

What advice would you give a student taking ESP160 next year? (Students in Spring 2017 providing advice to students in Spring 2018.)

Definitely go to office hours! Gwen and the TA's who are Megan and Erica are SO HELPFUL and nice. Also, go to lecture. Those are easy points you don't want to mess up on. It's easy to fall behind in the class, so going to lecture and discussion locks in those points. I loved my experience here with conducting research so I highly recommend

Talk to your TAs about your papers (especially the research design).

You will learn about multiple theories and how they apply to situations in government and policy decisions. Think about the big picture rather than the fine details, it will help you conceptualize the material. Go to discussion and study for the quizzes. Also make sure you choose a paper topic with lots of information and something you are interested in!

I would recommend to do the readings! The quizzes are a big part of your grade and points are easily lost by not doing the readings. Gwen does a great job explaining the frameworks but the readings really instill it in your head. The discussion slides are a really good way to understand the readings better as well, so if you had a hard time understanding the articles, its a good thing to go over the slides.

Buy the book. It is a very helpful text and easy to read, and Gwen's lectures go along with it well. Do not wait until the night before quizzes to study, because they're not that difficult, but take time to understand and grasp concepts. Do not wait until the night before to write the papers. Go to office hours, as they are extremely helpful. Don't watch netflix in class because it is distracting to you and others.

I highly recommend going to office hours for the research papers. The TA's are very helpful in formatting and coming up with general ideas for the papers. I got an A on my first paper and I definitely think a big reason I did was because I spent so much time in office hours. I also recommend reviewing the discussion slides which are summarizations of the main slides from lecture and are very helpful for the quizzes.

Take the time to do the readings, and reviewing the slides from all of the discussion groups is really helpful to review!

My advice to a student taking ESP160 would be to try and pick a topic in the beginning of the quarter that you are actually interested in and is feasible. I struggled with the papers because I felt like I was forced to fit theories to a topic that I wasn't super interested in. I would also say to go to office hours because the TAs and Gwen are really nice and helpful. I would also tell them that they don't really need to stress about all the reading because the discussion sessions always summarize what we needed to know for the quizzes.

The advice I would give to a student taking ESP 160 next year is to stay on top of the readings. It can be a lot to catch up on and you really need to do the readings to do well on the quizzes. Additionally, I would recommend making flashcards to study each theory. There are multiple parts of each theory and flashcards really helped me to match each element to the correct theory. I also would encourage the student to take the class seriously. I'm doing an internship involving environmental policy and it is really interested now to try to analyze my lobby visits and experiences at the capitol from the perspectives of these theories!

Study early and don't procrastinate!

This course really enhances your critical thinking. You are asked to not only evaluate a theory, but apply it to a topic that you are familiar or interested in. I've never thought about things like we have done in this class before. It is a really interesting and challenging class. Not challenging because there is a lot of hard work, but challenging because you have to think about things which you've never thought about before. Show up to all the classes/discussion sections, you'll get points for doing so!!

I would suggest going to get your Essay checked before turning it in, especially the test portion. Also, don't wait until the last minute to write your essay...

1. Pick a topic that has already happened. NOT a current ongoing topic 2. Start thinking about what theory/framework you want to use and ask the TA or professor about it 3. Memorize the slides and go through them before the quizzes 4. Come to class!

I'd first say this course is about average when it comes to the workload and studying required to succeed. The luxury of not having a midterm or final is immense, but that is offset somewhat by the requirement of having to study for the five individual quizzes. For those, I made the mistake of doing the readings on Canvas in advance. I would highly recommend doing the readings within two or three days, if possible, of the quiz, thereby allowing the information to retain some freshness. The papers are a little time consuming, but I found them to be relatively straightforward. I would also recommend getting the papers done in advance, as that allows you to chill out.

If you want to do well on the essays and quizzes, make sure you go to office hours. The lectures are great but going to office hours enhances your understanding on the subject. Whenever I was confused on issues regarding the essay, talking to Professor Gwen or any other TA's was substantially helpful and it reflected in the grade I received.

Study hard for the quizzes. They're hard!

Study for the quizzes since it determines majority of your grade. With the knowledge you gained from preparing for quizzes, it will assist you in better understanding the overall material and later assist you in writing your essay. Whether or not you get the textbook is questionable. You gain enough knowledge from slides and lectures, and sometimes the textbook information is different from lecture information (i.e. Social Construction).

My advice to students taking ESP 160 next year will be to purchase the book, and read about the theories. Go to as many lectures as possible, because it is a bit confusing to catch up on your own and you get points from roll sheet. Always go to discussion as well because you go over the theories more in depth for better understanding, especially through discussion leads. Office hours were only helpful when I needed help with my essays. I recommend starting essays early and going to office hours for help on essays because they grade pretty hard on them.

