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:


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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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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


References:
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.


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


References:

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.


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.
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).

**Governmental Institutions and Policymaking**

**March 2**

**March 4**

**March 9**
Rosemary O'Leary, "Environmental Policy in the Courts," in Vig and Kraft, 125-146.

**March 11**
*Midterm Examination*

**References:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY AND POLITICS**

**March 23**
Kraft, *EPP*, Chap. 5, 111-158.

**March 25**

**March 30**

**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:**
**ENERGY POLICIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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


References:

**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  


References:

**EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE POLICIES**

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


**References:**

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


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


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

POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT


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:
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).


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**


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.tws.org (Wilderness Society).

www.defenders.org (Defenders of Wildlife).


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

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


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


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**


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.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).