

Environmental Politics and Policy 301
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Spring 2010

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OH:TR 3:30-4:30; W 3-4

Course Description

This course surveys environmental politics and policy, primarily in the United States. We will examine the nature and scope of environmental, energy, and natural resource problems; contrasting perspectives on their severity and policy implications; the goals and strategies of the environmental community and its opponents; public opinion on the environment; scientific, economic, political, and institutional forces that shape policymaking and implementation; approaches to environmental policy analysis; and selected issues in environmental policy both within the U.S. and globally. In addition to the core readings, a series of three short papers allows each student to focus on the issues of greatest personal concern.

Texts

The following books have been ordered from the Phoenix Bookstore:

Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft, eds., Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century, 7th ed. (2010).

Worldwatch Institute, State of the World 2008 (2008).

Michael E. Kraft, Environmental Policy and Politics, 4th ed. (2007).

The first of these books is a collection I have co-edited with Norman Vig, and it includes 18 different authors and 16 chapters. This edition was published in late summer 2009 and is therefore very current. The second book is an annual report from the Worldwatch Institute that offers assessments of global environmental conditions and policy recommendations by authors associated with the institute. We are using the 2008 version because its content fits the course better than the volumes for 2009 and 2010.

The last book is my own short text, written to reflect the way I teach this course, and it is intended to provide a basic description of environmental policies, issues, and political institutions and processes over the past four decades. I put two copies of each of the two main texts on one-day library reserve so that you are not obligated to buy either. The 5th edition of my own text will be published in February 2010, and I have placed the corrected page proofs for all chapters and the references and index (as pdf files) on the D2L site if you prefer to use the new edition in that format.

References to additional works are included in each section below as a bibliography. There is no expectation that these will be read. However, some of them may serve as helpful sources for the papers. An extensive list of environmental policy Web sites is appended to the syllabus as well. An electronic copy of the syllabus is on the D2L site and will provide active links to these sites.

Requirements:

Course requirements include a midterm exam (**March 11**), final exam (**May 11**), and three short (4-5 pages, double spaced, each) papers on issues in environmental policy or politics. Guidelines for the papers, including suggested topics, will be distributed in class. The papers will be due at roughly equal intervals during the semester: **Feb. 25, April 8, May 6**. The exams will consist of a combination of short-answer and essay questions and study guides will be handed out at least a week before each. Class attendance is required and active participation in discussions and class exercises is expected.

This course has been designated as a **Writing Emphasis** course by the University, and the papers are an integral part of this designation. Consistent with the WE designation, if you would find early feedback on the first paper helpful, simply submit it before the deadline and you will get it back within a few days.

You should also be familiar with the University's policy on **plagiarism**. Plagiarism is presenting the words or work of someone else as your own without proper acknowledgement, and it can lead to a failing grade. You must credit your sources and distinguish quotations from paraphrased work.

Notebook computers and cell phones. No computers or cell phones may be used during class sessions because they can easily become a distraction and interfere with the class. Turn off your cell phones before class begins. If anyone has a special need for a computer, please see me.

Course grades will be determined approximately as follows:

Midterm examination	20%
Final examination	20%
Papers	45%
Class participation	15%

Note: attendance and participation in class will affect the course grade, and repeated absences will have more of an effect than indicated by the 15% figure.

University Disability Policy: Consistent with federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aids or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2841 (Voice/TTY) or 465-2849 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange for the provision of services.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND POLITICS

- Jan. 26 Introduction
- Jan. 28 Kraft, Environmental Policy and Politics, Chap. 1, 1-24.
- Feb. 2 Michael Kraft and Norman Vig, "Environmental Policy over Four Decades: Achievements and New Directions," in Vig and Kraft, Environmental Policy, 1-26.

References:

- Walter A. Rosenbaum, Environmental Politics and Policy, 7th edition (2008).
 Uday Desai, ed., Environmental Politics and Policy in Industrialized Countries (2002).
 Kate O'Neill, The Environment and International Relations (2009).
 Richard J. Lazarus, The Making of Environmental Law (2004).
 Daniel A. Mazmanian and Michael E. Kraft, eds., Toward Sustainable Communities: Transition and Transformations in Environmental Policy (2009).

JUDGING THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- Feb. 4 Kraft, EPP, Chap. 2, 25-55.
- Feb. 9 Gary Gardner and Thomas Prugh, "Seeding the Sustainable Economy," in State of the World 2008, 1-17.

Class on the 9th will be devoted largely to small group discussion of the seven major environmental issues addressed in EPP, Chap. 2, and reports back to the class on Feb. 11. We will set up the groups on Feb. 4.

- Feb. 11 Small group reports on environmental problems, aiming for 5-10 minutes for each group. Any not finished on the 11th will be made on Feb. 16.

