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**Environmental Politics and Policy**  
**Government 231**  
**Spring 2010**

**INTRODUCTION**

This course is an introduction to the politics and policy of U.S. environmental policy making. We will examine the nature and scope of environmental, public land, and natural resource problems; contrasting perspectives on their severity and policy implications; the goals and strategies of the environmental movement; 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 internationally. The goal is to help you develop a critical understanding of how environmental policy is made and how it can be improved.

**READINGS**

1. Norman Vig and Michael Kraft (V&K below), Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century, CQ Press, 7<sup>th</sup> edition
2. Environment Policy Reader

You should complete the assigned reading and assignment before class. Class will consist of lecture, discussion, and some small group activities, in which all students are expected to participate.

**REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**

As befitting your status at one of the “New Ivies”, I have high expectations of student performance. Grades will be determined by student performance on all of the following:

1. Midterm 15% (Feb 24)
2. Paper #1 Legislative and Political History 20% (March 3)
3. Paper #2 Policy Evaluation 20% (April 2)
4. Paper #3 Policy Reform Proposal 20% (May 3)
5. Final Exam 25%

**COURSE ABSENCES**

A well functioning class that promotes learning requires good attendance. You are allowed two personal days (absences), after that I will deduct 2.5% from your final grade. For example, you receive a 90%, but have missed four classes; your final grade is an 85%. You have an unlimited number of excused absences for illnesses, family crises, etc, though they count against your two absences. For each of these absences, you must provide written excuse from the Dean of Students’ office.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Jan 25 Introduction**

**Part I: Agenda Setting**

**Jan 27 Agenda Setting and the Issue Attention Cycle**

\*\* Judith Layzer, “The Nation Tackles Pollution,” in The Environmental Case p. 25-51

\*\* Anthony Downs, Up and Down with Ecology—the Issue Attention Cycle, The Public Interest, p. 38-50

### **Jan 29 Kingdon's Multiple Streams Theory**

\*\*Sarah Pralle, Agenda-setting and climate change, *Environmental Politics*, Volume 18, Issue 5 September 2009 , pages 781 - 799

\*\* Google and read about "Climate Gate"

### **Feb 1 Problem Definition/Framing in Theory**

\*\* Deborah Stone Causal Stories and Policy Agendas, *PSQ*, 1989, 281-300

\*\* Sierra Club, False Advertising, 1-3, [Download](#)

\*\* Patrick J. Michaels, Losing It, *American Spectator*, December 11, 2006, [Download](#).

\*\* Myron Ebell, "Love Global Warming: What's wrong with mild winters, anyway?" *Forbes* Dec 8, 2006, [Download](#)

### **Feb 3 Punctuated Equilibrium or Creative Problem Definition in Practice**

\*\* Ingram, Helen and Leah Fraser, Path Dependency and Adroit Innovation: The Case of California Water, in *Punctuated Equilibrium and the Dynamics of US Environmental Policy*, 78-109

### **Selection of environmental policy area for research project due.**

## **Section II Institutions**

### **Feb 5 Understanding Gridlock**

\*\*McGrory Klyza and Sousa, Creating the Current Institutional Landscape of Environmental Policy-Making, in *American Environmental Policy, 1990-2006, Beyond Gridlock*. p. 19-46

\*\*Eugene B. Skolnikoff; *The Policy Gridlock On Global Warming*. *Foreign Policy*; Summer 1990,

### **Feb 8 The President**

Norman Vig, "Presidential Powers and Environmental Policy," *V&K*, 75-98.

### **Feb 10 Presidential Tools for Influencing the Environment**

\*\* Natural Resources Defense Council, *Rewriting the Rules: The Bush Administration's First Term Environmental Record* (2005). [Download](#)

\*\*NRDC- Obama Administration's First-Year Environment Record; January 11, 2010.

\*\*Traci Watson, Obama veers from Bush's environmental course, 3/9/2009 *USA TODAY*

### **Feb 12 Can Congress Save the Environment?**

Michael Kraft, "Environmental Policy in Congress," in *V&K*, 99-125.

### **Feb 15 Congress in Action**

\*\* Jonathan Adler, *Clean Fuels, Dirty Air*, p. 19-45

\*\* John M. Broader, *With Something for Everyone, Climate Bill Passed*, July 1, 2009, *NYT*

\*\*David Roberts, *THE BIG MURKOWSKI; Hanging EPA regulations around Democrats' necks* 20 Jan 2010, *Grist.org*

### **Feb 17 The Courts: "It is not the stratosphere. It's the troposphere."**

Rosemary O'Leary, "Environmental Policy in the Courts," in *V&K*, 148-69

\*\* D. Lithwick, *Dirty Water: The Supreme Court takes a long, tall drink from the Clean Water Act*, [Download](#).

\*\* D. Lithwick, *Benchwarming: The Supreme Court melts down over greenhouse gasses*, [Download](#).

### **Feb 19 Courts and Gridlock**

\*\*McGrory Klyza and Sousa, *From Who Has Standing?" to "Who is Left Standing?": The Courts and Environmental policymaking in the Era of Gridlock*. in *American Environmental Policy, 1990-2006, Beyond Gridlock*. p. 153-195

## **Feb 22 States**

Barry Rabe, Racing to the Top, the Bottom, or the Middle of the Pack" in V&K, p. 27-50

## **Feb 24 Midterm**

### **Section III Environmental Policy**

#### **Feb 26 Command and Control Regulation**

\*\* W. Harrington, Regulating Industrial Water Pollution in the United States, RFF, p. 1-38, [Download](#)

\*\* Skim- George J. Stigler, "The Theory of Economic Regulation." *The Bell Journal of Economics and Management Science*, 2, 1 (1971): 3-21. [Download](#)

