Environmental Policy and Administration
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1. 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.

2. Required Readings

Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft, eds., Environmental Policy, 7th ed. (2010).

3. Course Requirements

Requirements include three short papers (one to two pages each, single spaced) that critically examine one or more course readings and a research paper (15-25 double-spaced pages) to be presented in class. The short critique papers are due at about equal intervals over the semester: Sessions 5, 8, 11. They may focus on any of the book chapters in the two edited texts, or related chapters taken together if that makes more sense. Alternatively, the short papers could examine any of the "outside" readings, identified with an asterisk below. The idea for these papers is to highlight strengths, weakness, and contributions made by the analysis.

During the last three weeks of the semester the seminar sessions will be devoted to presentation of the papers. A draft of the paper (similar to what would normally be submitted at the end of the semester) is due two days prior to the seminar at which it is to be presented. One student in the seminar will be assigned the task of preparing a written critique of the draft paper, commenting on the approach that is used, the organization of material, the cogency of the argument, and use of relevant
concepts and findings from course readings. These critiques (one to two pages, single spaced) are due at the seminar at which the paper is presented (one copy for me and one for the paper author; the copies may be sent as an e-mail attachment if more convenient). The revised papers are due one week after the last class.

Paper proposals discussing the topic chosen, its significance, and the kind of data to be collected will be due by Session 6. These should be brief, but cover enough that I can provide comments on what you propose to do (1 to 2 pages, single spaced). Earlier submissions are welcome. Assignment of seminar dates for paper presentations will take place before Session 7.

Course grades will be based chiefly on the three short papers (25%), the final version of the research paper (50%), and contributions to the seminars, including the written critique (25%).

**Course Format**
The seminars will stress discussion of assigned readings; thus all readings each week should be completed by the seminar meeting. I will assign discussants for the major thematic readings. Each person will have at least one opportunity to play that role—to identify the key issues in that reading and to assess the validity and utility of the author's analysis. This verbal presentation in class may also be prepared as one of the three short critique papers. I'll have a handout to describe the role of such a discussant.

The readings have been selected to survey the basic issues and concepts in environmental policy and administration. The research paper is intended to allow each student to specialize in a substantive environmental problem or some aspect of policy-making or administration as a supplement to the general readings on the syllabus. Presentation of the papers in class will allow wider coverage of problems and issues than possible with regular course readings.

References listed in each section provide a guide to other readings or sources of information. There is no expectation that items listed will be read. Other sources of information on environmental policy will be discussed in class. Readings below that are preceded by an asterisk (*) are supplementary.

**4. Class Schedule and Reading Guide**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND POLITICS**

Session 1. Introduction

PUBLIC OPINION, INTEREST GROUPS, AND AGENDA SETTING


References:
Daniel A. Mazmanian and Michael E. Kraft, eds., Toward Sustainable Communities: Transition and Transformations in Environmental Policy 2nd ed. (2009).
Christopher J. Bosso, Environment, Inc.: From Grassroots to Beltway (March 2005).

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICYMAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Session 4. Kraft, EPP, Chaps. 3-4, 59-114.

  Norman Vig, "Presidential Powers and Environmental Policy," in Vig and Kraft, 75-98.


  Barry G. 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.

First short paper due

References:
William Ascher, Toddi Steelman, and Robert Healy, Knowledge and Environmental Policy: Re-Imaging the Boundaries of Science and Politics (2010).
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.
Sheldon Kamieniecki and Michael E. Kraft, eds., Oxford Handbook of U.S. Environmental Policy (in progress; I will have draft chapters for this comprehensive (35 chapter) collection during the spring semester).
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY: CRITIQUES AND REFORMS


Paper proposals due this week.


*Michael E. Kraft, Mark Stephen, and Troy D. Abel, chapters 1 and 7, "Information Disclosure and Environmental Performance," and "Conclusions and Policy Implications," from Coming Clean: Information Disclosure and Environmental Performance (2011). The pdf files are uncorrected page proofs and will be replaced with the final versions once the book is published.


References:


**ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

Session 8. Kraft, EPP, Chap. 6, 163-209.


Henrik Selin and Stacy D. VanDeveer, “Global Climate Change: Kyoto and Beyond,” in Vig and Kraft, 265-285. **Note:** a chapter by Michele Betsill in *The Global Environment* volume, “International Climate Change Policy: Toward the Multilevel Governance of Global Warming,” is an alternative to Selin and VanDeveer. Read either one.


**Second short paper due.**

References:


INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY


Kraft, EPP, Chap. 8, 247-278.


Jacqueline Peel, “Environmental Protection in the Twenty-first Century: Sustainable Development and International Law,” in TGE.

David Leonard Downie, “Global Environmental Policy: Governance through Regimes,” in TGE, 64-82.

John McCormick, “The Role of Environmental NGOs in International Regimes,” in TGE.


Daniel C. Esty, “Economic Integration and Environmental Protection,” in TGE.

Michael Faure and Jürgen Lefevere, “Compliance with Global Environmental Policy,” in TGE.

Regina S. Axelrod, Miranda A. Schreurs, and Norman J. Vig, “Environmental Policymaking in the European Union System,” in TGE.
Third short paper due.

References:
____, Environmental Politics and Policy in Industrialized Countries (2002).

RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Session 12. Student paper presentations

Adil Najam, “The View from the South: Developing Countries in Global Environmental Politics,” in TGE.


Session 13. Continued student paper presentations.


Final, revised papers due in one week.
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.usa.gov/ (portal for all U.S. federal government sites).

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, with many specialized pages).

www.whitehouse.gov/ceq (Council on Environmental Quality).

http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/index.html (portal for Wisconsin government)

www.dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/ (DNR site for environmental programs)

www.dnr.state.wi.us/NaturalResources.html (DNR site for natural resources programs)

http://dnr.wi.gov/water/basin/lowerfox/ 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 dated, site for extensive environmental data by city or zip code—hazardous air emissions, chemical releases
from manufacturing, hazardous waste, drinking water, etc. Can also see TRI data at www.epa.gov/tri/).

[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org) (United Nations Population Fund, population information; latest projections, studies, official statements, country profiles). See also [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) (U.S. Census Bureau population data and projections).

**Environmental Organizations and Advocacy Groups**


[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org) (Defenders of Wildlife).


[www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) (Sierra Club).

[www.earthfirstnews.com/](http://www.earthfirstnews.com/) (Earth First!).

[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org) (Greenpeace International).

[www.elfpressoffice.org/](http://www.elfpressoffice.org/) (Earth Liberation Front)


[www.lcv.org](http://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.ecojobs.com/ (Environmental Careers Opportunities, Inc.--internships and jobs in environmental field).

www.webdirectory.com/Employment/ (comprehensive site for environmental employment information and posting of resumes).

Sustainability Sites


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.myfootprint.org/ (Center for Sustainable Economy, ecological footprint quiz)

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).