References:

- James Gustave Speth, Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment (2004), selected as the reading for UW-Green Bay's "common theme" for 2009-10.
 James Gustave Speth, The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability (2008).
 World Resources Institute, World Resources (biennial, and a treasure trove of reliable data on global conditions and trends).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN AN URBAN CONTEXT: ETHICAL AND CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

- Feb. 16 Robert C. Paehlke, "Sustainable Development and Urban Life in North America," in Vig and Kraft, 244-264.
- Erik Assadourian, "Engaging Communities for a Sustainable World" (151-165) or Tim Jackson, "The Challenge of Sustainable Lifestyles" (45-60) in State of the World 2008.

References:

- Kent E. Portney, Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously: Economic Development, the Environment, and Quality of Life in American Cities (2003).
- Robert C. Paehlke, Democracy's Dilemma: Environment, Social Equity, and the Global Economy (2004).
- William Ophuls and A. Stephen Boyan, Jr., Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity Revisited (1992).
- Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, & L. Hunter Lovins, Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution (2000).

POLICYMAKING PROCESSES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Policy Cycle and the Evolution of Environmental Policy

- Feb. 18 Kraft, EPP, Chap. 3, 56-84.
- Feb. 23 Kraft, EPP, Chap. 4, 85-110.
- Feb. 25 Deborah Lynn Guber and Christopher J. Bosso, "Past the Tipping Point? Public Discourse and the Role of the Environmental Movement in a Post-Bush Era," in Vig and Kraft, 51-74.

First paper due Feb. 25

References:

- Richard N.L. Andrews, Managing the Environment, Managing Ourselves: A History of American Environmental Policy (2nd ed. 2006), an extensive history, from the colonial period to the present.
- Robert J. Duffy, The Green Agenda in American Politics: New Strategies for the Twenty-First Century (2003).
- Christopher J. Bosso, Environment, Inc.: From Grassroots to Beltway (2005).
- Deborah Lynn Guber, The Grassroots of a Green Revolution: Polling America on the

Environment (2003).
 Eric R.A.N. Smith, Energy, the Environment, and Public Opinion (2002).
 Michael Kraft and Sheldon Kamieniecki, eds., Business and Environmental Policy: Corporate Interests in the American Political System (2007).

Governmental Institutions and Policymaking

- March 2 Norman Vig, "Presidential Powers and Environment Policy," in Vig and Kraft, 75-98.
- March 4 Michael Kraft, "Environmental Policy in Congress," in Vig and Kraft, 99-124.
- March 9 Rosemary O'Leary, "Environmental Policy in the Courts," in Vig and Kraft, 125-146.
- March 11 **Midterm Examination**

References:

Christopher McGrory Klyza and David J. Sousa, American Environmental Policy, 1990-2006: Beyond Gridlock (2008).
 James P. Lester, ed., Environmental Politics and Policy, 2nd ed. (1995).
 Glen Sussman, Byron W. Daynes, and Jonathan P. West, American Politics and the Environment (2002).
 Judith A. Layzer, The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy, 2nd ed. (2006).
 Rosemary O'Leary, Environmental Change: Federal Courts and the EPA (1993).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY AND POLITICS

- March 23 Kraft, EPP, Chap. 5, 111-158.
- March 25 Walter Rosenbaum, "Science, Politics, and Policy at the EPA," in Vig and Kraft, 147-170.
- March 30 Sheila M. Olmstead, "Applying Market Principles to Environmental Policy," in Vig and Kraft, 197-219.
- April 1 Barry Rabe, "Racing to the Top, the Bottom, or the Middle of the Pack? The Evolving State Government Role in Environmental Protection," in Vig and Kraft, 27-50.

References:

Marc Allen Eisner, Governing the Environment: The Transformation of Environmental Regulation (2007).

National Academy of Public Administration, Environment.gov: Transforming Environmental Protection for the 21st Century (2000), available at www.napawash.org).

Paul Portney and Robert N. Stavins, eds., Public Policies for Environmental Protection, 2nd ed. (2000).

Denise Scheberle, Federalism and Environmental Policy: Trust and the Politics of Implementation (2nd ed., 2004).

ENERGY POLICIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

April 6 Kraft, EPP, Chap. 6, 159-173.

Christopher Flavin, “Building a Low-Carbon Economy” (75-90) or Hilary French and Zoe Chafe, “Improving Carbon Markets” (91-106), in State of the World 2008.

References:

Joseph F. C. DiMento and Pamela Doughman, eds., Climate Change: What It Means for Us, Our Children, and Our Grandchildren (2007).

Henrik Selin and Stacy D. VanDeveer, eds., Changing Climates in North American Politics: Institutions, Policymaking, and Multilevel Governance (2009).

Barry Rabe, Statehouse and Greenhouse: The Emerging Politics of American Climate Change Policy (2004).

Robert J. Duffy, Nuclear Politics in America (1997).

