

## PS 5670 ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Spring 2011

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**Class time:** Wed. 6:15 – 9:00 pm  
**Instructor:** Tatyana B. Ruseva  
**E-mail:** [rusevatb@appstate.edu](mailto:rusevatb@appstate.edu)  
**Phone:** 262-8238

**Classroom:** Belk Hall 1132  
**Office:** Room 2016 Ann Belk Hall  
**Office hours:** Monday 3:00-4:30 pm  
& by appointment

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### Course Description

This course examines the role of politics and government in addressing environmental issues. Its focus is primarily on the U.S. approach to environmental protection, but some attention will be devoted to international environmental issues, such as the climate negotiations. 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.

### Course Objective

The primary goal of the course is to gain knowledge about the institutions and political processes that shape the collective decisions we make with regard to the environment. By the end of the semester, students are expected to have a comprehensive foundation (facts, concepts and knowledge) for understanding how the American political system handles environmental problems. This course is designed to evoke a high level of exchange and analytical thinking. It is crucial that students complete the assigned reading before class and be prepared to discuss the authors' main arguments. I expect that everyone will be prepared for class. The study of environmental politics and policy welcomes innovative problem-solving that draws on multiple points of view. There are few precise answers in environmental problem-solving, but lots of room for creative thinking and application of core concepts gleaned from this class and from other policy, management, and/or natural science classes.

### Required Texts

- Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2008. *Environmental Politics and Policy*. Washington DC: CQ Press. ISBN 978-0-87289-440-2 (Paperback)
- Layzer, Judith A. 2006. *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy*. Washington DC: CQ Press. ISBN 1-56802-898-9 (Paperback)
- Carson, Rachel. 2002. *Silent Spring*. New York: Mariner Books. ISBN 0618249060 (Paperback)
- Articles and book chapters posted on *AsU Learn*: <http://asulearn.appstate.edu/>

### Course Overview

The course is divided into three interrelated units. Subsequent sections draw on concepts and evidence from previous sections. The three sections are:

1. Environmental Politics
2. Environmental Policymaking
3. Global Environmental Politics

## Course Requirements

- First Take-Home Exam: Covering Unit I 25% of grade
- Second Take-Home Exam: Covering Unit II 25% of grade
- Research Paper 30% of grade
- Article presentation 10% of grade
- Attendance and participation 10% of grade

### Exams

There will be two take home exams: one due on 2/9 and another on 3/30 before class. The take home examinations will follow an essay format. Application of core concepts from the readings and lectures will be tested. You will be given several questions and 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 25 percent of your final grade.

### Presentation of a Research Article

You will be expected to prepare a short 10 minute presentation of a research article. A list of articles (from the assigned course readings) will be passed out during the second week of classes. Please, be prepared to select an article and sign your name next to it. Additional guidelines about the presentation of your selected article will be provided in class and on the AsULearn course webpage.

### Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance is expected. Active participation in class discussions is integral to course quality. A tenth of your course grade will be determined by participation in class discussions, as well as a brief presentation of your research paper on the last day of class.

### Research Paper

In addition to the two examinations and class participation you will be expected to complete one research paper. The theme of the paper is collaborative environmental management. 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.

This writing assignment will be an integral part of the class and your efforts leading to the final product will be reflected in your grade component. Throughout the semester I will require written updates on your progress – in the form of a brief 1-2 page proposal or a sample bibliography. These updates will be graded as part of your research paper. The proposal or bibliography will count for 10 percent from the total 30 percent weight of your final paper.

### No late assignments or make-up exams will be accepted.

If you anticipate a major conflict that prevents you from completing a class assignment on time, please come to my office hours (Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM), or contact me by phone (262-8238) or e-mail (rusevatb@appstate.edu).

## Course Content

### Part I: Environmental Politics

**Week 1**  
1/12

**Introduction**  
**The Century of the Environment**  
**American Government and Institutions: An Overview**

Readings: Kraft, Michael E. "Environmental Problems and Politics: Chapter 1" In *Environmental Policy and Politics*, by M.E. Kraft, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson Education, 2011: pp.1-25. *AsULearn*

Leo Marx, "American Institutions and Ecological Ideals," *Science* 170 (November 27, 1970), pp: 945–952. *AsULearn*

Lubchenco, Jane. "Entering the Century of the Environment: A New Social Contract for Science " *Science* 279 (1998): 491-497. [Download](#)

Lindblom, Charles. "The Market as Prison", *The Journal of Politics*, vol. 44, no.2 May 1982, pp. 324-336. [Download](#)

**Week 2**  
1/19

**Evolution of Environmental Policy and Politics**  
**Historical Roots: Preservation and Conservation**

Readings: Kraft, Michael E. "The Evolution of Environmental Policy and Politics: Chapter 4," In *Environmental Policy and Politics*, by M.E. Kraft, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston: Pearson Education, 2011: pp.88-114. *AsULearn*

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

Meyer, John M. "Gifford Pinchot, John Muir, and the Boundaries of Politics in American Thought." *Polity* 30, no. 2 (1997): 267-84. *AsULearn*

Nash, Roderick. "John Muir, William Kent, and the Conservation Schism." *Pacific Historical Review* 36, no. 4 (1967): 423-33. *AsULearn*

**Week 3**  
1/26

**Defining Problems in Environmental Politics**  
**The Issue-Attention Cycle**

Readings: Layzer Chapter 1,  
Rosenbaum Chapter 1

Downs, Anthony, Up and Down with Ecology- The Issue-Attention Cycle, *Public Interest*, 28 (1972: Summer) pp.38-50 [Download](#)

Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*.

