

Environmental Politics & Policy (ENVI 215/POLI 215)
Macalester College, Spring 2018
T/Th 1:20-2:50 OLRI 243

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Preceptor: Becca Krasky

Course Description

The American environmental movement has transformed the nature of politics and the politics of nature over the last five decades. In addition to a range of seminal legislations, including the Clean Air and Clean Water acts, the United States is now party to significant regional and international treaties. While these transformations have been profound, there are many challenges that continue to confront lasting environmental protection and management, including issues of implementation and regulation.

This course provides an introduction to the field of Environmental Politics & Policy. Using a comparative approach, the course addresses the evolution of the environmental movement in the US and the ways in which this country has engaged in international commitments. After examining the range of discourses that dominate the field, we will investigate important case studies that relate to legislative acts, including public lands management, energy exploration, hazardous wastes and climate change.

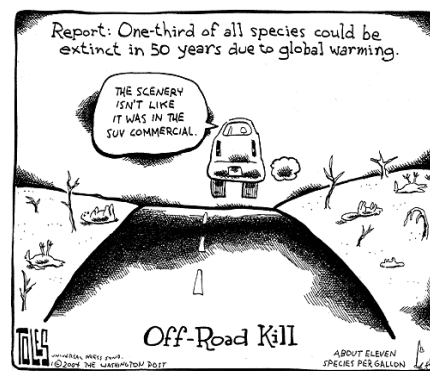
In the process of studying environmental politics and policy, the main learning goals for this course are:

- **Better understand the processes of policy making and the ways in which politics advance and impede domestic and international political action.**
- **Gain skills at rhetorical writing, oral presentation, peer review and group research**

Student Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Attendance/Participation (20%)
- Writing projects (50%)
- Midterm and Final Exam (15% each)



1) Attendance & participation (20%)

You are expected to attend every class because that is the best way to explore the material and participate in our discussion. If you must be absent due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, contact me before class. More than one unexcused absence may result in a reduction in your participation grade. If you are late to class regularly, this may be counted as an absence. You are responsible for checking in with your peers for missed material.

Your participation grade will be based on your familiarity with the assigned reading and respectful and productive engagement in class. This includes occasional **pop reading quizzes** throughout the semester. We will also have **a required fieldtrip**.

Part of your class participation grade includes presenting Trump's First Year **news items** to the class. See the sign up sheet on Moodle for your appointed day.

2) