

**Appalachian State University**  
**Department of Government and Justice Studies**

**PS 5670 Advanced Environmental Politics**  
Spring 2009; TH 6:00 – 8:45 pm; OLCB 1132

Instructor: Dr. Brian A. Ellison, Professor and Chair

Office: Government and Justice Studies  
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Office Hours: By Appointment

### **Course Description**

(From the Catalog) This course will examine the role that politics and government play in dealing with environmental issues. Its focus is primarily on the U.S. approach to environmental protection, but some attention will be devoted to international environmental relationships such as the Kyoto Protocol. The course will cover the history of environmental policy, the legal and institutional arrangements for environmental protection, major environmental policy actors, current environmental controversies, and global environmental concerns.

(From Me) The purpose of this course is to think critically about the relationship between environmental issues and governing. In order to do this we need to understand how environmental issues have been defined and how politicians and managers have reacted to those definitions. We will begin with an overview of the environmental politics and policy landscape, focusing on the source of ideologies like environmentalism and conservationism and how they have been politicized and institutionalized. It is important to understand, for example, the difference between how pesticides are regulated and how natural resources are managed. In essence, we have taken a large, macro-problem and turned it into lots of little issues that succumb to the specializations; we have placed ideas on the policy assembly line; and we have churned out solutions that fit our political rather than ecological needs. To a certain extent our reactions to environmental issues have been fine: they fit our industrial culture and many of them have been successful. But these solutions may pose another kind of threat because they convince us that technology will save us from an environmentally dismal future when our problems are political rather than technical.

### **Texts**

Carson, Rachel. 2002. *Silent Spring*. New York: Mariner Books. ISBN 0618249060 (Paperback)

Layzer, Judith A., 2006. *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy*. Washington DC: CQ Press. ISBN 1-56802-898-9 (Paperback)

Mckibbin, Bill. 2006. *The End of the Nature*. New York: Random House. ISBN-10: 0812976088 (Paperback)

Reisner, Marc. 1993. *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water*. New York: Penguin (Revised Edition). ISBN 0140178244 (Paperback)

Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2008. *Environmental Politics and Policy*. Washington DC: CQ Press. ISBN 978-0-87289-440-2 (Paperback)

## **Expectations**

1. Discussions, Lectures and Readings: This is a seminar. You must have the readings completed and be prepared to participate in class discussions. If you engage the materials and think critically about the readings you will do fine. At the beginning of each class I will give a brief lecture or overview of the topic; next we will discuss the readings; and finally we will close with a broader discussion about the topic. *Each student must bring one written question about the readings to every class.*

2. Examinations: There will be two take home examinations: one at midterm and another at the end of the class. The take home examinations will follow an essay format. You will be given several questions and be asked to respond to two or three. The essays should be typed and your answers thoroughly referenced, just like a regular paper. You will be given one week to complete the examinations. Each examination will be worth one quarter of your final grade.

3. Class Participation: One quarter of your grade in this seminar will be determined by class participation. You will be expected to provide a brief presentation of your paper on the last day of class. *Each student must bring one written question about the readings to every class.*

4. Writing Assignment: In addition to the two examinations and class participation you will be expected to complete one seminar paper. The theme of the paper is environmental politics and policy. You are encouraged to think broadly and creatively in choosing a topic. The paper can take many forms – from a critical review essay to a formal research paper – but it must conform to strict academic standards for substance and style. Proper spelling, punctuation and grammatical correctness are absolutely essential if you want a good grade on your paper.

The writing assignment will be an integral part of the class and your efforts leading to the final product will be reflected in your participation grade. One of my objectives is to teach you how to write a seminar paper – or to improve your ability to write a seminar paper. This means that we will be discussing your project from the beginning of the course. Throughout the semester I will require written updates on your progress – in the form, for example, of a proposal or a sample bibliography. These updates will be graded as part of the participation component of the course.

5. Grades: Grades will be determined by averaging scores received on the two exams, participation and the seminar paper. The following scale will be used to determine your grade: 100 - 90 pts. = A; 89 - 80 pts. = B; 79 - 70 pts. = C; 69 - 60 pts. = D; below 59 = F.

