Course Description

This course will introduce students to the politics that describe the formulation and implementation of environmental policy in the United States. The course will present environmental issues as collective action dilemmas that require some combination of both norms and formal institutions for their resolution. We will begin by briefly considering the historical development of environmental politics in the U.S., highlighting the role that both political and institutional actors traditionally play in the development of environmental policy. We will then consider various aspects of the policy process as it applies to the environment including agenda setting, policy selection and decision making, and implementation. We will end by considering various environmental issues on both the domestic and international landscape.

The following books are required reading and are available for purchase in the bookstore:


The course will also make use of several article length readings. These readings will be on the course Blackboard, which is accessible via the Internet. It is the student’s responsibility to download and read these articles as they are assigned in the syllabus.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be assessed through various measures of your performance in the course. The final grade is intended to reflect your abilities in each of the major areas of the course:

- Midterm Exam: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Policy Analysis Paper: 30%
- Attendance/Participation: 10%

Examinations

There will be a midterm and a final examination, equally weighted. The dates are scheduled in the syllabus. The examinations are comprehensive -- any material covered in the course up to the day before the exam is fair game! The University has scheduled this class’ final exam for Tuesday December 9th from 5:30pm-
7:30pm. The University may change this time and date; it is the student's responsibility to check on exam schedules during the week of finals.

Policy Analysis Paper
Students will write a policy analysis paper. A detailed assignment will be handed out during the semester. The purpose of the policy paper is to familiarize students with a specific policy within the environmental arena and the arguments surrounding and to refine students' writing skills. The writing process will be emphasized, with opportunities for students to turn in drafts of the paper throughout the writing process. This paper must be written in 12 pt. font with 1-inch margins. It must be double-spaced and should be approximately 20-25 pages in length. Students should also pay attention to organization, grammar and style in the writing of their papers. A good deal of writing a strong paper is effectively communicating ideas without unnecessary distractions.

Class Participation and Attendance
Students are expected to attend every class and actively participate in class discussions and exercises. Missed classes and/or poor participation will affect this part of your grade. Absences from class due to illness, and participation in formally sanctioned University events will only be excused with sufficient (i.e. University Health Services Excuse Forms) documentation. Documentation must be provided within 48 hours of the absence. Students that cannot physically provide such documentation within the 48-hour period (due to illness etc.), must do so as soon as possible and must include sufficient documentation supporting the claim that they could not physically deliver the original documentation in the 48-hour period. The instructor reserves the right to determine what is considered “sufficient documentation.” Class attendance sheets will occasionally be passed out during class. If any student is determined to be misrepresenting either their or someone else's attendance in class, all students involved in such misrepresentation shall receive a zero for the semester participation and attendance grade.

Administrative Policy

Student Responsibilities
Students are responsible for planning ahead by checking the Syllabus for upcoming readings and assignments. Students are responsible for all assigned readings. NOT ALL READING MATERIAL WILL BE COVERED IN CLASS. Therefore it is imperative that students complete all readings and integrate them into the course as applicable. In addition, all students are responsible to contribute to a positive learning environment for fellow students. The instructor retains the right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is negatively contributing to the learning environment. Cellular phones, beepers, and pagers going off in class are distractions that contribute negatively to the class setting – be sure to turn off your electronic devices at the beginning of each class period.

Extra-Credit Work
Under no circumstances will extra credit work be permitted.

Late Work
All assignments are to be turned in on the announced due date. Late assignments will not be accepted without legitimate excuses. The instructor retains the right to determine legitimate excuses.

