

**Political Science 350**  
**Environmental Politics: Domestic & International Dimensions**

Spring 2020 Semester

MEETING TIME: Mondays/Thursdays, 10:20–11:40 AM

LOCATION: Beck Hall 213

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Adam Knight

CONTACT: [adam.knight@rutgers.edu](mailto:adam.knight@rutgers.edu)

OFFICE HRS: Thursday, Carr Library, 1-2 PM

The purpose of the course is to familiarize students with the pertinent issues and institutions relating to the politics of the environment and to orient these elements within the greater context of public policy formation. Given the myriad of issues and institutions related to environmental politics, each session of the course will serve to address a particular group of issues and institutions, with our discussions building upon lessons learned in previous sessions. The class shall proceed in two sections. The first section will introduce the environmental issues and actors pertinent to the environmental policy of the United States. The second section shall emphasize the international aspects of environmental politics such as cross-border pollution, international regimes, the effects of trade and competition, climate change, and environmental justice.

The two required texts for this course as follows:

- Layzer, Judith. 2020. *The Environmental Case: Translating Values in Policy* [5<sup>th</sup> edition]. CQ Press.
- Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2020. *Environmental Politics and Policy* [11<sup>th</sup> edition]. CQ Press.
- All other course readings will be made available on Sakai.

The recommended text is:

- Axelrod, Regina S. and Stacy D. Vandever (eds.). 2020. *The Global Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy* [5<sup>th</sup> Edition]. CQ Press.

**Learning Objectives:** Students will, over the course of the semester:

1. Familiarize themselves with terms and concepts pertinent to environmental policy as well as issues facing the environment and policymakers who want to protect it.
2. Understand the difficulties related to making environmental policy, both domestically and internationally.
3. Evaluate competing positions and policy solutions for controversial issues of environmental protection.

These goals will be met by

1. Reading pieces by experts on subjects within the nexus of environment and policy
2. Participating in classroom discussions and debates
3. Researching ongoing environmental policy controversies and developing a solution in the form of policy
4. Responding to prompts with short essays in which students must demonstrate command of the concepts, actors, and dynamics they have learned about over the course of the semester

**Attendance:** Every absence beyond the first two will result in a 2% deduction from the eventual final grade. Excused absences can be given at the instructor's discretion, if given notice and documentation for

why a particular class is missed, but bear in mind that you have a week's worth of classes to miss before your grade is affected—those two excused absences are there in case of emergency already.

### **Grading:**

#### **Participation 100 Points**

Once this semester, each student will be required to submit two discussion questions related to the topic of their selected class period's readings to the instructor by midnight (roughly) the day of class in question. These will be used during the class period to help guide the class discussion.

Additionally, the grade will consist of whether I get the feeling that you are engaged with the class. This can mean speaking in class, asking questions and the like, but projecting the sense that you are taking notes and engaging mentally with the material during the lecture and discussion is sufficient.

#### **Exam 1 (2/17) 200 points**

The first midterm exam will cover all material discussed between the beginning of the semester and this date. The exam will consist of two sections—matching and short essay—and will be completed outside of class

#### **Exam 2 (3/23) 200 points**

The second midterm exam will cover all material discussed since the first midterm. While the exam is cumulative, it will primarily emphasize issues discussed since the previous midterm. This exam will follow the same format as the first midterm.

#### **Project (due 4/17; proposal due 3/13) 200 points**

- **Cover Letter** 50 points  
Students will be required to prepare a letter (one page) to a member of Congress (you can write to a policymaker outside of Congress, but clear it with me beforehand) regarding either a local, domestic, or international environmental issue of their choosing.
- **Brief** 150 points  
Students will also be required to prepare a brief, 3-5 page background issue brief for the member of Congress. Additional instructions will be forthcoming.

#### **Final Exam (5/8) 300 points**

The final exam will be posted on sakai on the last day of class and will consist of three essay questions to be answered with 2-3 page responses each (totaling 6-9 pages).

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

900-1,000 A  
850-899 B+  
800-849 B  
750-799 C+  
700-749 C  
600-699 D  
Below 600 F

#### **Makeup Policy:**

No exam may be made up without either: 1) a note from your dean explaining your absence; 2) an official e-mail from a Rutgers instructor excusing your for a academically-related field trip; or 3) an absence related to religious observation.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:**

All students, and the instructor, are required and expected to comply with the Rutgers University Code of Academic Integrity, which can be accessed at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. Any violations of the policy will be addressed according to existing procedural guidelines.

