

POL/EVST2031: Environmental Policy
Zimmer Hall 414
MWF, 9:05–10:00 a.m.
Spring 2013

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Instructor

Dr. Gwen Arnold
1102 Crosley Tower
513-556-3302 (office)
arnoldgy@ucmail.uc.edu
gwen.arnold.polevst2031@gmail.com (for Google Groups and Blogger purposes)

Office Hours

Mondays, 1:30–4:00 p.m., or
by appointment

Overview

State and national governments and intergovernmental and global entities make and implement environmental policy. This course analyzes the behavior and activities of these entities, first focusing domestically and then highlighting the similarities and differences in these phenomena on the global stage. Students will understand rationales for environmental policy interventions and common strategies for such interventions and their strengths and weaknesses. They will analyze how political factors such as interest groups and ideology affect how societies select which environmental problems to address and how. Students will devote substantial attention to the implementation of environmental policies, examining how on-the-ground outcomes are influenced by science, economics, legal systems, cross- and sub-national forces, and stakeholder input. The course will address recent innovations in environmental policy, such as collaborative management, and coming challenges for environmental policy, such as climate change.

COURSE DETAILS (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Academic integrity

It is your responsibility to understand and comply with the University of Cincinnati Student Code of Conduct, as well as any other documented policies of the department, college, and university related to academic integrity. The Student Code of Conduct describes behavior expected of all University of Cincinnati students and defines behavior considered misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism, and classroom disruption. The potential sanctions and penalties for misconduct are outlined in the code and will be determined on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct. Copies of the code may be obtained from your college office or online at <http://www.uc.edu/Trustees/Rules/RuleDetail.asp?ID=184>.

All of the work you submit in this course must be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Please note that Part (B)(c)(iv) of the Student Code of Conduct indicates that plagiarism includes "submitting one's own previously written or oral work without modification and instructor permission."

Here are some tips on how to avoid inadvertent plagiarism. They were developed by Dr. Ralph Brower at Florida State University and provided to me by Dr. Ashlyn Nelson of Indiana University:

- 1) If you take material that is not yours, from any source whatsoever, and copy it into assignments for this class, you must provide an in-text citation and associated reference list entry indicating the source of the material.
- 2) Any material that quotes verbatim from other sources must be enclosed in quotation marks and its source attributed as noted in rule 1 above.
- 3) Material not taken verbatim from a text but paraphrased must also be attributed.

More information about plagiarism can be found at <http://libraries.uc.edu/help/students/plagiarism.html>. If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or about how to avoid it, please talk with me.

Assignments

You will receive additional details about the assignments on the first day of class or at a reasonable interval before the assignment is due.

Case discussions

You will participate in weekly online case discussions using Google Groups. You will be randomly assigned to a group along with a small number of your classmates. (You will rotate groups twice during the semester.) Each week, members of your group will read a case related to the week's topics and ask and answer questions based on the case. Your participation in case discussions will be worth 1.5 points per week.

Journal entries

You will use Blogger to keep a weekly online journal wherein you respond to prompts connected to the week's topics. Nearly all the prompts will require some writing, but the amount will vary by week. You will be asked to supplement written text with multimedia elements potentially including original sketches, videos, and photos. You should expect that responding to a prompt will take 0.5–3 hours per week. The goal of journaling is for you to reflect critically on environmental policy issues and how they affect you and your community. Your journal entry will be worth 1.9 points per week.

Participation

Each week you can earn 1.8 participation points, except in the first week, when you can earn 1.6. To earn your full allotment of points per week, you must do two things:

- 1) Attend all of the week's classes (unless you are taking an excused absence); and
- 2) Offer meaningful verbal contributions to class discussions in at least two of the week's classes.

Quizzes

There will be a quiz every week in this course. Your weekly quiz grades replace exam grades; there are no exams. The quizzes will occur at the start of the class period. You will not be given notice concerning which class period in a given week will contain the quiz. The quizzes will contain 1–4 short answer or multiple choice questions. All quizzes will be worth 1.8 points except for the first, which will be worth 1.6 points.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken in every class period. You are allowed two excused absences per semester. An absence will be excused only if you email me before class to tell me that you will not be attending. I am not interested in the reason why you will not be attending.