A. Examinations	200 pts. (100 x 2 exams)
B. Participation	100 pts
C. Writing Assignment	<u>100 pts.</u>
	400 pts. TOTAL

6. Attendance Policy: Class attendance and course grades are demonstrably and positively related. I expect you to attend all class sessions. I do understand that we have complicated lives and that sometimes you may have to miss class. If so, please try to be polite and let me know that you will not be able to attend.

7. Honor Code and Academic Integrity: Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism undermine academic integrity and are subject to penalties imposed by the instructor. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Dean of Students. An Honor Board composed of students, faculty, and administrators will adjudicate the alleged violation and may assess penalties beyond those assessed by the instructor of the course. Unauthorized collaboration is a form of cheating and research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or part for any assignment without obtaining prior permission from the professor. Plagiarism includes the verbatim repetition, without acknowledgement, of another, borrowing without acknowledging a source, paraphrasing without acknowledgement, and allowing any other person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his or her own. You will receive a failing grade if you cheat on any component of this course.

If you have any questions about whether a particular practice constitutes academic dishonesty, please ask the instructor or contact the Dean of Students.

8. Other items such as your rights in grievance procedures related to academic integrity can be found under the Office of Student Conduct at <http://studentconduct.appstate.edu/>.

9. Disability Statement: Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at <http://www.ods.appstate.edu/> or 828-262-3056. Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations.

10. Dropping this Class: It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedures for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class.

11. Classroom Etiquette: Please demonstrate courtesy and respect toward others in class. This includes respecting the opinions of others and refraining from talking while others are speaking. While the class is in progress, please do not read newspapers or books for some other class, and

please turn off all cell phones and pagers. Also, please make every effort to come to class on time. If you must leave early let me know before class begins.

## SCHEDULE

1. January 14      Overview of American Politics and Government  
Environmental Politics  
Preservation and Conservation I

### Recommended Reading:

Elizabeth S. Clemens and James M. Cook, "Politics and Institutionalism: Explaining Durability and Change," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 25, 1999, pp. 441-466.

Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*, 162.3859, December 1968, pp. 1243-1248.

Richard Hofstadter, "The Paranoid Style in American Politics," *Harper's Magazine*, November 1964, pp. 77-86.

D. T. Kuzmiak, "The Environmental Movement," *The Geographical Journal*, 157.3, November 1991, pp. 265-278.

Charles E. Lindblom, "The Market as Prison," *The Journal of Politics*, 44.2, May 1982, pp. 324-336.

Charles E. Lindblom, "The Science of 'Muddling Through,'" *Public Administration Review*, 19.2, Spring 1959, pp. 79-88.

Leo Marx, "American Institutions and Ecological Ideals," *Science*, 170.3961, November 1970, pp. 945-952.

John M. Meyer, "Gifford Pinchot, John Muir, and the Boundaries of Politics in American Thought," *Polity*, 30.2, Winter 1997, pp. 267-284.

Roderick Nash, "John Muir, William Kent, and the Conservation Schism," *The Pacific Historical Review*, 36.4, November 1967, pp. 423-433.

2. January 21      Introduction Continued  
Rosenbaum and Layzer Chapter 1  
Preservation and Conservation II

3. January 28      *Silent Spring*

4. February 4 *The End of Nature*
5. February 11 *Cadillac Desert*
6. February 18 The Institutions and Policy  
Risk Assessment, Environmental Justice and Regulatory Economics  
Rosenbaum, Chapters 2 – 5; Layzer, Chapter 5
7. February 25 Air and Water  
Rosenbaum, Chapter 6; Layzer, Chapter 2  
**Hand Out Exam 1**
8. March 4 Toxic Substances  
Rosenbaum, Chapter 7; Layzer, Chapter 3 and 4  
**Exam 1 Due**
9. March 11 **Spring Break**
10. March 18 Energy  
Rosenbaum, Chapter 8; Layzer, Chapter 6
11. March 25 Public Lands I  
Rosenbaum, Chapter 9; Layzer, Chapters 7 - 10
12. April 1 Public Lands II  
Backlash I  
Layzer, Chapters 13 - 17
13. April 8 Backlash II
14. April 15 Global Environmental Issues  
Rosenbaum, Chapter 10; Layzer, Chapters 11, 12, 18
15. April 22 **Paper Due**  
**Presentations**  
**Hand Out Exam 2**
16. May 6 **Exam 2 Due**