Environmental Politics and Policy

POLS 290A, Spring 2014

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Course Meetings: MWF, 10:20 – 11:20, Harrison 101
Office Location: 103 Asbury
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00; Friday 1:00 – 2:00; and by appointment

Course Description

In this course we will seek to understand and analyze conservation, environmental, and natural resources politics and policy in the United States. Our primary focus will be on federal policy in the United States, though we will also touch on state policy and international environmental policy.

While our empirical focus will be on environmental policy, this course also provides an introduction to public policy processes more generally. Accordingly, this course is not intended for students who have already received credit for "POLS 290 – Introduction to Public Policy." Rather, this course exists to serve students who have a specific interest in environmental policy making, regardless of major or concentration.

Topics covered will include theories of the policy process, framing, agenda-setting. We will also examine how members of society seek to influence the government through public opinion and voting, as well as through interest groups and political parties. Finally, we will consider the recent conservative backlash to environmental policy, increasing partisan polarization, and what these mean for the future of environmental policy making in the U.S.

Required Texts

Klyza, Christopher McGrory and David J. Sousa. 2013. *American Environmental Policy (updated and expanded edition)*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Layzer, Judith A. 2011. *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Additional readings will be posted directly to Moodle.

Course Requirements

Final letter grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

A	92.5 +	A-	89.5-92.4		
B+	87.5-89.4	B	82.5-87.4	B-	79.5-82.4
C+	77.5-79.4	C	72.5-77.4	C-	69.5-72.4
D+	67.5-69.4	D	62.5-67.4	D-	59.5-62.4
F	< 59.5				

Final grade calculations will reflect the following assignments & weights:

Discussion/Participation	13%
Moodle Posts	8%
Exam #1	15%
Exam #2	15%
Exam #3 (final)	25%
Essay #1	12%
Essay #2	12%

Additional information about course assignments:

Discussion: I expect everyone to complete all readings prior to the date listed on the syllabus. You will be responsible for leading class discussion on two occasions.

Your discussion grade will reflect equally: (1) your performance as discussion leader and (2) your contribution to discussions led by others.

Moodle Posts: All students will be responsible for making 8 posts to weekly Moodle discussion boards. There is no set format, though they can be as simple as "the three most important points from the readings," or "two-three reasons why I disagree with argument *x*."

Exams: The two midterm exams will be conducted in-class. They are not cumulative. The final exam, on the other hand, will be cumulative.

Essays: On two occasions, you will be responsible for writing a short analytic essay (4-5 pages) on a reading of my choice (all students will respond to the same reading).

I will post these readings, along with essay instructions and due dates as the semester progresses. Basically, I want to get a sense of how our discussions are going before I commit to specific articles. You will have at least three weeks (not counting any breaks) to complete each essay.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

M 1/27 Introduction to Course

W 1/29 Introduction to Public Policy

F 1/31 Introduction to Public Policy, cont'd
Read: *Layzer, Chapter 1*

Week 2:

M 2/3 Grounds for Policy Intervention
Read: *The Problem of Social Cost*
The Tragedy of the Commons
note: *last day to change schedule/registration*

W 2/5 Grounds for Policy Intervention / Introduction to U.S. Enviro Policy
Read: *The Case Against Smoking Bans*
K&S, Chapter 1

F 2/7 Introduction to U.S. Enviro Policy, cont'd
Read: *U.S. Environmentalism in Comparative Perspective*
Does Consensus Make Common Sense?

Week 3

M 2/10 Market Mechanisms and Environmental Policy I
Read: *Applying Market Principles to Environmental Policy*
Economic Incentives vs. Command and Control

W 2/12 Market Mechanisms and Environmental Policy II
Read: *Catching Market Efficiencies: Quota-Based Fisheries Management*
It's Immoral to Buy the Right to Pollute
Weighing the Value of a Ton of Pollution

F 2/14 The Institutional Landscape of U.S. Enviro Policy
Read: *K&S, Chapter 2*

Week 4

M 2/17 Voting and Environmental Preferences

Read: *Voting Preferences and the Environment in the American Electorate*
The 2008 U.S. Presidential Election: Obama and the Environment

W 2/19 Voting and Environmental Preferences, cont'd

Read: *A Reason to Believe: Examining the Factors that Determine Individual Views on Global Warming*

F 2/21 Voting and Environmental Preferences, cont'd

No new readings

Watch Leiserowitz talk @ DePauw (time permitting)

Week 5

M 2/24 Institutions: Interest Mobilization

Read: *Environmental Advocacy in Washington*
Corporate Social Responsibility and the Environment

W 2/26 Institutions: Congress

Read: *K&S, Chapter 3*

F 2/28 Institutions: Congress, cont'd

Read: *Can Congress Govern the Climate?*

Week 6

M 3/3 Case Discussion: Clean Air Act & Clean Water Act

Read: *Layzer, Ch. 2*

W 3/5 **Midterm Exam #1**

F 3/7 Institutions: The Presidency

Read: *K&S, Chapter 4*

Week 7

M 3/10 Institutions: Courts & Executive Agencies
Read: *K&S, Chapter 5*

W 3/12 Institutions: Courts & Executive Agencies, cont'd
Read: *EPA: Major Management Challenges*

F 3/14 Case Discussion: Love Canal
Read: *Layzer, Chapter 3*

Week 8

M 3/17 Collaborative Policy Making?
Read: *K&S, Chapter 6*

W 3/19 Case Discussion: Jobs vs. the Environment: the Northern Spotted Owl
Read: *Layzer, Chapter 7*

F 3/21 Case Discussion: Crisis and Recovery in New England Fisheries
Read: *Layzer, Chapter 9*

Mon 3/24 Spring Break
Wed 3/26 Spring Break
Fri 3/28 Spring Break

Week 9

M 3/31 Federalism: States in U.S. Environmental Policy Making
Read: *K&S, Chapter 7*

W 4/2 Federalism, cont'd
Read: *The Arsenic Rule*
Environmental Federalism in the EU and the US

F 4/4 Case Discussion: Cape Wind
Read: *Layzer, Chapter 11*

Week 10

M 4/7 Business and Environmental Policy I
Read: *TBA*

W 4/9 Business and Environmental Policy II
Read: *TBA*

F 4/11 Open Date / Catch-up

Week 11

M 4/14 **Midterm Exam #2**

W 4/16 Conservative Politics and Environmental Policy I
Read: *TBA*

F 4/18 Conservative Politics and Environmental Policy II
Read: *TBA*

Week 12

M 4/21 Case Discussion: Antienvironmental backlash
Read: *Layzer, Chapter 13*

W 4/23 International Dimensions: Climate
Read: *TBA*

F 4/25 International Dimensions: Climate
Read: *TBD*

Week 13

M 4/28 Case Discussion: Climate Change
Read: *Layer, Chapter 10*

W 4/30 Linking Trade Policy and Climate?
Read: *TBA*

F 5/2 Case Discussion: Trade versus the Environment
Read: *Layzer, Chapter 12*

Week 14

M 5/5 The Future of Environmental Policy
Read: *K&S, Chapter 8*

W 5/7 The Future of Environmental Policy
Read: *K&S, Chapter 9*
Layzer, Chapter 18

Final Exam **Tuesday, 5/13, 8:30 – 11:30**