Absences documented after the fact and absences beyond the two you are permitted in a given semester will be unexcused. Specific caveats are noted in the “Late assignments” section. An unexcused absence means that you miss any points you may have earned in the class you missed.

Blackboard

Some course readings are posted on Blackboard (<http://blackboard.uc.edu>). Course updates and announcements may also be posted on Blackboard. Your grades will be documented as a running tally on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly. Failure to do so is not an excuse for being unaware of material posted there.

Calendar

The calendar below summarizes important dates in this course.

Day and date	Event
Monday, Jan. 7	First class
Friday, Jan. 11	Midnight deadline for Blogger and Google Groups setup
Monday, Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no class) Last day to drop the course with no entry to your academic record
Friday, March 15	Last day for course withdrawal
Monday, March 18 – Sunday, March 24	Spring Break (no class)
Friday, April 12	Class canceled due to MPSA conference
Friday, April 19	Last class

Also, in any given week, you should always remember that your case discussion contributions and your journal entry must be completed by Friday at midnight.

Classroom civility

I expect you to respect your fellow students and myself and to behave in a professional manner. Failure to meet these standards will affect your participation grade. Examples of violations of classroom civility include but are not limited to:

- Arriving late for class
- Reading the paper or doing crosswords or Sudoku in class
- Sleeping in class

- Working on material for another course during class
- Failing to silence your phone during class
- Listening to music during class
- Talking when the instructor or another student is speaking
- Engaging in disruptive behavior such as being excessively noisy

If you engage in such behavior, you may be asked to leave the class. Serious violations of classroom civility will prompt disciplinary action. Information about the disposition of disciplinary action is provided in the University of Cincinnati Student Code of Conduct.

Course webpage

In addition to the Blackboard site, the course has a blog, <http://polevst2031spring2013.blogspot.com>, that will be regularly updated with course-related materials, documents, and links. This page will also be used to showcase the week's best journal entries. It is your responsibility to check this webpage regularly. Failure to do so is not an excuse for being unaware of material posted there.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Drops and withdrawals

Please consult the university's policies concerning dropping or withdrawing from a class to ensure that, if you choose one of these options, you do so by the specified deadlines and in the manner that ensures that your grades and/or financial aid experience the least adverse impact. See http://www.uc.edu/registrar/policies_and_procedures/withdrawal_procedures.html.

Extra credit

Extra credit points will be applied to the numerator of your course grade. You can earn up to 3 extra credit points by having a high-quality journal entry selected to be showcased on the class webpage (<http://polevst2031spring2013.blogspot.com/>). Other opportunities for extra credit may be announced throughout the semester.

Grade adjustments

If you believe that one of your assignments has been graded inaccurately, you can request that I review the grade. You must make this request within one week of your receipt of the grade. The request must be in writing: you must email me the assignment along with an explanation of the error and/or the grade you believe is more appropriate, or you must bring to my office a hard copy of the assignment along with a printout of your explanation.* The explanation should be no longer than three paragraphs. I will re-grade your assignment within 72 hours. A re-grade request does not guarantee that you will receive a higher or different grade; it merely means that I will review your assignment a second time and take your feedback under advisement.

*Please do not hand me your request before or after class, as there is no guarantee that I will not accidentally lose it among my other papers.

Grading

You can earn up to 100 points in this course.

Assignment	Points
Frequency and quality of verbal class participation	25
Weekly quiz grades	25
Completion and quality of weekly journal entries	25
Completion and quality of weekly case discussions	25

The grade distribution will be as follows. A+ grades will be awarded only at the instructor's discretion and only for truly exceptional work:

Letter grade and associated point range							
A	94–100 points	B	84–86 points	C	74–76 points	D-	60–64 points
A-	90–93 points	B-	80–83 points	C-	70–73 points	F	<60 points
B+	87–89 points	C+	77–79 points	D+	65–69 points		

Instructor communication

I am more than happy to talk with you about environmental policy theory and practice. Also, please do not hesitate to talk to me if you are having difficulty with the course. The sooner you let me know about challenges you are encountering, the sooner I can help you develop ways to address those challenges. You can visit me during office hours or we can set up an appointment.

