

Environmental Policy

POLI 307
SPRING 2019

ROBERT SCOTT SMALL 252
12:15PM - 1:30PM TR

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00pm - 3:00pm
and by appointment

Course Description

From the CofC catalog:

This course is intended to familiarize students with various ethical frameworks, analytical tools and policy instruments that can be used to evaluate environmental problems and policy options. Specific issues may include citizen participation, environmental equity, the uses and abuses of cost/benefit analysis, science and uncertainty in environmental policy development and the use of regulatory requirements vs. market mechanisms for environmental protection.

This course is an advanced undergraduate course. We will examine the central dimensions of environmental politics and policy in the United States. Additionally, this course is a **sustainability-focused** course associated with the college-wide focus on sustainability. For more information see here: sustain.cofc.edu.

The course will provide an overview of the development of environmental policy issues and environmental politics in the US. The first half of the course will provide an introduction to environmental policy and politics in the US and will provide a theoretical base for understanding environmental policy change and development; examine the fundamental beliefs and attitudes that have shaped environmental policies; the major political institutions in the U.S. that conceive, design, implement, and revise environmental policies; the role of science in environmental policy; and the application of economic principles to environmental issues. The second part of the course will use insights gained in the first part of the course to examine several environmental issues including air pollution, water pollution, land management, energy, and environmental justice.

This course will be *lecture* and *discussion* based. Being able to adequately participate requires you to come to class prepared by having done the assigned readings prior to class. In addition, you should be prepared to participate in class by asking questions and making informed comments that add to the class discussion.

All phones, tablets, and laptops must remain put away unless you are asked to use them for class purposes. *Notes should be taken by hand, with pen and paper.* You learn better that way, see here([click here](#)). I recommend taking notes using the Cornell Method, see here([click here](#)). *If you want to use a laptop for class, you need to write a short justification explaining why and email it to me.* Also, lecture slides will **not** be made available outside of class.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

The goals for this course are to:

- Develop an understanding of the evolution of environmental policy and politics in the U.S.
- Develop an understanding of the major policymaking institutions including the Congress, the President, Executive Agencies, the Courts, and their role in environmental policymaking.
- Develop an understanding of the process of policymaking in the U.S. with regard to environmental issues.
- Develop in-depth knowledge about several topics within the broad field of environmental policy.

This course is a **sustainability-focused** course that has the following sustainability literacy goals:

- Students can synthesize knowledge from two or more systems to address a sustainability problem
- Students can demonstrate the impact of production/consumption practices on social, economic, and/or ecological systems
- Students can design a solution to a given sustainability problem

Required Materials

The following materials are **required**.

- *Readings:*
 - *Book:* Nowlin, Matthew C. 2019. *Environmental Policymaking in an Era of Climate Change*. A pre-print version of the book is available as a pdf on OAKS.
 - Additional readings listed in the schedule will be available on OAKS.
- *Poll Everywhere:* You are required to set-up an account and register your phone with Poll Everywhere.
 - I will send a link to register for Poll Everywhere to your CofC email
 - This is a link to register on the course OAKS page
 - *There is no cost to use Poll Everywhere for this class*
 - I encourage you to review the materials here(click here) and here(click here)
- *The Environment in the News:* We will discuss current news events related to environmental policy issues in class. To keep current I suggest you subscribe to the following email lists:
 - The Energy 202 (Washington Post): click here
 - Morning Energy (POLITICO): click here
 - Climate Fwd (New York Times): click here

Recommended Materials

If you have not taken *POLI 101: American Government*, or an equivalent course, then I **strongly** recommend you read the selected chapters of the following book listed on the schedule.

- *Book*: Krutz, Glen. 2016. **American Government**. OpenStax. The book **free** and a pdf is available on OAKS or at this website ([click here](#)).