NATURAL RESOURCE POLICIES

April 8 Kraft, EPP, Chap. 6, 173-204. We will also see a film, “A Snowmobile for George,” on environmental deregulation in the Bush administration and its consequences.

2nd paper due April 8

April 13 Mark Lubell and Brian Segee, “Conflict and Cooperation in Natural Resource Management,” in Vig and Kraft, 171-196.

Ger Bergkamp and Claudia Sadoff, “Water in a Sustainable Economy” (107-122) or Ricardo Bayon, “Banking on Biodiversity” (123-137), in State of the World 2008.

References:

J. N. Clark and D. McCool, Staking Out the Terrain: Power Differentials Among Natural Resource Management Agencies, 2nd ed. (1996).

William R. Lowry, Repairing Paradise: The Restoration of Nature in America’s National Parks (2009).

Judith A. Layzer, Natural Experiments: Ecosystem-Based Management and the Environment (Fall 2008).

Charles Davis, ed., Western Public Lands and Environmental Politics, 2nd ed. (2001).

Paul Sabatier, et al., eds., Swimming Upstream: Collaborative Approaches to Watershed Management (2005).

EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE POLICIES

April 15 Kraft, EPP, Chap. 7, 205-240.

April 20 Daniel Press and Daniel A. Mazmanian, "Toward Sustainable Production: Finding Workable Strategies for Government and Industry," in Vig and Kraft, 220-243.

John Talberth, "A New Bottom Line for Progress" (18-31), L. Hunter Lovins, "Rethinking Production" (32-44); or Bill Baue, "Investing for Sustainability," in State of the World 2008 (180-195).

References:

Daniel Fiorino, The New Environmental Regulation (2006).

Robert F. Durant, Daniel J. Fiorino, and Rosemary O'Leary, eds., Environmental Governance Reconsidered: Challenges, Choices, and Opportunities (2004).

Daniel C. Esty and Andrew S. Winston, Green to Gold: How Smart Companies Use Environmental Strategy to Innovate, Create Value, and Build Competitive Advantage (2006)

Cary Coglianese and Jennifer Nash, eds., Leveraging the Private Sector: Management-Based Strategies for Improving Environmental Performance (2006).

TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY: LINKING DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY:

April 22 Kraft, EPP, Chap. 8, 241-271.

Henrik Selin and Stacy D. VanDeveer, "Global Climate Change: Kyoto and Beyond," in Vig and Kraft, 265-285.

April 27 Richard A. Matthew, "Environmental Security," in Vig and Kraft, 327-348.

Mark Halle, "New Approaches to Trade Governance," in State of the World 2008, 196-209.

References:

Pamela S. Chasek, David L. Downie, and Janet Welsh Brown, Global Environmental Politics, 5th edition (2010).

Regina S. Axelrod, Stacy D. VanDeveer, and David Leonard Downie, eds., The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy, 3rd ed. (2010).

Paul F. Steinberg, Environmental Leadership in Developing Countries: Transnational Relations and Biodiversity Policy in Costa Rica and Bolivia (2001).

Norman J. Vig and Michael G. Faure, eds., Green Giants? Environmental Policies of the United States and the European Union (2004).

POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT

April 29 Richard Tobin, "Environment, Population, and the Developing World," in Vig and Kraft, 286-307.

May 4 Elizabeth Economy, "China: The Great Leap Backward?," Vig and Kraft, 308-326.

Brian Halweil and Danielle Nierenberg, "Meat and Seafood: The Global Diet's Most Costly Ingredients" (61-74), Jonathan Rowe, "The Parallel Economy of the Commons" (138-150), or Jason Calder, "Mobilizing Human Energy" (166-179), in State of the World 2008.

THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND POLITICS

May 6 Norman Vig and Michael Kraft, "Conclusion: Toward Sustainable Development?" in Vig and Kraft, 349-368.

Third paper due May 6.

References:

James Gustave Speth and Peter M. Haas, Global Environmental Governance (2006).

President's Council on Sustainable Development, Sustainable America: A New Consensus (1996).

World Commission on Environment and Development, Our Common Future (1987).

Lester R. Brown, Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization (2008).

The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11 from 10:30 to 12:30.

SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL WEB SITES

General Sites on Public Policy or Environment

<http://thomas.loc.gov/> (Library of Congress's Thomas search engines for locating key congressional documents. It is one of the most comprehensive public site for legislative searches).

www.gao.gov/ (U.S. Government Accountability Office, a treasure trove of reports on government agencies and programs, esp. evaluation studies of environmental programs).

