ENR 4000 - 0010

Environmental and Natural Resources Policy

Autumn 2015

Day and time of meetings: Tu-Th from 2:20PM to 3:40PM
Location: Postle Hall 1180

Instruction Team

Instructor: Ramiro Berardo, Ph.D.
Office: Kottman 316B.
Email: berardo.3
Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 12:00-1:30 pm.

Teaching Associate: Pranay Ranjan (students with family names A through K).
Office: Kottman 305.
Email: ranjan.10
Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 12:00-1:30 pm.

Teaching Associate: Benjamin Wickizer (students with family names L through Z).
Office: Kottman 305.
Email: wickizer.7
Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 12:00-1:30 pm.

Course Description

Environmental policy is an interesting policy area to study because it deals with “wicked” problems that are hard to solve. Every time there is a policy discussion about how humans (can) affect the environment and/or use natural resources, you are almost guaranteed to see multiple stakeholders involved in a messy negotiation process from which some (but rarely all) benefit. Do we need a new pipeline or not? Is it preferable to have huge agricultural yields or pristine clear waterways? Is logging as an economic activity more important than protecting the endangered species that live in the forests where the logging takes place? How do we use the water in our rivers in a context of extended drought? Do we use it to sustain important fish species, or do we direct it to the fields that produce the foods we eat? These questions are hard to answer because different people have different (a) views of what constitutes a problems, (b) policy priorities, and (c) availability of resources (i.e. time and money) that they can
spend in the policy-making process. In other words, to understand which policies are
made (or not), one needs to understand not only the problems at hand, but also the
political and social context in which decisions are made. This class is about providing
an initial approximation to the study of such complex processes.

We will cover a lot of material in our time together. In order for us to get the
most out of the course, it is essential for everyone to do the assigned work, which
includes reading and thinking about material before we will discuss it. The instructor
and teaching team are committed to doing the substantial work required for teaching
this course; students who enroll in the course are expected to do likewise.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will understand key concepts in environmental
and natural resources policy. They will have the skills necessary to understand and
analyze how and why certain policy decisions are made to address specific environmen-
tal problems. This course will foster a knowledge base and interest level to prepare
students well for further study in environmental and natural resources policy, both in
and beyond the classroom.

GE Expected Learning Outcomes

This course fulfills GE category Social Science, subcategory Organizations and Poli-
ties, with the following expected outcomes: 1. Students understand the theories and
methods of social scientific inquiry as they are applied to the study of organizations and
polities. 2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic,
and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and polities
and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Course Requirements

The Student:

Each student must accept responsibility for preparing for each class session by
completing assigned readings and taking the time to reflect upon them. Assigned
readings are posted in Carmen or linked to from this syllabus. Every Friday, I will
provide reading questions for the material to be covered in the following week.
These questions will be posted in Carmen. There will be 2 or 3 questions each week
that will be graded (each one of these will count for 1 point of your final grade). Your
answers to the reading questions will be due on the day the reading is assigned at
1:00 p.m.
Students are encouraged to **participate** in class discussions. Each student's contribution is helpful to increase our understanding of topics. Only rule: be courteous and tolerant with ideas that you don’t agree with.

Students will also complete **four written assignments** and write a **policy brief**. Assignments will pertain to an issue of the students choosing. The policy brief will be about algal blooms in Lake Erie. Late assignments and policy briefs will be assessed a 20% grade reduction for the first 24 hours and 10% grade reduction for every 24 hours after that.

There will be **two in-class examinations**, but no final exam. The two exams will consist in a mix of multiple choice, true/false and essay questions designed to test understanding of the readings and class discussions.

**Attendance** is mandatory. Students who miss more than 3 classes will be penalized 10% of their final grade (50 points). The instruction team will take attendance every class with Top Hat. Get an account if you haven’t done so yet! Attendance might be taken at any time during the session. Students who have an excused absence will need to scan documentation of sickness, death in the family, or other excused absence and submit it to their assigned Teaching Associate. If for some reason you don’t get proper cell phone reception and can’t register your attendance using Top Hat, you will need to talk to the TA present in the classroom that day to make sure that your attendance is properly noted. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TALK TO THE TA.**

**NO EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN DURING THE SEMESTER.**

**The Instruction Team:**

In addition to my role as an instructor in class (deliver lectures, guide discussions, answer questions), I will be happy to meet with you for office hours outside the classroom. I will be available via email for answer questions or deal with problems that cannot be addressed by the Teaching Assistants.

The Teaching Associates will have primary responsibility for answering student questions and grading assignments, exams, and the policy brief. The TA is a resource for students and are available if the student is having trouble with class material or learn strategies for developing their assignments. **The TA will be a first point of contact for students with questions, issues, or problems (including excused absences)**. They will help with the grading, class management, logistical items, and other duties that arise.
Grading Policy

Course grades will be based on a student’s point total, which can reach a maximum of 500 points. Points will be earned as follows:

**Weekly reading questions:** 50 points maximum (1 point for each question graded), or 10% of the final grade.

**Assignments:** 100 points maximum (25 points each), or 20% of the final grade.

**Policy Brief:** 125 points maximum, or 25% of the final grade.

**Exams:** 225 points maximum (100 points for exam #1; 125 points for exam #2), or 45% of the final grade.

Grading Scale

- A: 93 % or more of maximum points
- A-: 90 to 92.9 % of maximum points
- B+: 87 to 89.9 % of maximum points
- B: 83 to 86.9 % of maximum points
- B-: 80 to 82.9 % of maximum points
- C+: 77 to 79.9 % of maximum points
- C: 73 to 76.9 % of maximum points
- C-: 70 to 72.9 % of maximum points
- D+: 67 to 69.9 % of maximum points
- D: 63 to 66.9 % of maximum points
- D-: 60 to 62.9 % of maximum points
- E: lower than 60 % of maximum points

University Policies

**Availability of Accommodations.** If you have a documented disability, please register with the Office for Disability Services (ODS). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible so that they can be implemented in a timely fashion. All discussions will remain confidential. If you have any questions about this process please contact ODS at (614) 292-3307.

