

Science in the Policy Process
ENVS 450

Spring Quarter 2017
Thursday: 5 – 8 pm
Online: 1 hour per week
Student conferences: T,R: Noon – 2pm
(or by appointment)

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*“Environmental protection and restoration are not technically overwhelming—we probably had less of the requisite know-how for putting a craft on the moon in the 1950s than we do for solving major environmental problems today. In our society, environmental problems are **democratic dilemmas**” Daniel Press, 1994, p. 1.*

Course Description and Learning Objectives

This course surveys how science shapes and is shaped by environmental policy politics, primarily in the United States. We will examine the actors, institutions, and processes involved in environmental policymaking giving students a solid foundation for understanding how we address our most pressing environmental concerns. The course will be divided into two sections. First, we will talk about policy institutions and process—discussing both theories and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Second, for several weeks we will discuss specific policy challenges and how they are analyzed. Finally, our course pursues the following objectives.

- ✚ To offer students several perspectives by which to evaluate the role of science in the political dynamics of U.S. environmental policy, and to give students a background by which to understand the basic components of U.S. environmental policy.
- ✚ To understand how environmental policy professionals think, work, and operate. Readings, professional guests and lectures will introduce practices, models and theories used in the field.
- ✚ To foster more effective evaluation skills as information consumers. Environmental policy and politics often centers on information used (or not) to support or oppose what should be done about particular public problems. It is important for future professionals and citizens to recognize the structure of these arguments and be critical towards them even when it agrees with their point of view.
- ✚ To hone your environmental reasoning skills through writing and essay exams that develop your ability to understand issues, determine points of view, make inferences, and anticipate the consequences of recommended courses of action.

Required Reading

Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2017. *Environmental politics and policy*, 10th edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. ISBN: ISBN: 9781506345376. [Available as an e-book](#).

Birkland, Thomas A. 2016. *An introduction to the policy process: theories, concepts, and models of public policy making*. 4th. ed. New York, NY: Taylor & Francis. ISBN 9780765625328. [Available as an e-book](#).

Hoffman, Andrew J. 2015. *How Culture Shapes the Climate Change Debate*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. ISBN 9780804794220. [Available as an e-book](#).

Course Requirements

There will be a midterm and a comprehensive final examination. These will consist of essay questions drawing from both readings and course lectures. Students will also professionally prepare two drafts and a final environmental issue paper in an argumentative essay form. A number of options will be available and a list of suitable topics will be handed out. Students are expected to prepare for and participate in class throughout the semester. Preparation includes reading assigned materials before classes when they are discussed, submitting work on time, and completing study quizzes. These will count as extra credit towards your exams; the average of two added to your midterm and final exam scores. *This syllabus is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class and posted as a Canvas announcement.*

Course grades will be determined approximately as follows:

Paper draft 1	10%
Paper draft 2	10%
Midterm examination	25%
Final examination	25%
Final Issue paper	30%
Study Quizzes	Average added to midterm and final

Anticipated Class Schedule, Readings, and Locations. *This syllabus is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class. Students will be held responsible for all changes.*

WR = Rosenbaum, TB = Birkland, AH = Andrew Hoffman
Instructor location: EV = Everett, PA = Port Angeles, PB = Poulsbo

		Topics/Activities	Readings/Assignments
Environmental Policy Institutions			
Session 1, PB	Mar 30	Democratic dilemmas. Rachel Carson video	Introductions, Syllabus Review, Age of Ecology
Session 2, Online	Apr 6	Cycles and streams online lecture.	WR & TB 1-2
Session 3, Online	Apr 13	The Presidency and Congress.	R3, JL 3&4, CV reading by Vig (2012). Study quiz 1 due.
Session 4, PB	Apr 20	Tipping Environmentalism.	CV readings by Guber and Bosso (2012), and Sarewitz (2004). Paper Draft 1 due.
Session 5, EV	Apr 27	State Power and Pitfalls.	CV readings by John (2004) and Jost (2010). Study Quiz 2 due.

		Topics/Activities	Readings/Assignments
Session 6, PB	May 4	Midterm Review	
Session 7, EV	May 11	Gridlock and Leverage.	JL 5&6, CV readings by Clemmitt (2010), Kylza and Sousa (2013). Midterm due.
Selected Environmental Policy Challenges			
Session 8, PB	May 18	Risk and Policy justice. Greening the ghetto. Surrounded by Industry , and Birds like me videos.	R4, CV readings by Abel and Stephan (2018), Weeks (2009), EPA (2013).
Session 9, EV	May 25	Assessing policy alternatives	R5, CV reading from EPA (2010). Study Quiz 3 due.
Session 10, PB	Jun 1	Commanding and Controlling. Our poisoned waters video.	R6&7, CV reading by McGlynn (2011). Paper 2 draft due.
Session 11, EV	Jun 8	Final Exam	JL7&8, R10 Study Quiz 4 due.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Western Washington University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and following the policy and procedures regarding academic dishonesty as set forth in the *WWU Academic Dishonesty Policy and Procedure* (see Appendix D of the University Bulletin).

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

It is the policy of Western Washington University to provide reasonable accommodation to the known physical, sensory, or mental limitations of qualified individuals except where such accommodation would impose undue hardship on the institution. To request accommodation, students must contact WWU disability resources for Students at 360-650-3706 or www.drs.wwu.edu.

Ethical Computing Policy

Students are also responsible for knowing and adhering to WWU's standards for ethical computing. Refer to these web sites: <http://west.wwu.edu/atus/helpdesk/acceptableusepolicy.shtml>, and <http://west.wwu.edu/atus/helpdesk/useragreement.shtml>.