will be lecture and discussion based. Being able to adequately participate requires you to come to class prepared by having done the assigned readings prior to class. In addition, you should be prepared to participate in class by asking questions and making informed comments that add to the class discussion.

All phones, tablets, and laptops must remain put away unless you are asked to use them for class purposes. Notes should be taken by hand, with pen and paper. You learn better that way. I recommend taking notes using the Cornell Method. If you want to use a laptop for class, you need to write a one-page justification explaining why and email it to me.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

The goals for this course are to:

- Develop an understanding of the evolution of environmental policy and politics in the U.S.
• Develop an understanding of the major policymaking institutions including the Congress, the President, Executive Agencies, the Courts, and their role in environmental policymaking.

• Develop an understanding of the process of policymaking in the U.S. with regard to environmental issues.

• Develop an understanding of how science is used (or not) in the environmental policy making process.

• Develop an understanding of how basic principles of economics can be used in the design of policies to address environmental issues.

• Develop in–depth knowledge about a particular topic within the broad field of environmental policy.

Course Requirements and Grading

Performance in this course will be evaluated on the basis of quizzes, writing assignments, a mid-term exam, a final exam, and your participation in the course. Points will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>(5 at 20 pts each) 100 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid–Term Exam</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Memos</td>
<td>(4 at 100 pts each) 400 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>800 points</td>
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</tbody>
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Assignments

Quizzes: There will be five “pop” quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will be given in class at random with no prior announcement. They will be based on some combination of the assigned readings, class lectures, class discussions, and any of the material made available on OAKS. Quizzes can only be taken in class. No make-up quizzes will be possible. However, if you miss a quiz you can write a one-page short answer essay. You need to email me within a week of the missed quiz and I will distribute the question to you. You can only use this option once.

Mid-term: The mid-term exam will be given on March 15th. All material from the readings, lectures, and in-class discussions are fair game for the mid-term exam. The exam will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay.
**Final Exam:** The final exam period is Thursday April 26th from 12:00 to 3:00pm. The final will NOT be comprehensive and all material from the readings, lectures, and in-class discussions since spring break are fair game. The exam will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay. You must arrive on time to be able to take the final exam.

**Participation:** The participation portion of your grade is based on in-class participation and class attendance.

- **In-class participation (40%):** This is a discussion based course and to make it work you need to have read assigned material and be prepared to ask questions and otherwise participate in course discussions.

- **Attendance (40%):** Attendance will be taken for each class. You are allowed two absences without any penalty. For your third absence you will lose 50 points, for your fourth you will lose 100 points (150 pts.), and for your fifth you will lose 200 points (350 pts.). If you miss more than five classes you will automatically receive a grade of WA.

- **Above and Beyond (20%):** This includes but is not limited to consistent thoughtful questions and comments; mentioning facts or current events relative to class discussion; and overall making the class discussions more thought-provoking and informative.

**Case Memos**

There will be four case studies that you will be required to summarize. Each summary will be 4 double-spaced pages. Some reading material will be provided for the first three cases and the topic and material for the fourth case study will be up to you. However, approval from the instructor for your topic is required prior to submitting case memo 4. Each case memo will be turned in the dropbox on OAKS.

- **Case Study 1:** Drinking Water Safety. Due Feb 1st
- **Case Study 2:** Species Extinction. Due Feb 27th
- **Case Study 3:** Managing Western Lands. Due March 29th
- **Case Study 4:** Your Choice. Due April 19th

**Late Work Policy**

Late work will be penalized 10% each day (24 hr period) it is late, up to 2 days. After 2 days the assignment will not be accepted. For
example, if an assignment is due Tuesday at 12:15pm, it is late as of 12:16pm and you lose 10%. After Wednesday at 12:16pm you lose another 10% and no work will be accepted after Thursday at 12:15pm. 

No make-up work is possible.

Grading Scale

There are 800 possible points for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points and calculated as a percentage of 800. A: 94 to 100%; A-: 90 to 93%; B+: 87 to 89%; B: 83 to 86%; B-: 80 to 82%; C+: 77 to 79%; C: 73 to 76%; C-: 70 to 72%; D+: 67 to 69%; D: 63 to 67%; D-: 60 to 62%; F: 59% and below

Course Schedule

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment or Exam</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1st</td>
<td>Case Memo 1 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27th</td>
<td>Case Memo 2 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16th</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 29th</td>
<td>Case Memo 3 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19th</td>
<td>Case Memo 4 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26th</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Readings, Assignment Due Dates, and Exam Dates

All of the readings listed below will be on the OAKS course page under Content -> Readings.