**Week 4**  
2/2

**The First Generation of Environmental Policies: Air and Water**

Readings: Rosenbaum Chapter 6, Layzer Chapter 2

**\*EXAM 1 posted\***

## Part II: Environmental Policy-Making

### **Week 5** 2/9      **Making Environmental Policy** **The Policy Process**

Readings:      Rosenbaum Chapters 2

Schlager, Edella, and William Blomquist. "A Comparison of Three Emerging Theories of the Policy Process." *Political Research Quarterly* 49, no. 3 (1996): 651-72. [AsU Learn](#)

Lindblom, Charles E. "The Science of Muddling Through." *Public Administration Review* 19 (1959): 79-99. [Download](#)

*\*EXAM 1 due on 2/9 by 5 pm\**

### **Week 6** 2/16      **Policy Agendas and Agenda-Setting:** **The Case of Climate Change**

Readings:      Pralle, Sarah B. "Agenda-setting and climate change", *Environmental Politics*, 18: 5, (2009). pp: 781-799. [Download](#)

Stone, Deborah A. "Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas". *Political Science Quarterly* Vol. 104, No. 2 (Summer, 1989), pp. 281-300. [Download](#)

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

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

### **Week 7** 2/23      **Institutions and Policies** **Risk Assessment, Environmental Justice and Regulation**

Readings:      Rosenbaum Chapters 3, 4 and 5  
Layzer Chapter 5

### **Week 8** 3/2      **Toxic Substances**

Readings:      Rosenbaum Chapter 7  
Layzer Chapters 3 and 4

### **3/7-11      SPRING BREAK**

### **Week 9** 3/16      **Energy and Resource Management**

Readings:      Rosenbaum Chapters 8 and 9  
Layzer Chapters 6, 7, 8

### **Week 10** 3/23      **Property Rights and Market-Based Solutions** **Ecosystem Management**

Readings:      Layzer Chapters 13, 14 and 15

Koontz, Tomas M. and Jennifer Bodine. "Implementing Ecosystem Management in Public Agencies: Lessons from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service." *Conservation Biology* 22, no. 1 (2008): 60-69. *AsU Learn*

**\*EXAM 2 posted\***

**Week 11**      **Collaborative Environmental Management**

3/30

Readings: Layzer Chapters 16 and 17

Lubell, Mark. "Collaborative Environmental Institutions: All Talk and No Action?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 23, no. 3 (2004): 549-73. [Download](#)

Thomas, Craig W. "Evaluating the Performance of Collaborative Environmental Governance." In Consortium on Collaborative Governance Mini-Conference, Santa Monica, April 2008. [Download](#)

**\*EXAM 2 due on 3/30 by 5 pm\***

**Part III: Global Environmental Politics**

**Week 12**      **The Tragedy of the Commons**

4/6

Readings: Layzer, Chapter 10

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162:1243-48. [Download](#)

Dietz, Thomas, Elinor Ostrom, and Paul C. Stern. 2003. The Struggle to Govern the Commons. *Science* 302:1907-1912. [Download](#)

Ostrom, E. "The Challenge of Common-Pool Resources", *Environment*, August 2008, pp: 8-21. [Download](#)

**Week 13**      **The Global Commons & Climate Diplomacy**

4/13

Readings: Rosenbaum Chapter 10, Layzer Chapters 11

Rogelj et al. Analysis of the Copenhagen Accord

UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun, December 11, 2010 Press Release: [Download](#)

**Week 14**      **Trade and the Environment**

4/20

Readings: Layzer Chapter 12 and 18

Clapp, J., and P. Dauvergne, "Global Trade and the Environment" in Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne, *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment*, 2005, pp: 119-155 *AsU Learn*

**Week 15**      **Course Wrap-Up**  
**4/27**            **Final Paper Presentations**

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**Research Paper Due: Wednesday, May 4, 2011 BY 6:00 PM**

**Class Policies:**

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 be prepared to bring one written question about the readings to every class.*

Policy on Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

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

*Plagiarism* and other forms of academic misconduct will be dealt with under the strictest terms provided for under ASU policy. In most cases, plagiarism will result in a failing grade and a formal report to the Dean of Students office. *Plagiarism* is using another person's words, ideas, artistic creations, or other intellectual property without giving proper credit. A student must give credit to the work of another person when he/she does any of the following:

- a. Quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written;
- b. Paraphrases another person's words, either oral or written;
- c. Uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or
- d. Borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.