ENR 3200 (25253)
Environmental and Natural Resources Policy

Day and time of meetings: Tuesday/Thursday from 2:20 to 3:40 PM
Location: Fontana Lab 1000

Instruction Team

Instructor: Ramiro Berardo, Ph.D.
Office: Kottman 316B.
Email: berardo.3
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11:15-12:15

Teaching Associate: Priya Bhattacharya
Office: Kottman 247
Email: bhattacharya.97@buckeyemail.osu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00 am-12:00 pm and Thursday 1:00-2:00 pm.
Zoom link for office hours: https://osu.zoom.us/j/3201209585?pwd=R01GRINiZ0ZwUIIBtNCtyVDM2amdhZz09

COURSE OVERVIEW

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 problem, (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. 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 the material before we discuss it in class.

Course learning outcomes

This course fulfills GE category Social Science, subcategory Organizations and Polities, 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.

Achieving course learning outcomes

Students will achieve these GE learning outcomes in this course by completing the course readings and assignments, including exams and policy brief, and by participating in class. Lecture and reading material allow students to learn about, analyze and interpret the main component elements of the policy-making process as it pertains to the design and implementation of policies that affect the way human beings related to the environment and natural resources.

Course-specific expected outcomes

1. To understand what obstacles societies face when trying to mitigate the impact of human beings on the environment.
2. To know who are the main actors involved in the design and implementation of environmental policy at the national and subnational levels.
3. To learn about how policy actors operate in contexts of extreme polarization regarding the value and need of policies that protect the environment and natural resources.

HOW THIS COURSE WORKS

Mode of delivery: This course is 100% residential (we’ll meet in the classroom).
Credit hours and work expectations: This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to Ohio State policy, students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average.

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 at noon, I will provide reading questions (A.K.A. quizzes) for the material to be covered in the following week. These questions will be posted in Carmen. There will be 2 to 4 questions each week; THESE WILL BE GRADED. Your answers to the reading questions will be due at 9:00 am on the day the reading is assigned in the syllabus. For instance, the questions for August 31st (Tuesday) will be posted online on August 27th (Friday) at noon. You’ll need to answer the questions by 9 am on August 31st. 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 write a policy brief on a topic of their choosing. Policy briefs that are submitted late will be assessed a 20% grade reduction for the first 24 hours and 10% grade reduction for every 24 hours after that. The deadline for the submission of the policy brief is December 7th at 5:45 pm (a copy of the brief will be uploaded into a digital dropbox created in the course’s Carmen site).

There will be two in-class examinations. 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. Make-up exams will be scheduled ONLY FOR MEDICAL REASONS THAT CAN BE PROPERLY DOCUMENTED.

Attendance is not mandatory, but students who attend class will be rewarded, simply because the exams will include questions about content that is shared in the lectures that might not necessarily come from the readings.

THE INSTRUCTION TEAM:

In addition to my role as an instructor in class, which requires that I deliver lectures, guide discussions, answer questions, etc., I will be happy to meet with you for office hours outside the classroom.

There is one Teaching Associate in this class. The TA will have primary responsibility for answering student questions and grading exams, and the policy brief. The TA is a
resource for students and is available if the student is having trouble with class material or assignments. The TA will be a first point of contact for students with questions, issues, or problems (including exam absences due to medical reasons).

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

There is no textbook assigned in this course. Isn’t that nice?! Course materials are in the form of articles (pdf), videos, and website content available on Carmen. All these materials are listed in the course schedule at the end of this syllabus.

Course technology

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** [ocio.osu.edu/help](http://ocio.osu.edu/help)
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

BASELINE TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen: for questions about specific functionality, see the [Canvas Student Guide](http://canvasstudentguide).

CARMEN ACCESS

You will need to use BuckeyePass multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a Device](http://buckeypass-adding-device) help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
• Download the **Duo Mobile application** to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357 (HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

**GRADING AND FACULTY RESPONSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT CATEGORY</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes</td>
<td>100 points, or 25% of the final grade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Brief (Final)</td>
<td>100 points, or 25% of the final grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>200 points (100 points each), or 50% of the final grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
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**Policy on Late Submissions of Assignments**

Late responses to quizzes will not be accepted for points. Late submission of the policy brief will be accepted but penalized with the subtraction of 5 points for each hour of tardiness. Please refer to Carmen for due dates. Exceptions will be made only for medical reasons (i.e. “extenuating circumstances”). Reach out to your TA as soon as possible if you are facing extenuating circumstances.

**Grading scale**

- 93–100: A
- 90–92.99: A-
- 87–89.99: B+
- 83–86.99: B
- 80–82.99: B-
- 77–79.99: C+
- 73–76.99: C
- 70 –72.99: C-
Instructor feedback and response time

- **Email:** We will reply to emails within 24 hours during the week. If you email us on a Friday afternoon, you should not expect to hear from us until Monday.

**OTHER COURSE POLICIES**

**Discussion and communication guidelines**

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be **respectful and thoughtful**. Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably.

**Academic integrity policy**

- **Quizzes and exams:** You must complete the quizzes and exams on your own, without any external help or communication.
- **Policy brief:** The brief should be your own original work (we use the software Turnitin to detect plagiarism). You should follow APA style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You can find [how to cite in APA here](#). You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in—but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you’ve explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with the Teaching Associate (see above).