Course Requirements and Grading

Performance in this course will be evaluated on the basis of quizzes, writing assignments, a mid-term exam, a final exam, and your participation in the course. Points will be distributed as follows:

Assignment	Possible Points
Quiz Questions	250 points total
Mid-Term Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Discussion Boards	(2 at 25 pts each) 50 points total
Case Memos	(4 at 100 pts each) 400 points total
Total	900 points

Assignments

All due dates for assignments are on the following schedule

Quiz Questions: There will be 2 to 3 quiz questions given during each class period and the questions will be answered using Poll Everywhere on your phone. *You must be present in class to be able to answer the questions*. These questions will cover material from the readings and/or class discussion. Each question will be worth 5 points and can not be made up if you miss class. However, I will drop your lowest 10 percent of scores.

Mid-term: The mid-term exam will be given on **February 28th** and will be **taken in OAKS**. All material from the readings, lectures, and in-class discussions are fair game for the mid-term exam. The exam will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay.

Final Exam: **The final exam period is Thursday April 25th from 12:00 to 3:00pm** and it will also be **taken on OAKS**. The final will NOT be comprehensive and all material from the readings, lectures, and in-class discussions *since spring break* are fair game. The exam will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay.

Discussion Boards: The discussion boards assignment will consist of watching a film and answering a questions about it on OAKS. The first discussion board assignment is on **Feb 5** and the second is on **April 4**.

Case Memos

There will be four case studies that you will be required to summarize. *Specific instructions for the case memos are on OAKS* Each summary will be 4 double-spaced pages and reading material will be provided for each case memo. Each case memo will be turned in the dropbox on OAKS.

- Case Study 1: *Rising Seas*. Due Jan 31
- Case Study 2: *Air Pollution and Climate Change*. Due Feb 21
- Case Study 3: *Drinking Water Safety*. Due March 14
- Case Study 4: *Native American Sovereignty*. Due April 19th

Late Work Policy Late work will be penalized 10% each day (24 hr period) it is late, up to 2 days. After 2 days the assignment will not be accepted. For example, if an assignment is due Tuesday at 12:15pm, it is late as of 12:16pm and you lose 10% After Wednesday at 12:16pm you lose another 10% and no work will be accepted after Thursday at 12:15pm. *No late work will accepted 48 hrs after the assignment due date and time. No make-up work is possible.*

Grading Scale

There are **900** possible points for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points and calculated as a percentage of **900**. A: 94 to 100%; A-: 90 to 93%; B+: 87 to 89%; B: 83 to 86%; B-: 80 to 82%; C+: 77 to 79%; C: 73 to 76%; C-: 70 to 72%; D+: 67 to 69%; D: 63 to 67%; D-: 60 to 62%; F: 59% and below

Course Schedule

Subject To Change. Changes will be announced in class.

Topics, Readings, Assignment Due Dates, and Exam Dates

Assigned readings come from the Nowlin book and other readings mentioned below will be available on OAKS, under Content -> Readings.

Nowlin: Nowlin, Matthew C. 2019. *Environmental Policy in an Era of Climate Change*.

Jan 8-Jan 10: Introduction and Course Overview

- *Readings:*
 - Nowlin, Chapter 1

Jan 15-Jan 17: Environmental Policymaking

- *Readings:*
 - Nowlin, Chapter 2

Jan 22-Jan 24: Evolution of Environmental Policy in the United States

- *Readings:*
 - Nowlin, Chapter 3
 - Middleton, Beth Rose. 2014. “The Modern Environmental Movement” from *Guide to U.S. Environmental Policy*

Jan 29-Jan 31: Values and Value Conflict

- *Readings:*
 - Nowlin, Chapter 4
 - Kahan, Dan M., Ellen Peters, Maggie Wittlin, Paul Slovic, Lisa Larrimore Ouellette, Donald Braman, and Gregory Mandel. 2012. “The Polarizing Impact of Science Literacy and Numeracy on Perceived Climate Change Risks.” *Nature Climate Change* 2(10): 732–35
- *Assignments:*
 - **Case Memo 1 DUE: Jan 31**