I really enjoyed ESP 160, and a big part of that was the commitment to the students by Dr. Arnold, Megan, and Erica. With that being said, my biggest advice to students taking ESP 160 next year is to not be afraid to ask Dr. Arnold, Megan, or Erica any questions at all, whether it be during class, discussion, or office hours. There is no such thing as a dumb question in their eyes, and every time after I asked them a question, I understood the material so much more. In addition, be sure to make sure that you do the readings and review the slides thoroughly before each test. The readings and the slides complement each other when you are studying for the quiz, and it also works together in helping prepare you for the papers. In essence, understanding the readings and the lecture slides will have you more than 100% prepared to succeed in this course.

I would say that develop strategies to read environmental policy papers early and how to memorize lists. Attend class and don't miss deadlines.

I would advise future ESP 160 students to attend every lecture and pay as much attention to the lecture as possible (even if it's really early in the morning). If going to lecture and paying attention is unattainable, then I would highly recommend future student to read the assigned Sabatier textbook. From my experience, the textbook is very detailed in explaining the frameworks and words the content in a way that is understandable. Also, start the papers early!

When writing your papers, make sure you truly understand the framework and theories before you start writing the paper. I know many people who started the paper and had an "aha" moment half way through when they truly understood the theory and how it applied to their case. Outline and have a clear understanding before you start writing. Also, do the readings. The readings assigned for discussion section were incredibly helpful for understanding the various frameworks. Take the time to sit down and read them. This really helped me on both quizzes and papers.

This class is easy to follow and very interesting. It's super nice to not have a midterm or final but be sure to take the quizzes seriously as a bad grade will impact your overall grade. The TA's grade generously but I lost points from missing attendance checks in lecture and discussion, and if I hadn't I would've gotten an A. So point is, go to class and not just for the points. If you pay attention in lecture you'll be well prepared for the quizzes (which aren't that HARD) and a simple review the night before will do the trick. Basically, points from assignments/activities/quizzes/extra credit are easy to accumulated. You're most likely to miss points from lack of attendance (which are actually meant to, and WILL boost your grade). Aside from grades, this stuff is useful to know and this class has a refreshing amount of low pressure collaboration among students.

To use the readings assigned as a key study tool to understand the application of the framework, specifically as a way to outline your paper. In terms of the paper, follow the guidelines very specifically and you can't go wrong, talking with classmates in discussion is probably the most helpful thing you can do since they can give you different view points on your thesis and give you source ideas. The hardest part of doing the paper is honestly finding a specific enough topic, that's not too specific so you can still find sources. Finding sources was difficult, there was a bit of a learning curve in looking up specific bill and determining when and why they didn't pass. In many cases the bills died, they never actually were put up to be voted on by the entire senate, they died after committee. Understanding what this means is essential and can shape your paper. Creating worksheets for each theory would be incredibly helpful, the most helpful study tools were the in class assignments where you were given a case and had to identify all of it's parts based on a theory, if we had these for every theory and could use this to work through our paper that would be great. Maybe a little more clarity on how policy change occurs, in some of the theories this was unclear and hard to understand.

The book is your friend, it will greatly help your understanding of the material

Please, please, please go to lecture and discussion. This class gives a ridiculous amount of points in lecture attendance checks and discussion participation. These points can help offset any bad quiz grade you get. Go to Professor Arnold's office hours! She's a fantastic help for any paper questions. Personally, she helped me out a lot in the first paper for the research design, which is the trickiest part of the paper (and worth the most points!).

Complete the readings as soon as possible and take notes. Focus on making your papers strong and don't be afraid to email TA's/go to office hours!! No final in this class so it's chill.

Some advice for next year is really engage with discussion as a supplement to lecture. The discussion sections provide a solid foundation for what is discussed in lecture. Lectures are valuable but can be long-winded in that they go very in-depth and can be a lot of information if you don't have any background in environmental policy methods. Showing up for lecture is absolutely important though, because there is often examples introduced that will come in handy for quizzes. Another really easy way to be successful is to show up to lecture for participation/attendance points. The quizzes are most succinctly covered in discussion notes for studying purposes. Also discussion attendance and participation in the presentations are designed to support different learning/engagement styles and generally easy points.

Go to office hours! And read the textbook.

Do the readings when they are assigned, before discussion! This will help you know what's going on in discussion, and then be able to do well on the quizzes. Also, come to class! The points from attendance checks are SO easy and are really good grade boosters. Be there or be square!

I think the best advice I could give a student taking ESP 160 next year would be to read the assigned articles on the Sunday before the week the topics are presented in lecture so you have a general basis to go off on when Gwen starts explaining each framework. Also, STUDY WELL the night before each quiz. Don't skip lecture or section because the attendance checks add up. Additionally, going to office hours to discuss paper issues seems like it would prove very beneficial.

Try to understand comparison between the policy theory and real life examples. Often times the large number of different vocabulary will seem confusing but are often referring to concepts that we see everyday when discussing politics.

Use office hours! Stay current with the slides - don't just wait until there is a quiz.