**OHIO STATE’S ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the university’s [Code of Student Conduct](#), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the university’s [Code of Student Conduct](#) and this syllabus may constitute “Academic Misconduct.”
The Ohio State University’s Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process.” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the university’s Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If we suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, we are obligated by university rules to report our suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the university’s Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages (COAM Home)
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (Ten Suggestions)
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity (www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm)

Copyright disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Statement on Title IX

All students and employees at Ohio State have the right to work and learn in an environment free from harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender, and the university can arrange interim measures, provide support resources, and explain investigation options, including referral to confidential resources.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or discriminated against based on your sex or gender, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual
exploitation, you may find information about your rights and options at titleix.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleix@osu.edu. Title IX is part of the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) at Ohio State, which responds to all bias-motivated incidents of harassment and discrimination, such as race, religion, national origin and disability. For more information on OIE, visit equity.osu.edu or email equity@osu.edu.

Your mental health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, please know that there are resources to help: ccs.osu.edu. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at (614) 292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-(800)-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org. The Ohio State Wellness app is also a great resource available at go.osu.edu/wellnessapp.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Requesting accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions, please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, please make sure you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Accessibility of course technology

This online course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State’s learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.
● CarmenCanvas accessibility
● Streaming audio and video
● CarmenZoom accessibility
● Collaborative course tools
COURSE SCHEDULE

August 24
Introduction
We will spend time introducing the instruction team and covering the syllabus and rules for the semester.

August 26
No required reading, we’ll watch excerpts of the movie “Anthropocene.”

August 31
Environmental Problems Now and Then
Required reading:


September 2
The Value of Institutions
Required reading:

September 7
The Dominant Social Paradigm
Required reading:
September 9
Basics of the Policy Making Process in the U.S.-Congress

Required reading:

Klein, Ezra. 2016. The single most important fact about American Politics. *Vox*.

September 14
The Presidency

Required reading:

We'll check the [Harvard regulatory rollback tracker](#).

September 16
Governmental Agencies

Required reading:

September 21
Science and Politics (I)

Required reading:

We'll watch a video on Science and Politics and discuss its content.

September 23
Science and Politics (II)

Required reading:
We’ll watch and discuss parts of the documentary “War on the EPA”

September 28
The Courts

Required reading:

September 30
No class (instructor attending American Political Science Association Meeting)

October 5
NEPA

Required reading:

October 7
Exam #1 Review

October 12
Exam #1

October 14
Fall break (no class)

October 19
Be a bureaucrat!!

Required reading (we’ll use this for a class exercise):
October 21
Corporations and Environmental Policy

Required reading:

The movie Dark Money (2018) is available in Kanopy.com (all OSU students can get a free account in this GREAT online platform). This is an excellent documentary that illustrates the effect of corporations in the policy making process. Another movie worthy watching is Merchants of Doubt (2014). This is available for rent from Amazon Prime. Last time I checked the rental price was $3.99.

October 26
Environmental Justice (I)

Required Reading:

October 28
Environmental Justice (II)

Required reading:

We’ll have a class exercise creating “environmental justice maps”

November 2
Climate Change and Global Governance

Required reading:

November 4
Obstacles to Political Action
Required reading:

November 9
Renewable Energy Policy

Required reading:

November 11
(Veterans Day-No classes)

November 16
Review Exam #2

November 18
Exam #2

November 23
Designing a Policy Brief

Class activities:
1. The class will begin with a 30 to 40-minute presentation by the instructor on the main component of policy briefs.

2. Students will then use a “policy brief grading sheet" to grade a sample policy brief provided by the instructor.

November 25 (Thanksgiving, except for turkeys)

November 30
Work on Policy Briefs

December 2
Policy Briefs Workshop

Pre-class activities: Each student will be asked to complete a draft of their policy brief before coming to class. Attendance to the workshop is not mandatory, but if you come, you have to bring a draft!

December 7 (last day of class)

Drop a copy of your Policy Brief no later than 10:55 AM in Carmen

POLICY ON EXTRA CREDIT

Environmental and Social Sustainability Research Experience Program (ESSREP)

The goal of ESSREP is to enhance student’s understanding of social scientific research methods and help apply class lessons to their lives. As a way to gain extra credit for this class you can get hands-on experience participating in research studies conducted by Faculty and Graduate Students in the Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) Lab in SENR. Research studies may take the form of online or in-person surveys, interviews, or focus groups and will be related to a current research in a variety of topics in resource management, environmental science, psychology, and rural sociology.

- In order to sign up for research opportunities you will first need to create a Sona account using your .osu email address at https://osu-essrep.sona-systems.com. You will then be able to view and sign up for studies and monitor your credit accumulation through Sona Systems. Please see our website https://ess.osu.edu/subject-pool/research-option for more detailed sign-up instructions, credit amounts, policies, and Frequently Asked Questions.
- If you do not wish to participate in research OR are under the age of 18, a written assignment alternative is also available. Papers will be based on approved research articles and due at set dates throughout the semester. See our website https://ess.osu.edu/subject-pool/papers-option for grading criteria and other information about the ESSREP paper option. If you wish to select the paper option, enroll by emailing the lab manager at Slagle.44@osu.edu by September 9th.

A total of up to 2 research credits will be possible as extra credit for this course, constituting 2% of your final grade.
If you have any questions about the research or paper options, or encounter difficulties with
Sona systems please contact the lab manager Kristina Slagle at: Slagle.44@osu.edu. Your
instructors and TAs do not have access to Sona systems and will not be managing the
paper option; please direct all ESSREP-related questions to the lab manager.