Part I. Foundations

JAN 9TH–11TH: INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OVERVIEW

JAN 16TH–18TH: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICYMAKING

- Readings:
Jan 23rd–25th: Values and Value Conflict

- **Readings**

- **Case: Climate Change**

Jan 30th–Feb 1st: Evolution of Environmental Policy in the United States

- **Readings**

- **Case: Environmental Organizations**

- **Links**
  - Major Environmental Laws: [EPA website](https://www.epa.gov)
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

**CASE MEMO 1 DUE: Feb 1st**

Feb 6th–8th: Agenda Setting

- **Readings**
  - Guber, Deborah Lynn and Christopher Bosso. 2013. “Issue Framing, Agenda Setting, and Environmental Discourse” from *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Environmental Policy*

- **Case: Climate Change**
PART II. POLICYMAKING INSTITUTIONS AND MACROPOLITICS

FEB 13TH–15TH: CONGRESS

- Readings:
  - Case: Environmental Votes in Congress

FEB 20TH–22ND: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Readings:
  - Vig, Norman J. 2013. “Presidential Power and Environmental Policy” from Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21st Century
  - Case: Environmental Rulemaking

FEB 27TH–MARCH 1ST: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE COURTS

- Feb 27th: Film: Frontline: War on the EPA

- Readings:
  - How Trump’s reckless climate policy invites a judicial backlash

- CASE MEMO 2 DUE: Feb 27th

MARCH 6TH–8TH: FEDERALISM

- Readings:
  - Scheberle, Denise. 2013. “Environmental Federalism and the Role of State and Local Governments” from The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Environmental Policy
• **Case: Renewable Energy**
  

**MAR 14TH: POLYCENTRICITY**

• **Readings:**
  

**MAR 16TH: MID-TERM EXAM**

**MAR 20TH–22ND: SPRING BREAK**

**PART III. POLICY ACTORS AND SUBSYSTEM POLITICS**

**MAR 27TH–MAR 29TH: POLICY SUBSYSTEMS, NETWORKS, AND INTEREST GROUPS**

• **Readings:**
  
  – Networks, Sub-government, and Communities

• **Case: Nuclear Waste**
  

• **CASE MEMO 3 DUE: March 29th**

**APRIL 3RD–5TH: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**

• **Readings:**
  

• **Case: Air Pollution**
  
• NO CLASS ON APRIL 5th

PART IV: POLICY DESIGN

APRIL 10TH–12TH: REGULATION

• Readings:
  – Eisner, Marc Allen. 2007. “A Primer on Environmental Protection”

• Case: Benefit-Cost Analysis

APRIL 17TH–19TH: MARKET-BASED POLICY INSTRUMENTS

• Readings:

• Case: Acid Rain
  – Layzer, Judith. 2012. “Market-Based Solutions: Acid Rain and the Clean Air Amendments Act of 1990” from The Environmental Case

• CASE MEMO 4 DUE: April 19th

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FINAL EXAM IS THURSDAY APRIL 26TH FROM 12:00–3:00. YOU MUST ARRIVE PROMPTLY AT 12:00pm TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THE EXAM
Important Information

Center for Student Learning

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website or call (843) 953-5635.

Students with Disabilities

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me at least one week before any accommodation is needed.

Cheating or Plagiarism

A grade of zero will be given to anyone cheating on any exam, homework assignment or committing plagiarism in a paper. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own ideas, the words, writings, music, graphs/charts, etc that were created by another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. It does not matter from where the material is borrowed—a book, article, material off the web, another student’s paper—all constitute plagiarism unless the source of the work is fully identified and credited. Plagiarism is cheating and a violation of academic and personal integrity and will not be tolerated. It carries extremely serious consequences. To avoid plagiarism it is necessary when using a phrase, a distinctive idea, concept or sentence from another source to reference that source in your text, a footnote, or end-note. Please contact me if you need assistance in citing a source.

Religious Holiday Policy

It is the policy of the College to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work
that may fall on religious holidays. Please see me immediately if you
will need to miss class any time during this semester.