#### **Mar 1 A Political View of Command and Control Regulation**

\*\*T. Davis, Reforming Permitting, Executive Summary, Resources for the Future, 2001, [Download](#)

### **March 3 Writing Better**

#### **PAPER #1 LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL HISTORY (6-8 PAGES) DUE**

#### **March 5 Project XL- Can Government Regulate Smarter?**

\*\* A. Marcus, Reinventing Environmental Regulation: Lessons from Project XL, Ch 8 & 10

#### **March 8 Clean Air and Water Act II: Cost Benefit Analysis**

\*\*\*Cary Coglianese and Gary E. Marchant, "The EPA's Risk Reasoning." *Regulation*, 27, 2 (2004): 16-22. [Download](#)  
Cass R. Sunstein (Obama's new regulatory czar), Your Money or Your Life, The New Republic Published: March 15, 2004, p. 1-5

#### **March 12 Market Based Incentives-**

Sheila Olmstead, Applying Market Principles to Environmental Policy" in V&K, p. 197-220

### **March 13-21 Spring Break! Be Carbon Neutral**

March 22 Cap and Trade versus Carbon Tax Debate

<http://www.carbontax.org/>

<http://pewclimate.org/>

Putting a Price on Carbon: An Emissions Cap or a Tax? Yale Environment 360, May 2009,

<http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2148>

#### **March 24 Cap and Trade versus Carbon Tax Continued**

\*\* Robert Goodin, Selling Environmental Injustices p. 237-255

Skim, Ellerman and Harrison, Emissions Trading in the US, Experience, Lessons and Considerations for Greenhouse Gases. Pew Center on Global Climate Change, May 2003 [http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/emissions\\_trading.pdf](http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/emissions_trading.pdf)

#### **March 26 Environmental Justice Debate**

\*\* Robert Bullard, (2005) Environmental justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/ejinthe21century.htm>

\*\* Christopher H. Foreman, Jr, The Clash of Purposes: Environmental Justice and Risk Assessment, Inside Washington's Risk Policy Report 5 (March 20, 1998):34-37, [Download](#)

\*\* Christopher H. Foreman, Jr., A Winning Hand? The Uncertain Future of Environmental Justice, Spring 1996 Vol. 14 No. 2, p 22-25 © 1996 The Brookings Institution. [Download](#)

\*\* Foreman Remarks on Environmental Justice US Commission on Civil Rights, Jan 2002 [Download](#)

#### **March 29 Is Hurricane Katrina an Environmental Justice Issue?**

\*Robert D. Bullard, Differential Vulnerabilities: Environmental and Economic Inequality and Government Response to Unnatural Disasters, Social Research International Quarterly Journal November 2007.

### **March 31 Environmental Justice in New Orleans, Post Katrina**

\*\*Robert Bullard and Beverly Wright, The Power of Race and Place: How and why the predominantly black areas of the Gulf Coast are still struggling to recover from Hurricane Katrina, *The American Prospect*, February 23, 2009

\*\*Robert Bullard, Let Them Eat Dirt (1-6) [http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/Let\\_Them\\_Eat\\_Dirt.pdf](http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/Let_Them_Eat_Dirt.pdf)

\*\*Marc Kaufman, FEMA Flip-Flops Again on Trailers, *Washington Post*

### **April 2 PAPER #2 POLICY EVALUATION (6-8 PAGES) DUE 4PM**

#### **April 5 Public Lands: The Multiple Use Tradition**

Rosenbaum, 635 Million Acres of Politics: The Battle for Public Lands, p. 289-329

#### **April 7 The Battle Over Public Lands: Is Grass Roots Democracy?**

\*\* Edward Weber, *Bringing Society Back In*, Chapters 4 and 8

#### **April 9 The Battle Over Public Lands: Values and the ANWAR debate**

\*\* Judith Layzer, Oil Versus Wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, p. 102-123.

In class debate over oil drilling in ANWAR

#### **April 12 "And now for something completely different" Corporate Environmentalism**

\*\* Marc Eisner, *From Greed to Green: Corporate Environmentalism and Management* p. 1-33

#### **April 14 Corporate Environmentalism**

Press and Mazmanian, "Towards Sustainable Production." In *V&K* 220-244

### **Section IV Environmental Movement**

#### **April 16 The Critics**

\*\* David Foreman, *Putting the Earth First*, p. 358-364

\*\* M. Dowie, *Losing Ground: American Environmentalism at the Close of the Twentieth Century* (MIT Press, 1995), 29-49, 125-148.

#### **April 19 The Reapers**

\*\* Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus, *The Death of Environmentalism: Global warming politics in a post-environmental world*, 13 Jan 2005, [Download](#)

\*\* James Gustave Speth, *Environmental Failure: A Case for a New Green Politics*, *Yale Environment* 360 Oct 20, 2008

#### **April 21-23 The Environmental Movement- "I'm not dead yet. I'm feeling much better."**

Bosso & Guber, "Past the Tipping Point," *V&K*, 51-75

\*\* Michael Shellenberger, *Towards a New Ecological Majority*, [Download](#)

\*\* William Greider, *Apollo Now*, *The Nation*, Jan 2, 2006, [Download](#)

#### **April 26-28 The New Environmental Movement?**

\*\* Robert Duffy, *The Green Agenda in American Politics*, Chs 4, 5, 7 (82-163, 196-210)

### **SECTION V INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY**

#### **April 30 Montreal Protocol and CFCs**

Morrisette, P. M. 1989. The evolution of policy responses to stratospheric ozone depletion. *Natural Resources Journal* 29: 793-820, [Download](#)

#### **May 3 Conclusion**

#### **Paper #3 Policy Reform Proposal (6-8 pages) Due**

**May 11, Final Exam 9-12 am**