

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2021

ENR 5325 FOREST AND PUBLIC LANDS POLICY

Schedule: Tu 2:20 – 5:05 PM; Kottman Hall Room 370

NOTE: All classes between January 11-22 will meet online. Please use the zoom link sent to you by email and on available Carmen for class meetings.

Instructor:

Dr. Sayeed Mehmood

Office: 469C Kottman Hall

Email: Mehmood.9

Office Hours: Please contact me by email and we will set up a phone or zoom meeting.

Textbook:

None

NOTE: My lecture will be based on a variety of materials. If I am using slides, I will upload them to Carmen. However, slides are obviously not going to have much detail. You are responsible for completing the assigned readings and do additional research.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will take a multi-disciplinary approach to analyzing the evolution, enactment, and implementation of major forest and public lands policies. Our discussion will integrate science, public administration, law, economics, sociology and politics. We will take on important, relevant, often controversial issues and analyze them from widely different perspectives.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to encourage and reward student participation and critical thinking. By the end of the semester, students are not only expected to understand the complex nature of forest and public land-related issues, but also to be tolerant and respectful of opinions that may not agree with their own.

Specific learning objectives of this course are as follows:

1. Understand the importance of forest and public lands policy, and the process involved in policy development.
2. Ability to distinguish between major federal and state policies and recognize how they

- govern the management (or lack thereof) of forests and other public lands.
3. Compare and contrast the history and mission of major public land management agencies.
 4. Identify and understand important, relevant, and leading-edge forest and public lands management issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes

There will be a total of 4 quizzes, worth 25 points each, over the course of the semester. We will use Carmen for administering the quizzes. These will be timed, with no retakes. Typically, the quizzes must be completed by 11:59 PM on designated Mondays and will cover materials discussed over approximately two to three weeks.

Case Study Analysis

Students will be required to complete two case study analyses, worth 100 points each. All necessary reading materials, along with the questions, will be uploaded to Carmen. Your written answers must be electronically submitted on Carmen by the due date and time. **Late submissions will be assessed a 20% grade reduction in the first 24 hours, and an additional 10% for every 24 hours after that.**

Due dates for the case studies are as follows:

Case study #1: Monday, February 22 by 11:59 PM

Case study #2: Monday, April 12 by 11:59 PM

Exams

There will be one in-class exam, worth 100 points. I will announce the specific date well in advance, but the exam will be around mid-March. The exam will include a mix of short answer and essay-type questions.

Public Land Management Writing Assignment

Each of you will be assigned a public land, which may be a national forest, national park, state forest, or a state park. You are responsible to do your research and gather information on your public land. Approximately every two weeks, we will have a discussion session and each of you will be asked to make a short presentation on your public land. The topics of these presentations will be assigned in class. Each of these topics will effectively become a section of a write-up on your public land, which must be submitted by Monday, April 19. This writing assignment will be worth 100 points.

For Graduate Students Only

The graduate students enrolled in this class will have an additional requirement to be eligible for graduate credits. You will be required to write a paper analyzing a relevant forest and public lands issue. I will assist you in selecting a topic and help you through the process. The paper will be due by 5 PM Friday, April 30.

NOTE ABOUT SPRING 2021 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Please note that due to COVID-19, there have been a number of changes to the spring 2021 calendar. **The first two week's classes will be conducted online.** Also note that due to high rate of infections, plans may change and we may have to adjust. There will be two instructional breaks, however, only the first will affect this class. **We will not have class on Tuesday, April 23.**

Attendance

While I will not take attendance, it will be extremely difficult for you to do well in this course if you habitually miss classes. Also, this is a small enough class that an absence will be easily noticed. **There will not be any make-up exams, except for documented medical reasons. No opportunities for extra credit will be given in this course.**

Your Responsibility as a Student

Students are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to class and come prepared to participate in discussions. I highly encourage you to participate in class discussions, but please be respectful of others' opinions. Any disparaging or derogatory statements based on someone's race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or any other natural/biological/genetic/visual source(s) of difference, whether protected by law or not, will not be tolerated.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Accommodation of Disabilities

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, I request that 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; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

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 or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614--292--5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. 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 Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1--800--273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Title IX and Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

Diversity

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

GRADING

In this course, a student can earn a maximum of 500 points. The breakdown of the points is as follows:

Undergraduate Students

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 4 quizzes, 25 points each | 100 points |
| 2 case studies, 100 points each | 200 points |
| 1 exam, 100 points | 100 points |
| Public land management writing assignment | 100 points |
| TOTAL | 500 points |

Graduate Students

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 4 quizzes, 25 points each | 100 points |
| 2 case studies, 100 points each | 200 points |
| 1 exam, 100 points | 200 points |
| Policy paper | 100 points |
| TOTAL | 600 points |

Based on your earned points, your grade will be assigned based on the following 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: | less than 60 % of maximum points |

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Introduction to ENR 5325

Policy Basics

Definitions, policy instruments, policy statements

WEEK 2

Politics and the Policy Process

Policy objectives, political realities, approaches to policy, the policy process model
Issue creation, agenda status and issue expansion, policy formulation and adoption

Policy Analysis and Decision Criteria

Criteria for policy analysis—biological, ecological, and economic.

Principal Players in the Policy Process

Legislatures, the presidency, judiciary, interest groups, and the media

WEEK 3

Discussion session

WEEK 4

U.S. Forest Service

History, mission, and evolution of management philosophy

Bureau of Land Management

Mission and management philosophy

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mission and management philosophy

WEEK 5

National Park Service

Mission and management philosophy

Department of Defense

Evolution of land management

State Land Management Agencies

WEEK 6

Discussion session

WEEK 7

Instruction break: No class

WEEK 8

Natural Resource Management in the U.S.

History, development of scientific forestry, wildlife management, evolution of management philosophy

WEEK 9

Discussion Session

WEEK 10

Exam

WEEK 11

Role of the Judiciary

The Monongahela decision, National Forest Management Act

Role of the Legislatures

WEEK 12

Public-private Partnership and Private Land Management

Landowner assistance, incentive programs, education programs

WEEK 13

Discussion session

WEEK 14

Discussion of Current Federal and State Land Policy Issues

WEEK 15

Discussion of Current Federal and State Land Policy Issues