Environmental Policy
POLI: 307
Spring 2014
Maybank 111
10:00–10:50AM MWF

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Nowlin
Office: 114 Wentworth, #102
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-4pm; Thursdays 10-12am; and by appointment
Contact: Please allow 24 hours for a response
E-mail: nowlinmc@cofc.edu
Office Phone: (843) 953-0279

Course Description:

From the catalog:

This course is intended to familiarize students with various ethical frameworks, analytical tools, and policy instruments that can be used to evaluate environmental problems and policy options. Specific issues may include citizen participation, environmental equity, the uses and abuses of cost/benefit analysis, science and uncertainty in environmental policy development and the use of regulatory requirements vs. market mechanisms for environmental protection.

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 and risk assessment in environmental policy; and the application of economic principles to environmental issues. The format of the course will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, and group work. Students should come to each class prepared to participate in discussion. This means you have reviewed your notes from previous classes and have read the readings in advance of class. You are encouraged to bring your internet capable device (laptop, tablet, smart-phone) to class for discussion and group work, however these devices are not to be used in a way that is distracting to your professor or your classmates.
Course Goals and Learning Objectives

The goals for this course are to:

1. Develop an understanding of the evolution of environmental policy and politics in the U.S.
2. Develop an understanding of the major policymaking institutions including the Congress, the President, Executive Agencies, the Courts, and their role in environmental policymaking.
3. Develop an understanding of the process of policymaking in the U.S. with regard to environmental issues.
4. Develop an understanding of how science is used (or not) in the environmental policy making process.
5. Develop an understanding of how basic principles of economics can be used in the design of policies to address environmental issues.
6. Develop in-depth knowledge about a particular topic within the broad field of environmental policy.

Required Texts:

The following books are required and additional readings will be provided on OAKS.


Current Events

In addition to the required course readings, students are expected to follow current events related to environmental policy, particularly within their chosen topic area. To facilitate this, I have set-up a website where I will share relevant news stories, articles, and commentary dealing with current environmental policy issues. Students should refer to the material posted to this site during class discussions and can make use of this material for papers and group presentations. In addition, questions based on items posted to the site may be on the exams. Students should check this site frequently.

[http://www.scoop.it/t/environmental-policy307](http://www.scoop.it/t/environmental-policy307)

Course Topic Areas for Papers and Group Presentations

You will choose one of these topic areas to use as the subject of your papers and the group presentation. Your paper will be about a specific aspect of the broader topic area. The group presentation will be based on each group members paper and a reading from the Environmental Case book.
There will be no more than seven students per topic area. Students will sign-up for topics on a first-come, first-served basis, and any student not in class on the day topic areas are chosen will be placed into a group by the professor.

1. Environmental Justice
2. Natural Resource Management
3. Toxic and Hazardous Substances
4. Energy
5. Natural Disasters

Course Requirements and Grading:

Performance in this course will be evaluated on the basis of three short papers, a mid-term exam, a final exam, a group presentation, and your attendance and participation in the course. Points will be distributed as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 3</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>700</strong></td>
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There are 700 possible points for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points and calculated as a percentage of 700.

A 93 to 100%
A- 90 to 92%
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
Guidelines for Short Papers

Papers will be expected to be the equivalent of 3–4 double spaced pages, with 1” margins, and 12-point Times New Roman font. Because the papers are short, I will expect well organized, clear, concise, and professional quality writing. Full and appropriate citations are expected, with any citation style (e.g., MLA, APA, Chicago) you prefer. If necessary, consider making use of the Writing Lab available on campus. For more information, http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/writing-lab. On the day each paper is due you will discuss your paper in a small group. Come to class prepared to informally present your paper to your group and the class. In brief, the requirements for each paper are:

Paper 1: Describe the basics of your environmental policy issue. Why is it an important issue? Why is it an interesting issue? What are the primary controversies? What are the major legislation or Supreme Court cases that are associated with your topic area?
Due: February 14th

