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Office Hours 11:15-1; MWF; 4-5pm- M/W;
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Environmental Politics and Policy
GO 231
Fall 2011

INTRODUCTION

This course is a broad overview of the politics and policy of U.S. environmental policy making. Participants will gain an understanding of how environmental issues arrive on the public agenda, the role of political institutions in making environmental policy, the economic, political, and institutional forces that shape policymaking, competing approaches to environmental policy analysis, and the goals and strategies of the environmental movement. The goal of the class is to help you develop a critical understanding of how environmental policy is made and how it can be improved.

READINGS

Vig and Kraft (V&K below), Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century, CQ Press, 7th edition
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% (Oct 17)
2. Paper #1 Legislative and Political History 20% (Oct 24)
3. Paper #2 Policy Evaluation 20% (Nov 2)
4. Paper #3 Policy Reform Proposal 20% (Dec 9)
5. Final Exam 25% (Dec 15)

All students should familiarize themselves with the college’s policy on Academic Misconduct and abide by the provisions of the Honor Code. If you need any academic accommodations, please be sure that you have made your requests for such accommodations to Meg Hegener. If you are not able to arrive before the beginning of the period, regularly do the readings, or meet the due dates for assignments, I encourage you to reconsider your decision to take the class.

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

Sep 7 Introduction

Part I: AGENDA SETTING

Sep 12 Agenda Setting, the Issue Attention Cycle, and Kingdon's Multiple Streams Theory

- ** 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
- ** Sarah Pralle, Agenda-setting and climate change, *Environmental Politics*, Volume 18, Issue 5 Sep 2009, p. 781 - 799
- ** Google and read about "Climate Gate"

Sep 14 Problem Definition/Framing in Theory and Practice

- ** Deborah Stone Causal Stories and Policy Agendas, *Political Science Quarterly*, 1989, 281-300
- ** Sierra Club, False Advertising, 1-3
- ** Patrick J. Michaels, Losing It, *American Spectator*, December 11, 2006
- ** Myron Ebell, "Love Global Warming: What's wrong with mild winters, anyway?" *Forbes* Dec 8, 2006,

Sep 19 Punctuated Equilibrium or Creative Problem Definition

- ** 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

Agenda Setting in Action, Lois Gibbs, [Director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice](#) "What's All the Fracking Fuss? Environmental Health and Justice Issues in New York from Love Canal to Hydrofracking", 7:00 p.m. Gannett Auditorium

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

Section II POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Sep 21 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,
- Optional: Jane May, Covert Operations: The billionaire brothers who are waging a war against Obama. *New Yorker*, Aug 30, 2010. http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/08/30/100830fa_fact_mayer

Sep 26 The President

- Norman Vig, "Presidential Powers and Environmental Policy," *V&K*, 75-99.
- ** Natural Resources Defense Council, *Rewriting the Rules: The Bush Administration's First Term Environmental Record* (2005). [Download](#)

Sep 28 Presidential Tools for Influencing the Environment

- ** 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*
- ** Activists frustrated at Obama's environmental record, *Christian Science Monitor*
- Optional, Listen to Off to a Green Start: Obama's Record on the Environment, President of NRDC
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMqQo8jiqHI>

**** Bibliography for first paper due ****

Oct 3 Does Congress Care About the Environment?

Skim Michael Kraft, "Environmental Policy in Congress," in V&K

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

** John M. Broader, With Something for Everyone, Climate Bill Passed, July 1, 2009, New York Times

**The Political Scene, "As the World Burns," The New Yorker, October 11, 2010, p. 70,

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/10/11/101011fa_fact_lizza

** Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Climate Debate in Congress, <http://www.pewclimate.org>

Oct 5 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](#).

** McGrory Klyza and Sousa, From Who Has Standing?" to "Who is Left Standing?" section on Land Use in the Southwest – focus on the [Pygmy OWLs!](#)

Oct 10 The States: Saviors, Shirkers or Somewhere in between?

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

Pew Trust, Climate Change 101: State Action

**Jan Ellen Spiegel, Connecticut Mulls Rollback on Clean Energy, New York Times April 8, 2010

**Christa Marshal, Will the Midwest Turn Its Back on Addressing Climate Change?, New York Times, June 4, 2010

**Christa Marshal, Governor Takes N.J. Out of Cap-And-Trade System, New York Times, May 27, 2011

Oct 12 Catch-Up Day

Oct 17 Midterm

Section III Environmental Policy

Oct 19 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](#)

****Introductory paragraph with Thesis due****

Oct 24 Can Government Regulate Smarter? Permitting and Project XL

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

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

--Peruse Obama's EPA approach to regulation- Improving Our Regulations: Final Plan for Periodic Retrospective Reviews of Existing Regulations <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/other/2011-regulatory-action-plans/environmentalprotectionagencyregulatoryreformplanaugust2011.pdf>

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

Oct 26 Can or Will Corporations Go Green?

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

**** Bibliography for Science Paper due ****

Oct 31 Towards A New Environmental Regulation?

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

** Marc Allen Eisner, Corporate Environmentalism, Regulatory Reform, and Industry Self-Regulation: Toward Genuine Regulatory Reinvention in the United States, *Governance*, Volume 17, Issue 2, pages 145–167, April 2004

Nov 2 Clean Air and Water Act II: Cost Benefit Analysis and Market Mechanisms

Sheila Olmstead, Applying Market Principles to Environmental Policy" in V&K

** Cary Coglianese and Gary E. Marchant, "The EPA's Risky Reasoning." *Regulation*, 27, 2 (2004): 16-22. [Download](#)

Cass R. Sunstein (Obama's new regulatory czar), *Your Money or Your Life*, The New Republic, March 15, 2004, p. 1-5

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

Nov 7 Cap and Trade versus Carbon Tax Debate

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.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>

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

Nov 9 Environmental Justice Debate: Round I

** Robert Bullard, (2005) Environmental Justice in the 21st 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](#)

Peruse <http://www.dscej.org/> and) <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu>

Nov 14 Is Hurricane Katrina an Environmental Justice Issue? : Round 2

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

** 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

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

Peruse the Environmental Justice Resource Center, Katrina Update <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/Katrinaupdate.html>

Social Science Research Council's Katrina Research Hub: <http://katrinaresearchhub.ssrc.org/>

Nov 16 Public Lands: The Multiple Use Tradition

Lubell and Segee: Conflict and Cooperation in Natural Resource Management, V&K

Presentations on Potential of Collaborative Management: Either

** Denise Scheberle, Moving Toward Community-Based Environmental Management: Wetland Protection in Door County *American Behavioral Scientist* December 2000 44: 565-579,

** Todd Steelman, Innovation in Land Use Governance and Protection: The Case of Great Outdoors *Colorado American Behavioral Scientist* December 2000 44: 580-598,

Section IV Environmental Movement

Nov 21 Critics, Radicals, Reapers and Apostates

** 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.

** 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

Nov 28 The Environmental Movement- "I'm not dead yet. I'm feeling much better."

** Christopher Bosso, Environmental Inc. From Grassroots to Beltway; p. 48-118.

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

Dec 30, Dec 5 The New Environmental Movement?

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

Dec 7 Conclusion- Green Drift?

** Christopher Mcgrory Klyza and David Sousa, Beyond Gridlock: Green Drift in American Environmental Policymaking, Political Science Quarterly Volume 125 Number 3 2010

Dec 9 Paper #3 Policy Reform Proposal (6-8 pages) Due

Final Exam Dec 15, 6-9pm TISCH 303