COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2020

ENR 3200
ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 – 9:20 AM, Kottman Hall Room 103

Instructor:

Dr. Sayeed Mehmood
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Email: Mehmood.9
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30 – 2:00 PM; Friday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Teaching Associates:

Priya Bhattacharya (Students with first letter of last name A through L)
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Office Hours: Monday 11:00-12:30; Thursday 9:30-11:00

Emily Rabung (Students with first letter of last name M through Z)
Office: 305 Kottman Hall
Email: Rabung.5
Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:00; Tuesday 9:30-11:00

Textbook:

None.

NOTE: My lecture will be based on a variety of material. If I am using slides, I will upload them to Carmen. However, slides are obviously not going to have much detail, so attending classes will be crucial. I will also assign frequent readings. Please complete the reading assignments before the designated class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environmental and natural resource policy takes a multi-disciplinary approach to important issues involving humans and their impacts on the natural environment. It integrates science, different branches of the government, interest groups, and a multitude of social sciences such as economics and sociology. Add to that the ever-present influence of politics and the existence of many stakeholder groups with widely different views, strong emotions and incentives, and we have all the ingredients for a highly interesting course dealing with some of the complex issues of today and the past few decades.
The course will be roughly divided into three parts. The first of these parts will be the “theory” part of the course. We will discuss the context, components, and approaches to policy. We will talk about how policies are made and the principal players in the policy process. In the second part, we will take a closer look at several major legislations. Last but not least, we will discuss several relevant environmental and natural resource-related issues from a policy perspective.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students are expected to learn and will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the importance of environmental and natural resource policy, the process involved in policy development, major natural resource and environmental regulations, and important current environmental and natural resource issues. 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 environmental natural resource issues, but also to be tolerant and respectful of opinions that may not be in agreement with their own.

Specific learning objectives of this course are as follows:

**Critical Learning Outcomes:**

The following learning outcomes have been identified as critical for this course.

1. Ability to identify the importance of environmental natural resource policy, and understand the process involved in policy development.
2. Ability to distinguish between major federal, state, and local context to natural resource policies and recognize how these policies govern the management (or lack thereof) of natural resources.
3. Ability to apply social sciences and other relevant concepts to important environmental and natural resource-related issues.

**Additional Learning Outcomes:**

The following learning outcomes, although not identified as “critical”, are nonetheless important. It will be difficult, if not impossible, for you to do well in this course without achieving these outcomes.

1. Ability to think critically.
2. Ability to write in a clear, logical, and concise manner on important natural resource issues.

**General Education Expected 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes
There will be a total of 10 quizzes, worth 10 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 Mondays and will cover the previous week’s materials. Please note that there will not be a quiz for certain weeks and those announcements will be made both in class and on Carmen.

Case Study Analysis
Students will be required to complete two case study analyses, worth 50 points each, over the course of the semester. 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: Wednesday, February 5 by 11:59 PM
Case study #2: Monday, March 2 by 11:59 PM

Policy Brief
You are required to write a policy brief on a relevant environmental and natural resources policy topic of your choosing, worth 100 points. I will provide more instructions on the structure of the brief and my expectations.

The due date for your policy brief is Monday, April 20 by 11:59 PM

Exams
There will be two in-class exams, worth 100 points each. These exams will include a mix of multiple-choice, true-false, and short essay-type questions.

Dates for the exams are as follows:

Exam 1: Tuesday, February 18
Exam 2: Thursday, April 9
**Attendance**

While I may not take attendance in every class, it will be extremely difficult for you to do well in this course if you habitually miss classes. **There will not be any make-up exams, except for documented medical reasons.** Other than the opportunity to participate in ESS research subject pool (described below), no other opportunities for extra credit will be given in this course.

**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](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/essrep/research-option](https://ess.osu.edu/essrep/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/essrep/paper-option](https://ess.osu.edu/essrep/paper-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 January 17th.

A total of **up to 2 research credits** will be possible as extra credit for this course, constituting 2% of your final grade [or 10 points added to your final score]

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.

**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.

**The Instruction Team**

As the instructor, I am available to help you. My office location, email, and office hours
are clearly noted. Please do realize that I am often busy. Most of your issues can probably be easily solved by the TA’s. Please make good use of the TA’s and consider them as your first point of contact. However, please do feel free to contact me if you should find it necessary.

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:

- 10 quizzes, 10 points each: 100 points
- 2 case studies, 50 points each: 100 points
- Policy brief: 100 points
- 2 exams, 100 points each: 200 points

TOTAL: 500 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

Tuesday, January 7
Introduction to ENR 4000
We will discuss the syllabus, class rules and expectations.
Discussion on critical thinking.

Thursday, January 9
Introduction to Environmental and Natural Resource Policy
Definitions, policy instruments, policy statements

Tuesday, January 14
Policy and the Political Process
Policy objectives, political realities, approaches to policy, the policy process model

Discussion topic: The clearcutting controversy. Will be uploaded to Carmen.

Thursday January 16
Issues, Agendas, and Policy Formulation
Issue creation, agenda status and issue expansion, policy formulation and adoption

Discussion topic: Sale of NCSU Hofmann Forest, will be uploaded to Carmen.

Tuesday, January 21
Policy Analysis and Decision Criteria
Criteria for policy analysis—biological, ecological, and economic.

Thursday, January 23
The Legislature
Powers of the legislature, limitations of power, Legislative organization

Tuesday, January 28
The Executive Branch
Executive powers, limitation of powers

Thursday, January 30
The Judicial Branch
Judicial powers, judicial review, judicial structure, the concept of legal standing

Reading:

Discussion Topics: Supreme Court and the regulation of greenhouse gas; the sweet home case.
Tuesday, February 4
Interest Groups and the Media
Models of participation, types of interest groups, interest group strategies and tactics, mass media

Thursday, February 6
Role of Economics in Environmental and Natural Resource Policy
End of topics to be included in Exam 1.

Tuesday, February 11
Natural Resource Policy from a Historical Perspective
Forest and Wildlife management in the U.S.

Thursday, February 13
Review for Exam 1

Tuesday, February 18
Exam 1

Thursday, February 20
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Readings:
The National Environmental Policy Act: Background and Implementation. CRS Report for Congress. Will be uploaded to Carmen.


Tuesday, February 25
The Endangered Species Act

Readings:
The Endangered Species Act: A Primer. CRS Report for Congress. Will be uploaded to Carmen.

Listing a Species as a Threatened or Endangered Species. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Will be uploaded to Carmen.

Thursday, February 27
The Endangered Species Act: Political economy and recent developments

Reading:
Final Rules Changing Endangered Species Act Regulations. CRS In Focus. Will be uploaded to Carmen
Tuesday, March 3
Public Land Management

Reading:
The Federal Land Management Agencies. CRS In Focus. Will be uploaded to Carmen.

Thursday, March 5
Public Land Management contd.

Tuesday, March 10
Spring Break, no class

Thursday, March 12
Spring Break, no class

Tuesday, March 17
Private Land Management and Policy Instruments

Thursday, March 19
Private Land Management and Policy Instruments contd.

Reading:

Tuesday, March 24
Global Climate Change
The science, politics, public opinion, and the barriers


Thursday, March 26
The Thirst for Energy
Global energy data, U.S. energy production and consumption

Reading:

Tuesday, March 31
Energy Policy and Politics

Readings:

Thursday, April 2
Population Problem and the “Tragedy”


Tuesday, April 7
Review for Exam 2

Thursday, April 9
Exam 2

Tuesday, April 14
Day reserved for class activities or guest lectures

Thursday, April 16
Day reserved for class activities or guest lectures