Paper 2: What are the primary actors/interest groups involved in your issue? What are their positions? What does the scientific literature say about your topic? What are the primary scientific controversies? What strategies do the groups use in the pursuit of their interests? What does each of these groups advocate as a solution? Is a particular interest group or actor more or less effective? Why? Along with the usual other citations, you must use at least 3 scientific journal citations.
Due: March 21st

Paper 3: Policy recommendations and your issue. Choose a government actor (i.e., President, Senator, Mayor, or United Nations). What is that actors role and responsibility with regard to your issue? Do they have a current position on this issue? Why or why not? Describe in detail what would you recommend they do about your issue and why.
Due: April 11th

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Group Presentation: The students working on each of the 5 environmental topics will present their semesters work to the class. The presentation should cover each individuals specific topic and one chapter from the Environmental Case book. Each group must provide a well–organized and coordinated presentation to the class. The presentation should be interesting and informative. You should practice and time your presentation. Groups will be given an entire class period (50 mins) for their presentations, and it is expected that you will fill the majority of that time. Students are encouraged to be creative–you may present a PowerPoint slide show, a set of posters, a video, or any other medium that you feel will allow to present all your hard work this semester in the most positive way. Your presentation grade will be a group grade.

Exams: There are two exams in this course a mid–term, which will be given on Friday February 28th, and a non–comprehensive final given on Friday April 25th, at 8:00am. All material from textbooks, readings on OAKS, lectures, media articles, and in-class discussions are fair game for exams. In my lectures I will often cover material that is not in the books or articles and there is not enough time in a semester for me to cover all the material in the books and articles we read.
Therefore, if you would like to do well on the exams, you should always come to class, and you should come prepared. Being prepared means that you have reviewed your notes from the last class period, and you have read all the readings in advance of class.

Attendance: The attendance portion of your grade is based on class attendance, which will be taken once a week, at random.

Participation: The participation portion of your grade is based on in-class participation (60%) and participation in three on-campus lectures/events (40%) related to environmental policy, broadly defined. For the campus participation portion students must attend three lectures/events outside of class and to submit a one page response to EACH event/lecture linking the topic of the event/lecture to a class reading/discussion. The lectures/events (subject to instructor approval) will be announced in class or found in the weekly e-mails from Erin Blevins. Students may also suggest on-campus events that they feel would be appropriate, but prior approval must be obtained.

Important Dates

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20th</td>
<td>No Class (MLK day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24th</td>
<td>Choose Topic for Group/Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14th</td>
<td>Paper 1 Due</td>
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<td>February 28th</td>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<td>March 3rd-7th</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21st</td>
<td>Paper 2 Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4th</td>
<td>No Class (Professor out of town)</td>
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<td>April 11th</td>
<td>Paper 3 Due</td>
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<td>April 14th</td>
<td>Group Presentations Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25th</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Course Outline

What is Environmental Policy?

Topics:

I. Introduction and Course Overview

II. Values and Value Conflicts in Environmental Policy

III. The Development of Environmental Policy and Politics

IV. Environmental Quality

V. Overview of Course Topic Areas

Readings:

- Jones 2011 (on OAKS)
- EC: Chapter 1
Policymaking Institutions and Environmental Policy

Topics:
   I. Congress
   II. President
   III. Bureaucracy
   IV. Courts
   V. Federalism

Readings:
   • EC: Chapter 2

Policymaking Process and the Actors Involved in Environmental Policy

Topics:
   I. Policy Stages
   II. Interest Groups
   III. Public Opinion
   IV. Science and Environmental Policy

Readings:
   • EC: Chapter 10
   • Pralle (on OAKS)

Policy Design and Environmental Economics

Topics:
   I. Comparing Benefits and Costs of Environmental Policies
   II. Understanding Markets and Market Failures Related to Environmental Issues
   III. Regulation: Command-and-Control and Market–Based

Readings:
   • KO: Chapters 2,3,4,5,8
   • EC: Chapter 14
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.