Email is a good way to get in touch with me, albeit with some important caveats:

- 1) I do not answer student emails after 9:00 p.m.
- 2) I will respond to your email within 48 hours unless there is a holiday or I am traveling, in which case I will respond within a reasonable time period.
- 3) Put the course title and number in the subject line of your email (POL/EVST2031).
- 4) Use an appropriate salutation in your email.
- 5) Sign (write) your name at the end of your email.

If you do not follow instructions 3–5, I may not answer your email. Please craft emails that you would be comfortable sending to an employer or workplace colleague.

Late assignments

Many of your assignments will be completed while you are in class. With a few exceptions noted below, these assignments CANNOT be submitted late. Generally, if you miss class, you miss the associated points.

Late contributions to weekly case discussions will not be accepted. Late journal entries will be accepted if they are submitted within 24 hours of the deadline, with a 50 percent penalty on the grade you would otherwise have received. Journal entries submitted more than 24 hours late will not be accepted.

Exceptions to these policies will be made in three situations:

- 1) You are allowed two excused absences per semester. In the case of an excused absence, you will earn the participation points you would have earned by attending class normally. Excused absences do not exempt you from journal assignments or case discussions. If a quiz is administered on a day that you take an excused absence, you will be given the opportunity to complete a short make-up assignment.
- 2) If you provide authoritative documentation indicating that you were sick or otherwise unavailable due to a family emergency/crisis for MORE THAN TWO consecutive class periods, you may be allowed to complete make-up assignments to earn back points you missed in class and potentially in other missed assignments such as case discussions.
- 3) If you provide authoritative documentation indicating that you had a religious or cultural obligation that directly conflicted with class attendance, you may be allowed to complete make-up assignments to earn back points you missed in class and potentially in other missed assignments such as case discussions.

Participation

Class participation is very important for success in this course. You will maximize the participation component of your grade by arriving on time to class, attending each class, and actively contributing during class activities.

Please note that attendance is not the same as participation. Showing up to class but failing to contribute meaningfully to discussions does not show me that you are prepared or that you understand the course materials. More importantly, your failure to engage short-changes your peers whose education in part relies on dialog with classmates.

Required texts

Layzer, J. 2012. *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy*, 3rd ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Vig, N. J., and M. E. Kraft. 2013. *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21st Century*, 8th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

If you are ordering your books online, please be sure to select the correct edition. Both books have older editions that we are not using.

You will be assigned roughly 40–60 pages of reading per week, both in the books noted above and in PDFs posted on Blackboard.* It is in your interest to complete the week's assigned reading before

the school week begins, since you may be quizzed on the readings at any point during the week, including the week's first (Monday) class period.

*The amount of reading assigned in Week 6 is nearly double the normal amount. Please do yourself a favor and get started on that week's reading early.

Special needs

If you have a disability which may affect your performance in the course, please let me know when the course begins (or as soon as possible if the disability begins during the semester) so that I can work with you to develop appropriate accommodations. Some accommodations may require prior approval from the Disability Services Office, located at 210 University Pavilion (<http://www.uc.edu/aess/disability.html>).

If unexpected events that may require special accommodations arise during the course of the semester (e.g., personal or family emergencies or health problems), please notify me as soon as possible. You will be required to provide authoritative documentation (e.g., a signed, dated doctor's note on the doctor's letterhead) which may be subject to verification.

Technical issues

It is your responsibility to resolve technical difficulties (e.g., problems using Google Groups). Technical difficulties are not an excuse for late work. Complete your assignments well before their deadlines so that you have time to address problems that may arise.

