POLS 290B: Introduction to Environmental Policy  
Fall 2012

Prof. Christopher Marcoux  
Office: 206 Harrison  
Hours: Wed 1pm – 4pm, *and by appointment*  
Course Meetings: Tu,Th 2:20-3:50, Asbury 112

This course provides a brief introduction to the public policy process, as well as an overview of environmental policymaking. Our focus will be on the history and evolution of environmental policy in the United States, though at the end of the semester we will turn our attention to emerging problems of international and global environmental policy.

There are no prerequisites for enrolling in this course. This course does not take the place of U.S. Public Policy or Global Environmental Politics, both of which I will offer separately in the future.

Our discussion of the policy process, American politics, and international politics will serve mainly to guide group discussion of an extensive range of case studies in environmental policy. Although there will be background information provided in readings and in lectures, these case discussions will be the primary pedagogical tool we will use in this course.

Cases range in scope from community activism in response to local environmental conditions, and threats, state-level environmental policy, federal environmental policy, and international policy coordination concerning transboundary resources and global environmental issues (e.g., climate).

Requirements:

1) Midterm examination (20 percent of total grade).
2) Final examination (30 percent of total grade).
3) Course participation (10 percent of total grade).
4) Presentation (15 percent of total grade)
5) Final Paper (25 percent of total grade)

The exams are composed of two equally weighted parts: Part I: Short-Answer Identifications and Part II: Essay Question(s). The IDs on Part I will be drawn from a longer list of potential IDs that will be distributed before each exam. On the exams, you should define the ID and discuss its significance to the course. Answers should be 1-2 paragraphs in length. The essay questions on Part II will incorporate material from readings and lectures. There will be one essay question on the Midterm and two essay questions on the Final Exam.

Students are expected to complete all readings in advance of the assigned date and to be prepared to contribute to discussions.

NOTE that I assess participation in qualitative terms, rather than quantitative. You do not need to filibuster extensively to receive a high participation grade. You simply need to demonstrate critical
engagement with course material, by asking questions and contributing to discussions/debates in a thoughtful manner.

Periodically, we will have meetings devoted to one or more specific cases. Working in groups of no more than two, each student will be responsible for giving one oral presentation (no more than 10 minutes in length) over the course of the semester. I will contact each group well in advance of their presentation with a short list of discussion questions specific to the case. Presentations should respond to these questions rather than simply summarize the case (all students are responsible for reading each case, so this will not be necessary). Students not giving presentations should be prepared to ask questions of students representing the opposing sides.

Finally, each student will be responsible for writing a short (10-15 page) research paper. Further instructions and advice will be provided in class and on Moodle.

Required Texts


I will distribute a limited number of additional readings throughout the semester, using Moodle.

Grading

Course grades will be calculated on a 100-point scale, as follows:

- 93+ A
- 90-92 A-
- 88-89 B+
- 83-87 B
- 80-82 B-
- 78-79 C+
- 73-77 C
- 70-72 C-
- 68-69 D+
- 60-67 D

Below 60 is a failing grade (F).

Attendance

This course follows a highly participatory format. All students are expected to attend meetings regularly. I will look past the first two absences for everyone – you do not need to email me to let me know that you are feeling ill, exhausted, etc. The third absence will result in a one-point penalty to your final grade. Each subsequent absence, starting with the fourth, will result in a five (5) point reduction.

NOTE: This policy does not apply to university-sanctioned absences. If you participate in a sport or club activity, and you have travel obligations that may require you to miss a limited amount of time, simply let me know in advance so that we can make appropriate arrangements.
Academic Integrity

All students are expected to conduct themselves and their work in a manner that is consistent with best standards of academic integrity. Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, and free riding on the work of others (in group activities). Violations of academic integrity will be referred to all appropriate university committees. Consequences may include suspension from the university. So far, I have not had to do this. For your sake, as well as mine, let’s not make this semester the first!

Statement on Religious Observance

I have looked at DePauw’s schedule of religious holidays, and it does not appear that we have any potential conflicts in this course. I may be mistaken, however. If I am, and the following course schedule will interfere with your observance of a religious holiday, please let me know so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

Statement on Learning Disabilities

DePauw University treats all information provided by students with confidentiality as prescribed by federal and state law and university regulations. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pamela Roberts (pamelaroberts@depauw.edu). Pamela Roberts is the Coordinator of Academic Success Services, Student Disability Services and ADA Compliance (www.ada.gov) at DePauw. She is the focal point for student-faculty coordination in this area, and I will be more than happy to make any reasonable accommodations.

NOTE that accommodations are never retroactive at DePauw. Do not wait until the last minute, or until after assignments are due, to initiate this process.

Course Schedule

Thursday 8/23  Introductions, Course Overview
Tuesday, 8/28  Introduction to the (environmental) policy process
V&K, Chapter 1
Layzer, Chapter 1
Thursday, 8/30  Introduction to the (environmental) policy process, cont’d
V&K, Chapter 3
Tuesday, 9/4  The executive branch and federal environmental policy
V&K, Chapter 4
Thursday, 9/6  The legislative branch and federal environmental policy
V&K, Chapter 5
Tuesday, 9/11  
_CASE: Clean Air, Clean Water, and the EPA_  
_Layzer, Chapter 2_

Thursday, 9/13  
The judicial branch and federal environmental policy  
_V&K, Chapter 6_

Tuesday, 9/18  
Science and environmental policy  
_V&K, Chapter 7_

Thursday, 9/20  
States and environmental policy  
_V&K, Chapter 2_

Tuesday, 9/25  
_CASE: Love Canal and toxic waste_  
_Layzer, Chapter 3_

Thursday, 9/27  
Natural Resource Management  
_V&K, Chapter 8_

Tuesday, 10/2  
_CASE: Oil and ANWR_  
_Layzer, Chapter 5_

Thursday, 10/4  
_CASE: Saving the Spotted Owl_  
_Layzer, Chapter 7_

Tuesday, 10/9  
_CASE: New England Fisheries_  
_Layzer, Chapter 9_

**Thursday, 10/11**  
Midterm Exam

Tuesday, 10/23  
The rise of anti-environmentalism  
_Layzer, Chapter 13_

Thursday, 10/25  
Government, Industry, and Sustainability  
_V&K, Chapter 10_

Tuesday, 10/30  
Market-based environmental policy  
_V&K, Chapter 9_

Thursday, 11/1  
_CASE: 1990 Clean Air Amendments_  
_Layzer, Chapter 14_

Tuesday, 11/6  
_CASE: TBD (students’ choice)_  
_Layzer, TBD_

Thursday, 11/8  
Conclusions and Debriefing: on the value of case studies  
_Layzer, Chapter 18_
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 11/13</td>
<td>Introduction to international environmental policy</td>
<td>Readings TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 11/15</td>
<td>Whither environmental security?</td>
<td>V&amp;K, Chapter 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 11/20</td>
<td>Environment, Population, and Development</td>
<td>V&amp;K, Chapter 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 11/22</td>
<td>Trade and the environment</td>
<td>Readings TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 11/27</td>
<td>CASES: Tuna/Dolphin &amp; Shrimp/Turtle</td>
<td>Layzer, Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 11/29</td>
<td>Introduction to climate policy</td>
<td>V&amp;K, Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 12/4</td>
<td>CASE: Climate Change</td>
<td>Layzer, Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 12/6</td>
<td>Open Date / Final Exam Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINAL EXAM, Date/Time/Place TBD**