

## **L32 2010 – Introduction to Environmental Policy**

Spring 2012  
4:00-5:30 pm Tuesday & Thursday  
Rebstock 215

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**Office Hours:** Monday 1-2 pm; Thursday 2-3 pm  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 3:30-5:30

### **Important Dates**

Exam 1: March 8

Exam 2: April 26

Policy Memo Due Dates: February 9, March 22, April 19

Environmental policies are among the most contentious debates in the today's politics, ranging from debates over local trash storage to global environmental change. This is because many environmental policies have a direct impact on human health, recreation, and economic opportunity. To understand why certain policies exist and others do not requires an understanding of the mechanics of the policy making process. Throughout this course, we will focus on a positive evaluation of how the policymaking process works, the rationales and conflicts that have led to current environmental policies, the tradeoffs between alternative regulatory structures, and, when applicable, important normative debates surrounding environmental issues.

This course provides an introduction to the key actors, institutions, and issues involved with the design and implementation of environmental policy. We will begin with a historical look at the development of environmental regulations in the American context, but will also explore environmental policies in other countries and at an international level. When possible, we will examine the policymaking process through the use of specific case studies in environmental regulation to better understand how key actors influence policy at various stages and their motivations in so doing. Topics explored include regulations on air and water, hazardous waste disposal, natural resource management, and climate change, among others.

### **Grading**

Grading for this course will be based on the performance on two in-class exams (March 8 & April 26), three written assignment policy memos, and an independent assignment that requires you to attend some external event (lecture, talk, board meeting, etc.) related to some aspect of environmental policy. The breakdown of grading is as follows:

Exam 1: 25%

Exam 2: 25%

Policy Memos: 40% (Memo 1: 10%, Memos 2&3: 15% Each )

External Event: 10%

The grading scale at the end of the course is out of 400 total points and proceeds as follows: A+ 392-400; A 372-391; A- 360-371; B+ 348-359; B 332-347; B- 320-331; C+ 308-319; C 292-307; C- 280-291; D 241-279; F 0-240

### **Exams**

The two exams will be given at the date, time, and location specified in this syllabus. Those requiring specific accommodations should contact the Instructor as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made. Each exam will be based on a 100-point scale and each exam will count for 25% of your final grade. There will be no make-up exams and you should plan accordingly.

### **Policy Memos**

During the course of the semester, you will be required to submit 3 short policy memos on topics relating to course themes. One of the most important skills necessary for a job in public policy is the ability present a complex topic in a concisely written memo. In these jobs, memos are one of the primary sources of information for decision-makers who are often otherwise unfamiliar with the intricacies of each specific policy and need a readily accessible summary of the key facts or issues. The first policy memo will count less than the second and third memos towards your final grade, in order to allow you an opportunity to receive detailed feedback on your first memo. Specific instructions for each memo, including the topic, grading rubrics, and length requirements will be discussed in-class and will be explained on an in-class handout.

### **External Event**

Each student in the course is expected to attend one event relating to environmental policy independently during the timeframe of the course. This could be a lecture, speech, board meeting, or many other possible opportunities. If you are in doubt about your plans, simply ask the instructor if it will be sufficient for the assignment. After attending the event, the student should simply turn in a one-page summary of the event that addresses the relevance to course themes and any additional information warranted. This assignment will be discussed more in-depth in-class.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Any student caught violating the rules of academic honesty as outlined in the University's Student Handbook will be failed.

**Required Book:** Vig, Norman and Michael Kraft. 2009. *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. ISBN: 978-0-87289-973-5.

**Articles and Other Readings:** Additional readings will be assigned, as designated on the class schedule below. These will be available online.

You are responsible for reading each of the chapters or articles listed below before the class for which each assignment is listed. Lectures will draw on the readings as a baseline for discussion, but will also go beyond the content of the specific reading.

**The Instructor Reserves the Right to Change this Syllabus at Any Time**

## **Week 1 – Introduction to Course and Key Concepts**

**January 17:** Introduction to Course

*Read:* This syllabus!

**January 19:** The Tragedy of the Commons and Social-Ecology

*Read:* Hardin (1968), available online

## **Week 2—Policy Processes**

**January 24:** Policy Processes & the Evolution of the US Environmental Movement

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 1

**January 26:** Administrative Procedures & The Role of the Bureaucracy

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 7

## **Week 3—Waste**

**January 31:** Defining Brownfields and Hazardous Waste Policy, Guest Lecture by  
Melissa Enoch, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 2

**February 2:** Environmental Justice vs. NIMBY

*Read:* Rosenbaum, Chapter 4; Available Online

## **Week 4—Waste**

**February 7:** Collective Action & Issue Advocacy

*Read:* Lubell, Mark (2002): “Environmental Activism as Collective Action.” Online

**February 9:** Nuclear Waste & Other Controversies; Yucca Mountain

*(Memo 1 Due)*

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 4

## **Week 5—Waste & Water**

**February 14:** Overlaps in Waste & Water Policy—Tainted Waters: Love Canal

*Read:* Layzer Chapter 3; Available Online

**February 16:** Tackling Pollution & Passing Major Legislation

*Read:* Layzer Chapter 2; Available Online

## **Week 6—Water**

**February 21:** The Clean Water Act & Congressional Powers

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 5

**February 23:** Federal Water Policies

*Read:* Vaughn, Chapter 7; Available Online

## **Week 7—Water**

**February 28:** Judicial Review & the Clean Water Act: Wetlands & Ramos

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 6

**March 1:** Hydroelectric Power, Endangered Species, & Estuary Management

*Read:* Layzer, Chapter 15; Available Online.

## **Week 8—First Half Review and Exam**

**March 6:** Review of First Half of Class: History, Policy Processes, Waste, Water

*Read:* NO READINGS

**March 8: EXAM 1**

*Read:* NO READINGS

## **Week 9—NO CLASSES; SPRING BREAK (March 13, 15)**

## **Week 10—Air (Domestic)**

**March 20:** Clean Air Act & Air Quality

*Read:* Layzer, Chapter 14; Available Online

**March 22:** Market Based Approaches to Environmental Policy

*(Memo 2 Due)*

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 9

## **Week 11—Air (International)**

**March 27 & 29:** Climate Change, International Environmental Negotiations

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 12

Vig and Kraft, Chapter 13

## **Week 12—Air & Natural Resources**

**April 3:** Forestry and International Negotiations (REDD+)

*Read:* TBD

**April 5:** Revisiting the Tragedy of the Commons: Cooperative Management

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 8

**Week 13—Natural Resources**

**April 10:** Public Lands

*Read:* Vaughn, Chapter 4; Available Online

**April 12:** Ocean Resources: Domestic & International Fishing

*Read:* Layzer, Chapter 9; Available Online.

**Week 14—Natural Resources**

**April 17:** Carbon Resources: Coal & Natural Gas Domestically

*Read:* Rosenbaum, Chapter 8; Available Online

**April 19:** Carbon Resources: Coal & Natural Gas Internationally

*Read:* Vig and Kraft, Chapter 14

*(Memo 3 Due)*

**Week 15—Second Half Review and Exam**

**April 24:** Review of Second Half of Class: Air & Natural Resources

*Read:* NO READINGS

**April 26: EXAM 2**

*Read:* NO READINGS