**Academic misconduct.** Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. In addition to consulting the procedures
created by the OSU Committee on Academic Misconduct
(http://oaa.osu.edu/coam.html), here are some basic guidelines:

1. Cheating on an exam: Unless specifically allowed by the instructor, you may not look at someone else’s work, allow someone else to look at your work, or refer to notes or other materials during the exam.

2. Plagiarism: You should be aware of what constitutes plagiarism, because it can have serious consequences. Plagiarism means using someone else’s ideas or words (even in a short phrase) without indicating where you got them. If you use someone else’s idea, in your own words, you must include a citation to indicate where you got the idea. If you use someone else’s words, you must put quotes around them and include a citation to indicate where they came from. Plagiarism includes copying another student’s paper or ideas.
Course Schedule

Unit 1: The Political Context of Environmental and Natural Resources Policy

August 25
Introduction

No required reading this week!

We will spend time introducing ourselves and covering the syllabus.

August 27
Environmental Problems Now and Then

Required reading:

Hardin, Garret. 1968. “The Tragedy of the Commons.” Science 162(3859): 1243-1248. If you have read this for other classes, feel free to skip. But if you don’t remember it well, take another look.


September 1
The Value of Institutions

Required reading:


September 3
The U.S. Constitution
No class—BUT STILL ACTIVITIES TO COMPLETE!

You will complete the reading listed below, and answer reading questions (available in Top Hat until noon this day).

**Required reading:**


**September 8**  
The Dominant Social Paradigm and Some Environmental History

**Required reading:**


**September 10**  
Basics of the Policy Making Process in the U.S.

**Required reading:**


**Assignment #1** due Friday, September 11th at 8:00 am – drop a copy in the corresponding dropbox in Carmen.

**September 15**  
Congress

**Required reading:**


September 17
Courts

Required reading:


September 22
Agencies

Required reading:


September 24
Exam #1

Unit 2: Regulating the Environment and Natural Resources in the U.S.

September 29
NEPA

Required reading:
October 1
Origins of Pollution Laws and the Clean Air Act

Required reading:


Assignment #2 due Friday, October 2nd at 8:00 am – drop a copy in the corresponding dropbox in Carmen.

October 6
Endangered Species Policy

Required reading:


Montanans for Multiple Use. Changing the Endangered Species Act. Available here

October 8
Endangered Species Policy Case Studies: The Klamath River

Required reading:


**October 13**

**Endangered Species Policy Case Studies: The Delta Smelt in Northern California**

**Required reading:**


Doyle, Michael. 2015. “Supreme Court isn’t biting on California’s Delta smelt case.” Available [here](#).

**October 15**

**Autumn Break - No class**

Assignment #3 due at 8:00 am – drop a copy in the corresponding dropbox in Carmen.

**October 20**

**Climate Change and Global Governance**

**Required reading:**

Selin, Henrik. 2015. “Your brief to the Paris UN climate talks: how we got here and what to watch for.” Available [here](#).

**October 22**

**Climate Change and Policy Instruments**

**Required reading:**


**October 27**

**Climate Change at the Subnational Level**

**Required reading:**


Harris, Michael. 2015. “16 states join to oppose EPA’s Clean Power Plan.” Available [here](#).

**October 29**

**Clean Water Act**

**Required reading:**


Assignment #4 due Friday, October 30th at 8:00 am – drop a copy in the corresponding dropbox in Carmen.

**November 3**

Nonpoint Source Pollution and Watershed Management

Required reading:

Background information on section 319 of the CWA. Available at [http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/319Manual_cwact.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/319Manual_cwact.cfm)

**November 5**

How to Write a Policy Brief?

No required readings for today.

**November 10**

Fracking

Required reading:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2015. “Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources.” Available [here](#).


**November 12**

**Fracking**

**Guest Speaker: Melanie Houston (Ohio Environmental Council)**

MS Houston will share her experience working on the issue of fracking in Ohio as the Director of Water Policy & Environmental Health for the Ohio Environmental Council.

**November 17**

**Exam #2**

**Unit 3: Environmental Policy in Complex Social-Ecological Systems**

**November 19**

**Socio-Environmental Case Study: Algal Blooms in the Western Lake Erie Basin**

**Required reading:**

Introductory material provided by the instructor.


**November 24**

**Institutions and Algal Blooms in the Western Lake Erie Basin**
Required reading:


November 26
Thanksgiving - No class

December 1
Stakeholders and Algal Blooms in the Western Lake Erie Basin

Required reading:

Yeager-Kozacek, Cody. 2014. “Great Lakes Drinking Water Fouled by Toxic Algae.” Available here

Yeager-Kozacek, Cody. 2014. “Cities Tackle Sewer Overflows to Reduce Phosphorus.” Available here

Yeager-Kozacek, Cody. 2014. “Consolidation of Livestock Farms Creates a Big Manure and Nutrient Challenge.” Available here

December 3
Policies to Deal with Algal Blooms in Lake Erie

Required reading:

Yeager-Kozacek, Cody. 2015. “Great Lakes Toxic Algae Prompts Big Investment and Rare Political Agreement.” Available here


Kick, Chris. 2015. “Ohio nutrient law: Answers to some of the top questions.” Available here

December 8
Turn in your Policy Brief by 5:45 pm