The University of South Carolina  
Department of Political Science

POLI 778/ENVR 800  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY  
Spring 2017

Professor Neal Woods  
Office:  309 Gambrell Hall  
Class Meets: Tues.  6:00-8:45 PM  
Office Hours:  Tues/Thurs. 4:00-5:00 PM  
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Email: neal.woods@sc.edu

Course Description
This course is an introduction to U.S. environmental politics and policy, focusing on the political actors and institutions involved in environmental protection. The course provides a survey of the primary laws and regulations that comprise U.S. environmental policy. In addition, the course introduces students to the debates about environmental policy, to the machinery employed to deal with environmental problems, and to the processes by which environmental policy choices are made and put into action. Finally, it will survey a variety of substantive environmental policy issues. Along the way, we will discuss relevant theoretical frameworks and empirical approaches that social scientists use to study the political, economic, and social context of U.S. environmental policy-making.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the semester, successful students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of
• The major contours of U.S. domestic environmental policy.
• The actors involved in making environmental policy and the process by which policy gets made.
• Collective action problems in environmental policymaking.
• Various tools that may be employed to achieve environmental policy goals, and the relative advantages and disadvantages of each.
• Contemporary policy issues, including pollution control, natural resource and public lands management, biodiversity, and climate change.

Course texts


Other readings will be posted on Blackboard.
Grading

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home midterm exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Course grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

- 90-100 A
- 87-89 B+
- 80-86 B
- 77-79 C+
- 70-76 C
- 67-69 D+
- 60-66 D
- 0-59 F

Research Paper
The primary writing assignment for the course is a semester-long, independent research project. There are several different options for this paper. First, students can prepare a detailed, analytical review of the empirical social science literature on a topic related to the course. These reviews should be critical and thematic, and not merely descriptive. Second, students may write a paper analyzing the efficacy of government action to address an environmental problem. Last, students may conduct an original empirical analysis of an environmental topic. This type of analysis must be quantitative in nature.

Take-Home Exams
There are two take home exams to evaluate your command of the course subject matter. Each exam will be essay-format, covering both lectures and readings. The midterm take home exam will be distributed on February 21 and is due on March 3. The final take-home exam will be distributed on the last day of class and will be due 10 days later on April 28.

Class Participation
Participation includes attendance and active engagement. Students will be evaluated on both the frequency and quality of their contributions to class discussion.

Course Format
Each session will begin with an introduction to the assigned topics and material. This will be followed by focused class discussion on relevant topics and issues. Since a graduate seminar should provide the opportunity for informed and collective dialogue, regular attendance and appropriate class preparation is essential. Students are expected to assume a major role in raising analytical and substantive issues throughout the course.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result, at a minimum, in failing the assignment and being referred to the Office of Academic Integrity. Violations of the University's Honor Code include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, and any other form of academic misrepresentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: copying another student's work, copying materials from published sources without proper citation, paraphrasing published materials without proper citation, and failing to cite all sources used and/or consulted. “Published sources” and “published materials” includes anything appearing on the Internet. Any instance of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with in accordance with university policy. For more information, see the Carolina Community Student Handbook.
Students with Disabilities
Any student with a documented disability should contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 777-6142 to make arrangements for appropriate accommodations.

Note: the instructor reserves the right to alter any portion of this syllabus at any time.

**Tentative Course Outline and Reading Schedule**

**Making and Implementing Environmental Policy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td><em>Introduction and Course Overview</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td><em>History and Overview of U.S. Environmental Policy</em></td>
<td>• Rosenbaum, Chapters 1-3</td>
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**First Generation Environmental Policy: Command and Control Regulation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td><em>Air and Water Pollution Control</em></td>
<td>• Rosenbaum, Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td><em>Managing Hazardous and Toxic Waste and Regulating Risk</em></td>
<td>• Rosenbaum, Chapter 4, 7 (BB)</td>
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February 21  

Cost-Benefit Analysis
  
  • Rosenbloom, pp. 163-180
  • Ackerman and Heinzerling, Priceless, entire.

Second Generation Environmental Policy: Alternative Policy Instruments

February 28  

Market-Based Mechanisms
  
  • Rosenbloom, pp. 180-190
  • Tim Worstall, "A Gas Tax is Much, Much More Efficient Than The CAFE Standards So Why Have We The CAFE Standards?" Forbes, Feb. 24, 2013. (BB)

March 3

Take Home Midterm Exam Due 4:00 PM

March 7

No Class—Spring Break

March 14  

Self-Regulation, Devolution, and Collaboration
  
  • Klyza and Sousa, American Environmental Policy: Beyond Gridlock, Chapters 6-7 (BB)

March 21  

Information Provision
  
  • Kraft, Abel, and Stephan. Coming Clean, entire

Third Generation Environmental Policy: Modern Environmental Challenges

March 28  

Public Lands Management
  
  • Rosenbaum, Ch. 9
  • Judith Layzer “Oil vs. Wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge” The Environmental Case, Chapter 5 (BB)
  • Lowry, William 1998. “Public Provision of Intergenerational

April 4  
**Biodiversity and Species Extinction**  
- Phil Taylor “Landmark Law in Throes of Midlife Crisis” *Greenwire*, Dec. 12, 2013  (BB)  
- Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction*, Chapters 1, 3-8, 13

April 11  
**Population, Resource Depletion, and the Global Commons**  
- Savas, “Basic Characteristics of Goods and Services”  (BB)  
- Fisheries readings (BB)

April 18  
**Climate Change**  
- Rosenbaum Ch. 10  
- IPCC Summary for Policymakers “Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability”  (BB)  
- Pacala and Socolow 2004. “Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies” *Science* 305: 968-971.  (BB)  

April 28  
**Take Home Final Exam Due 4:00 PM**