Exams
Students are expected to be present for all exams at the beginning of the exam period. For exams occurring during the regular semester, students will be allotted the entire class period for the exam. For final exams, students will be allotted the entire final exam period that the University has appropriated. A ten-minute grace period will apply for the beginning of all exam periods. After the initial ten minutes have expired, students will be penalized 10 points for arriving late for an exam. Absences or late arrivals for exams will only be
excused for participation in formally sanctioned University events, or extraordinary events if they are accompanied by sufficient (i.e. Health Services Excuse Forms) documentation within two calendar days of the absence or late arrival. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance as well as what shall be considered “sufficient documentation.” If they have been excused for their absence, students will have five working days to make up a missed exam. If there are extraordinary circumstances, which would prevent the student from making up the exam in five working days, the instructor must be informed of this fact prior to the expiration of the five day period. The instructor reserves the right to administer makeup exams of any format (multiple choice, short answer, essay), which may not necessarily correspond to the original exam’s format. If a student misses an exam and does not have an excused absence, the student will receive a zero for the exam.

**Assignment of Letter Grades**

Final course letter grades will be assigned based upon the scales shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>74-76.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 and below</td>
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**Incomplete Grades**

No incomplete grades will be given unless there is an agreement between the instructor and the student PRIOR TO the end of the course. The instructor retains the right to determine legitimate reasons for an incomplete grade.

**Academic Dishonesty**

All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless the instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly and properly cited. Students are responsible for policing themselves with respect to plagiarism. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, academic misrepresentation, etc.) will receive a zero for the relevant assignment and will be reported to the proper university officials for further action.

**Copyright of Class Materials**

Copyright 2004 Dr. Christopher Reenock as to this syllabus and all lectures. Students are prohibited from selling (or being paid for taking) notes during this course to or by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you anticipate needing any type of an academic accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please discuss this with the instructor within the first week of class. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)
2. Bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. If a student's accommodations change during the semester, the student will present an updated official letter from the SDRC outlining the specific modifications.
Course Outline and Weekly Schedule

Section I Introduction

Introduction to the Course (Aug 26)

No assigned readings

Overview of Environmental Politics in the U.S. and a Primer on Social Science Research (Aug 28)

Rosenbaum. Chapter 1

Vig and Kraft. Preface & Chapter 1

Environmental Policy as a Collective Action Problem (Sept 2 and 4)


The Environmental Movement: Interest Groups and the Public (Sept 9 and 11)

Rosenbaum. Chapter 2 (skim)

Vig and Kraft. Chapter 4


Section II Environmental Politics: Institutions in the Policy Process

Environmental Politics: The Chief Executive (Sept 16)

Rosenbaum. Chapter 3

Vig and Kraft. Chapter 5


Environmental Politics: The Legislature (Sept 18)

Vig and Kraft. Chapter 6


Environmental Politics: The Bureaucracy and The Courts (Sept 23 and 25)

Vig, Norman J., and Michael E. Kraft. 2000. Chapter 8 (Rosenbaum)


Environmental Politics: Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations (Sept 30 and Oct 2)

Vig and Kraft. Chapter 2


Midterm Examination (Oct 7)

Midterm Examination

Section III Environmental Policy

The Environmental Policy Process: Risk Assessment and Environmental Justice (Oct 9 and 14)

Rosenbaum, 1998. Chapters 4


**Air Pollution Control (Oct 16 and 21)**


Lazer. Chapter 11. “Market-Based Solutions: Acid Rain and the Clean Air Act.”


**Water Pollution Control (Oct 23 and 28)**


**Toxic and Hazardous Substances (Oct 30 and Nov 4)**


**Energy Policy and Politics (Nov 6 and 13 (No class Nov 11 Veterans day13))**

Rosenbaum, 1998. Chapter 8

Lazer. Chapter 5. “Oil Versus Wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.”

Public Lands and Species Protection (Nov 18, 20 and 25)

Rosenbaum, 1998. Chapter 9

Vig and Kraft. 2000. Chapter 14 (Lowry)

Lazer. Chapter 7. “Jobs vs. the Environment: Saving the Northern Spotted Owl.”


International Climate Policy (Dec 2 and 4)

Rosenbaum. Chapter 10

Vig and Kraft. Chapter 13

Last Day of Class (Dec 4)

Review and Course Evaluations

Final Exam (Tuesday December 9th)

5:30-7:30