**Electronic Devices and Classroom Environment:**

Cell phones and other personal electronic devices must be turned off during class period. Students expecting an emergency phone call should speak with me prior to class. Laptop computers are permitted for note-taking and other class-related purposes, but if they are deemed to cause unacceptable distractions, the instructor reserves the right to suspend their use.

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability on file with the Office of Student Disabilities, please see me ASAP, so we can make any necessary accommodations.

**Syllabus Revision:**

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor if needed. Students will be notified of all pertinent changes in a timely fashion.

**Thurs, Jan 23—Course Introduction**

Syllabus discussed

VIDEO: “Earth Days” (*American Experience*, PBS, April 10, 2010), available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyTs1gH3f\\_8&t=5880s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyTs1gH3f_8&t=5880s)

**Mon, Jan 27—American Environmentalism: A Historical Perspective**

Rosenbaum, Chapter 1, “After Earth Day”

Kraft, Michael and Vig, Norman. “Environmental Policy from the 1970’s to the Twenty-First Century.” *Environmental Policy* pgs. 1-17 [PDF]

**Thurs, Jan 30—The U.S. Environmental Policymaking Process**

Rosenbaum, Chapter 2, “Making Policy: the Process”

Kraft and Vig pgs. 17-35 [PDF]

**Mon, Feb 3—Key Actors in the Policymaking Process**

Rosenbaum, Chapter 3, “Making Policy: Institutions and Politics”

Layzer, Chapter 1, “A Policymaking Framework”, pp. 1-9

**Thurs, Feb 6—Ideology, Public Opinion and Partisanship in U.S. Environmental Policymaking Gridlock**

Klyza, Christopher McGrory and David J. Sousa. 2008, “Creating the Current Institutional Landscape of Environmental Policymaking” *American Environmental Policy, 1990-2006: Beyond Gridlock*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. [PDF]

Riley E. Dunlap, Aaron McCright, and Jerrod H. Yarosh, “The Political Divide on Climate Change: Partisan Polarization Widens in the U.S.” Sep/Oct. 2016 [PDF]

Smith, Zachary, *The Environmental Policy Paradox*, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2013, pp. 32-6 [PDF]

[RECOMMENDED]

Wood, B. Dan and Arnold Vedlitz. 2007. “Issue Definition, Information Processing, and the

Politics of Global Warming.” *American Journal of Political Science* 51(3):552-568. [PDF]

**Mon Feb 10—Regulation, Wise Use, and Property Rights: the Anti-Environmental Backlash**

Rosenbaum, Chapter 4, “Common Policy Challenges”, 127-145

Rosenbaum, Chapter 5, “More Choice: the Battle over Regulatory Economics”

Layzer, Chapter 7, “Federal Grazing Policy: Some Things Never Change”

[RECOMMENDED]

Layzer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Chapter 13, “Backlash: Wise Use, Property Rights, and Antienvironmental Activism in the 1990s” [PDF]

**Thurs, Feb 13—The States as Environmental Actors**

Rabe, Barry. “Power to the States: The Promise and Pitfalls of Decentralization.” *Environmental Policy* Ch. 2 [PDF]

Adelman, David E., “Climate Change, Federalism, and Promoting Technological Change,” *Beyond Environmental Law: Policy Proposals for a Better Environmental Future*, eds. Alyson C. Flournoy and David M. Driesen, 2010, pp. 199-211 [PDF]

**Mon, Feb 17—Exam 1 Due**

**Thurs, Feb 20— The US and the European Union in Comparative Perspective**

Kelemen, R. Daniel and David Vogel. 2010. Trading Places: the Role of the United States and the European Union in International Environmental Politics. *Comparative Political Studies* 43(4):427-456. [PDF]

DeSombre, Elizabeth “The United States and Global Environmental Politics: Domestic Sources of U.S. Unilateralism” [PDF]

**Mon, Feb 24— Air Pollution in the United States**

Rosenbaum, Chapter 6, “Command and Control in Action,” 167-182

Layzer, Chapter 5, “Market-Based Solutions: Acid Rain and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990”

**Thurs, Feb 27— Water Issues in the United States**

Rosenbaum, Chapter 6, “Command and Control in Action,” 182-201

Layzer, Chapter 4, “Ecosystem-Based Management in the Chesapeake Bay”

**RECOMMENDED:**

VIDEO: “Poisoned Waters” (*Frontline*, PBS, April 2009), available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm1lbwz3Dz8>