For anyone interested in policy, I highly recommend this course. The course gives you a solid background on several policy frameworks and theories that are applicable to a wide range of policy issues--not just environmental policy. The material is taught at an appropriate pace, and professor Arnold presents the material clearly and logically. If you are afraid of taking a policy, do not worry--this class is very manageable! The quizzes are fair (if you put in time to study you will have no problem) and the two papers allow you to apply a topic that interests you to two different frameworks. If you don't like writing, the TA's and Professor Arnold are very helpful and will give you enough guidance and feedback to write a solid paper. All in all, if you take the time to study the material and write the papers, you will enjoy this class.

Show up to lecture, and go to office hours. Lecture helps you learn and understand the material better, know where to focus your attention, and you don't risk missing opportunities at attendance. Go to office hours to get help on the paper, even if its just to talk through your research design.

Definitely buy the textbook, and study the discussion slides. They are the most helpful for the quizzes.

GO to office hours after an new policy theory is explained. Ask for examples and have any questions asked before it becomes overwhelming.

I would say to go to class and get the participation points. The attendance checks and participation add up. The quizzes are manageable if you pay attention in discussion and lecture, the readings were complimentary but not necessary. Also to do well on the papers, it is better to pick a topic you are interested in or it will get boring.

Start early on the papers and go into office hours. Section powerpoints are very helpful for the quizzes.

Record the lecture! Dr. Arnold talks super fast. Always go to class and discussion. The attendance points add up and she gives surprise extra credit.

Plan ahead. Researching a topic earlier will be beneficial when it comes to writing your paper and having a quiz the same week.

Study the lecture slides before tests and listen to the in class examples Some of the frameworks can be confusing but professor Arnold's lecture example make everything very clear. Also start your papers sooner rather than later. This is a really good class where you are set up to succeed.

I think it's important to understand the individual elements of each framework at the very beginning, because it is a lot at first. Also, if you have some background with research methods, this class will be easier for you, otherwise, make sure to pay attention during the first few weeks because you will need research methods in your papers.

Make sure to do the discussion readings. I know they preach this to you at the beginning but.. GO TO OFFICE HOURS for the papers, they DO help! Do not procrastinate on the papers either, from what I've seen, the later you do the paper the worse grade you get.

Go to every single lecture, because sleeping in one morning isn't worth possibly losing those 10 points.

Plan to prepare for the discussion readings ahead of time since the readings are dense and will be on each quiz. Also, as soon as you have a paper outline available which has been discussed in the the paper workshop, immediately begin working on your paper because you don't have a lot on time until the paper is due.

Utilize Gwen and the TA's when writing your papers. Sometimes it's hard to grasp certain theories during lecture or from the text, but if you go in and talk to them in person, it's much easier to understand what to write about and what direction to take your paper.

Take notes on the recap portion at the beginning of lectures. They're useful in studying.

I would say to always do the readings and always show up to class, because it really matters in the end.

stay on top of all your work and finish it early so you can ask the TA's for help. A ton of reading don't fall behind.

My biggest advice would be to actually do the assigned readings. It's an easy thing to overlook, but the readings really helped solidify the theories for me and were very important in understanding how to apply theories while writing the papers.

First and foremost: go to lecture - if not for the points from attendance and in class participation activities, the applications of the framework are really helpful in understanding the theories. Put more time into the outline for your papers - I treated it more as a rough draft and it helped make writing the final version so much easier. Megan is awesome for helping you think through your ideas. Don't get frustrated - sometimes it's difficult to understand the importance of policy frameworks - especially with how they fit into our changing political landscape - but learning about these has really helped me look at policy from a more analytical perspective and just know that no theory or framework is perfect. It's no crystal ball.

For your paper, pick a topic that interests you because you'll be spending a lot of time writing two papers about it. Also preferably one you can find a lot of information on like what interests are at play so its easier to apply to a theory.

Office hours really help, especially with the papers

Learn the Theory and example case study's well. Will help for better understanding on papers and just in general. (:

I would suggest definitely suggest using the lecture slides as the main source of information for the quizzes. The lecture slides tend to cover most of the information in enough detail for the quizzes.

However, the assigned textbook is very helpful for learning more about the narratives for the papers.

I would suggest that future ESP 160 students make sure they are familiar with the readings before quizzes. The readings are a little lengthy and somewhat dry, but are on the quizzes nonetheless! Also, make sure to arrive early so you don't have to sit on the stairs of the lecture hall.

ESP 160 is a very interesting class. It teaches you different theories that researchers use to study policy dilemmas. However, even if you do not plan on doing research in the future, you can even use the theories to analyze different situations in your every day life. Also, Professor Arnold and the TAs, Megan and Erica, are all so wonderful. They are very helpful and patient; they truly want to see us students do well. So remember to go to office hours, especially to meet Doug the dog!

Study for the quizzes!

Stay on top of your readings and you will be fine. TAs are excellent resources for quizzes and the papers! Read the class material and go to discussion. I was not a fan of lecture and often times worked on other assignments since I had trouble following Gwen. If Megan is the TA, she is a huge help and I highly recommend going to her office hours.