Technology

This course relies heavily on internet-based learning tools. You will use Google Groups for case discussions and Blogger for journaling. Readings not found in the textbooks will be posted on Blackboard. Materials, announcements, and high-quality journal entries will be posted on the course website (<http://polevst2031spring2013.blogspot.com/>). Your grade will be kept as a running tally on Blackboard. Familiarize yourself with these technologies. It is your responsibility to understand how to use them so that you can participate effectively in this course.

If you have computers, tablets, or other devices that you can use for note-taking, please bring them to class and use them to facilitate your learning. However, please put your phones on silent so that they do not interrupt class. I understand that it is very easy to use these devices for purposes unrelated to school (e.g., Facebook) when you are in class. I of course prefer that you not use these devices for such activities, but since you are the one responsible for your education, it is ultimately your choice. Please be aware, however, that giving your full attention to your instructor and your peers during class indicates that you respect their contributions and effort; not paying attention sends the opposite signal.

TOPICS AND READINGS FOR CLASS MEETINGS

The schedule below notes the topic and readings associated with each week of the course. The reading preceded by "CASE" will be the one you discuss online using Google Groups. "VK" stands for "Vig and Kraft," one of the required course texts. When readings are posted on Blackboard, this is indicated in parentheses. The syllabus is divided into three parts: environmental policy building

blocks applicable to domestic or foreign policy analysis, U.S. environmental policy, and international environmental policy.

I. Environmental policy building blocks

Week 1 (Jan. 7–11)

Environmental policy introduced and defined

NO CASE

Salzman (Blackboard), 1–42

Week 2 (Jan. 14–18)

Environmental problems; approaches and instruments in environmental policy

CASE: Layzer, 28–51

Vig and Kraft (in VK), 2–26

Week 3 (Jan. 23–25)*

Approaches and instruments in environmental policy (cont'd)

CASE: Layzer, 414–441

Rothenberg (Blackboard), 1–37

*No class on Monday, Jan. 21

Week 4 (Jan. 28–Feb. 1)

Ideology and framing in environmental policy

CASE: Layzer, 109–135

Guber and Bosso (in VK), 54–74

II. U.S. Environmental Policy

Week 5 (Feb. 4–8)

Public opinion and citizen- and interest group-based environmental policymaking

CASE: Layzer, 56–79

Kraft (Blackboard), 94–111

Week 6 (Feb. 11–15)

NOTE: The reading load for this week is about twice the amount assigned in any other week.

Please get started on it early!!

Federal institutions for environmental management

CASE: Layzer, 28–51

Vig, Kraft, and O'Leary (in VK), 83–156

Week 7 (Feb. 18–22)

State institutions for environmental management

CASE: Mazmanian, Jurewitz, and Nelson (Blackboard), 401–423

Rabe (in VK), 30–53

Week 8 (Feb. 25–March 1)

Mixed/innovative approaches to environmental management

CASE: Layzer, 447–479

Lubell and Segee (in VK), 185–205

Week 9 (March 4–18)

Policy implementation

CASE: Layzer, 140–168

Rosenbaum (in VK), 158–184

III. International environmental policy

Week 10 (March 11–15)

Development and the environment

CASE: Layzer, 348–378

Tobin (in VK), 299–320

Week 11 (March 25–29)

Climate change

CASE: Layzer, 270–302

Selin and VanDeveer (in VK), 278–298

Week 12 (April 1–5)

Environmental security

CASE: Krakowka and Rios (Blackboard), 44–54

Homer-Dixon, UNDP, and Deudney (Blackboard), 287–313

Matthew (in VK), 344–366

Week 13 (April 8–12)*

Greening the economic system

CASE: Gallagher and Lewis (in VK), 321–340

UNEP (Blackboard), 1–38

*No class on Friday, April 12

Week 14 (April 15–19)

Challenge of sustainability

CASE: Kontogeorgopoulos, 613–628

Dryzek (Blackboard), 145–161

Rogers, Jalal, and Boyd (Blackboard), 20–39

Vig and Kraft (in VK), 370–374