**Mon, Mar 2— Global Air and Water Issues**

Sullivan, Law. “Debating the Dam: Is China’s Three Gorges Project Sustainable?” *The Global Environment* Ch. 13 [PDF]

**Thurs, Mar 5— Hazardous Waste in the United States**

Layzer, Chapter 3, “Love Canal”

Rosenbaum, Chapter 7, “A Regulatory Thicket: Toxic and Hazardous Substances”

**Mon, March 9— Global Pollution and Waste Issues**

Downie, David Leonard, Jonathan Krueger, and Henrik Selin “Global Policy for Hazardous Chemicals,” *The Global Environment*. Ch. 7 [PDF]

**Thurs, March 12— Trade and the Environment**

Layzer, Chapter 12, “Trade versus the Environment: Dolphins, Turtles, and Global Economic Expansion”

Esty, Daniel “Economic Integration and Environmental Protection,” *The Global Environment*, Ch 7 [PDF]

**Fri, March 13—Proposal Due**

**Mon, March 16—Spring Break**

**Thurs, March 19—Spring Break**

**Mon, March 23—Exam 2 Due**

**Thurs, March 26—Conservation, Land Management and Biological Diversity in the United States**

Rosenbaum, Chapter 9, “635 Million Acres of Politics: the Battle for Public Lands”

**Mon, March 30—Global Conservation, Land Management and Biological Diversity Issues**

G. Kristen Rosendal, “Global Biodiversity Governance: Genetic Resources, Species, and Ecosystems” [PDF]

Victor, David G. and Jesse H. Ausubel. 2004. Restoring the Forests.

<http://phe.rockefeller.edu/restoringforests/>

RECOMMENDED]

Cashore, Brian. 2006. Forest Certification in Developing and Transitioning Countries...Part of a Sustainable Future? *Environment* 48(9):6-25. [PDF]

**Thurs, April 2—Energy Policy**

Rosenbaum Chapter 8 “Energy: America’s Energy Politics in Transformation”

**Mon, April 6—Nuclear Energy at Home and Abroad: What Do We Do Now?**

DEBATE (See posted materials)

**Thurs, April 9—Climate Change**

Rosenbaum, Chapter 10, “Climate Change, Domestic Politics, and the Challenge of Global Policymaking”

Scott, Jim, “Averting Climate Change: The Need for Enlightened Self-Interest” [PDF]

**Mon, April 13—Climate Change Continued**

Layzer Chapter 12, “Climate Change: the Crisis of Our Time”

Kraft, Ch. 8 pp. 285-307 [PDF]

**Thurs, April 16—NO CLASS: MPSA**

**Fri, April 17—Brief Due**

**Mon, April 20—The Problem of Oil**

Layzer Chapter 11, “The Deepwater Horizon Disaster: The High Cost of Offshore Oil”

Layzer Chapter 14, “Fracking Wars: Local and State Responses to Unconventional Shale Gas Development”

**RECOMMENDED:**

Cherry, Miriam A. and Judd F. Sneirson, “Beyond Profit: Rethinking Corporate Social Responsibility and Greenwashing After the BP Disaster.” *Tulane Law Review*, Vol. 85. [PDF]

Paterson, Matthew. *Understanding Global Environmental Politics*. Ch 5 “Car Trouble.” [PDF]

**Thurs, April 23—Renewable Energy in the United States**

Layzer, Chapter 13, “Cape Wind: If Not Here, Where? If Not Now, When?”

Joshua Green, “The Elusive Green Economy”, <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2009/07/the-elusive-green-economy/307554/>

**Mon, April 27—Global Renewable Energy Initiatives**

Victor, David G. and Kassia Yanosek. 2011. The Crisis in Clean Energy: Stark Realities of the Renewables Craze. *Foreign Affairs* 90(4):112-120. [PDF]

Kelly Sims Gallagher and Joanna I. Lewis, “China’s Quest for a Green Economy” [PDF]

**Thurs, April 30—Environmental Justice and Equity Issues**

Rosenbaum, pp. 145-155

Layzer, Chapter 16, “Post-Katrina: Lessons from a Disaster”

Layzer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Chapter 4, “Community Activism and Environmental Justice” [PDF]

**Mon, May 4—Future Directions in Environmental Politics and Review**

Layzer, Chapter 17, “Conclusions: Politics, Values, and Environmental Policy Change”

**FINAL EXAM DUE MAY 11**