Feb 5-Feb 7: Agenda Setting

- *Readings:*
 - Nowlin, Chapter 5
 - Liu, Xinsheng, Eric Lindquist, and Arnold Vedlitz. 2011. “Explaining Media and Congressional Attention to Global Climate Change, 1969-2005: An Empirical Test of Agenda-Setting Theory.” *Political Research Quarterly* 64(2): 405–19.
- *Assignments:*
 - **Discussion Board 1 DUE: Feb 5**
- **NO CLASS Feb 5**

Feb 12-Feb 14: Environmental Policymaking Institutions I

- *Readings:*
 - Nowlin, Chapter 6
- *Recommended Readings:*
 - Krutz, Chapter 11 (Congress)
 - Krutz, Chapter 12 (The Presidency)

Feb 19-Feb 21: Environmental Policymaking Institutions II

- *Readings:*
 - Nowlin, Chapter 6
- *Recommended Readings:*
 - Krutz, Chapter 15 (The Bureaucracy)
 - Krutz, Chapter 13 (The Courts)
- *Assignments:*
 - **Case Memo 2 DUE: Feb 21**

Feb 26-Feb 28: Environmental Policy Subsystems

- *Readings:*
 - Nowlin, Chapter 7
- *Recommended Readings:*
 - Krutz, Chapter 10 (Interest Groups and Lobbying)
- **MID-TERM EXAM: Feb 28**

Mar 5-Mar 7: Air Pollution

- *Readings:*
 - Salzman, James and Barton H. Thompson, Jr. 2014. “The Clean Air Act” from *Environmental Law and Policy, 4th Edition*.
 - Layzer, Judith. 2012. “Market-Based Solutions: Acid Rain and the Clean Air Amendments Act of 1990” from *The Environmental Case*

Mar 12-Mar 14: Water Pollution

- *Readings:*
 - Salzman, James and Barton H. Thompson, Jr. 2014. “Water Pollution” from *Environmental Law and Policy, 4th Edition*.
- *Assignments:*
 - **Case Memo 3 DUE: March 14**

Mar 19-Mar 21: SPRING BREAK

Mar 26-Mar 28: Land Management

- *Readings:*
 - Cabbage, Frederick, Jay O’Laughlin, and M. Nils Peterson. 2017. “Public Lands” from *Natural Resource Management*

Apr 2-Apr 4: Energy

- *Readings:*
 - Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2014. “Energy: America’s Energy Politics in Transformation” from *Environmental Politics and Policy, 9th Edition*.
- *Assignments:*
 - **Discussion Board 2 DUE: April 4**
- **NO CLASS April 4**

Apr 9-Apr 11: Environmental Justice

- *Readings:*
 - Mohai, Paul, David Pellow, and J. Timmons Roberts. 2009. “Environmental Justice”. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 34(1):405-30.

Apr 16-Apr 18: Conclusion

- Class time for course evaluations: April 16
- *Assignments:*
 - **Case Memo 4 DUE: April 18**
- **NO CLASS April 18**

FINAL EXAM IS THURSDAY APRIL 25th

Important Information

Center for Student Learning

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website or call (843) 953-5635.

Students with Disabilities

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me at least one week before any accommodation is needed.

Cheating or Plagiarism

A grade of zero will be given to anyone cheating on any exam, homework assignment or committing plagiarism in a paper. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own ideas, the words, writings, music, graphs/charts, etc that were created by another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. It does not matter from where the material is borrowed—a book, article, material off the web, another student's paper—all constitute plagiarism unless the source of the work is fully identified and credited. Plagiarism is cheating and a violation of academic and personal integrity and will not be tolerated. It carries extremely serious consequences. To avoid plagiarism it is necessary when using a phrase, a distinctive idea, concept or sentence from another source to reference that source in your text, a footnote, or end-note. Please contact me if you need assistance in citing a source.

Religious Holiday Policy

It is the policy of the College to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please see me immediately if you will need to miss class any time during this semester.