<http://www.first.gov/> (portal for all U.S. federal government sites).

www.epa.gov (United States Environmental Protection Agency).

www.epa.gov/epahome/rules.html (EPA site for laws, rules, and regulations, including the full text of the dozen key laws administered by the EPA).

www.epa.gov/epahome/Programs.html (EPA programs and projects)

www.whitehouse.gov/ceq (Council on Environmental Quality).

www.wisconsin.gov/state/home/ (access to State of Wisconsin agencies and policy issues).

www.dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/ (DNR site for environmental programs)

www.dnr.state.wi.us/NaturalResources.html (DNR site for natural resources programs)

www.dnr.wi.gov/org/gmu/lowerfox/index.htm (DNR site dedicated to Fox River cleanup program).

Environmental Research and Data Collections

<http://www.ncseonline.org/> (National Council for Science and the Environment). Useful site with new National Library for the Environment, links to Congressional Research Service studies on environmental issues and more).

www.rff.org (Resources for the Future--economic policy analyses and information).

www.worldwatch.org/ (Worldwatch Institute site, with list of Worldwatch papers and other publications).

www.wri.org/wri/ (World Resources Institute site, with useful links to studies and international environmental and governmental organizations).

www.scorecard.org/ (A long-standing, though now slightly dated, site for extensive environmental data by city or zip code—hazardous air emissions, chemical releases from manufacturing, hazardous waste, drinking water, etc.).

www.unfpa.org (United Nations Population Fund, population information; latest projections, studies, official statements, country profiles). See also www.census.gov (U.S. Census Bureau population data and projections).

Environmental Organizations and Advocacy Groups

www.gwu.edu/~greenu/index2.html (Environmental Organization Internet Sites--extensive, with alphabetical search).

www.webdirectory.com/ (environmental organization Web directory and search engine for diverse environmental topics).

www.edf.org/ (Environmental Defense Fund home page).

www.audubon.org/ (Audubon Society).

<http://nature.org/> (The Nature Conservancy).

www.tws.org (Wilderness Society).

www.defenders.org (Defenders of Wildlife).

www.nwf.org (National Wildlife Federation).

www.iwla.org/ (Izaak Walton League of America).

www.sierraclub.org (Sierra Club).

www.earthfirstnews.com/ (Earth First!).

www.greenpeace.org (Greenpeace International).

www.elfpressoffice.org/. (Earth Liberation Front)

www.populationconnection.org/ (Population Connection, formerly Zero Population Growth. Extensive information on population growth in the U.S. and worldwide, updates on population related news and legislation).

www.lcv.org (League of Conservation Voters--environmental voting records and information on congressional actions).

<http://www.conservationvoters.org/Public/>. Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

www.nrdc.org (Natural Resources Defense Council--news and information on public policy issues).

<http://lakemichigan.org/> (Alliance for the Great Lakes, covering water quality, toxic releases, land use, and related issues that affect Lake Michigan Basin).

www.cwac.net/index.html (Clean Water Action Council of NE Wisconsin).

www.secondnature.org/ (Second Nature site, devoted to education for sustainability, with good links to other sites).

www.ucsusa.org/ (Union of Concerned Scientists. An excellent site for environmental policy links).

<http://www.pewclimate.org/>. One of the leading sites for news and policy developments related to climate change.

Industry Groups and Conservative Think Tanks

www.uschamber.com/ (U.S. Chamber of Commerce)

www.nam.org/ (National Association of Manufacturers)

www.nfib.com/ (National Federation of Independent Businesses)

www.heritage.org/ (Heritage Foundation)

www.cato.org/ (Cato Institute)

www.cei.org/ (Competitive Enterprise Institute)

Environmental News Sites

<http://www.earthportal.org/news/>. A diversified environmental news site that is affiliated with the Earth Portal, the Encyclopedia of Earth, and EarthForum.

www.gristmagazine.com (an online environmental newsmagazine, with a satirical twist).

www.envirolink.org (Environmental Library Search).

www.enn.com (Environmental News Network --current news and links).

Environmental Education and Careers

www.starfish.org (Sustainability and Environmental Education--resources, bibliographies, courses).

www.eco.org/ (Environmental Careers Organization--internships and jobs in environmental field).

www.webdirectory.com/Employment/ (comprehensive site for environmental employment information and posting of resumes).

Sustainability Sites

<http://www.aashe.org/index.php>. Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

www.naturalstep.org/ (The Natural Step site, with principles of sustainability for corporations and others, related to Paul Hawken's book The Ecology of Commerce).

www.sustainable.org/ (Sustainable Communities Network. Good information on sustainability tools and references, with many links to other sites and extensive bibliographies for subjects such as water, biodiversity, energy, governing, business, etc.).

www.sustainablemeasures.com/ (excellent site for sustainability indicators).

www.rprogress.org/ (Redefining Progress, a policy organization that works for sustainability by trying to redefine the meaning of human progress).

www.asje.org. Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment.

www.footprintnetwork.org (Global Footprint Network, dedicated to advancing the science of sustainability. Produces fascinating information about the ecological footprint that humans have on the planet, and many ways to calculate that impact).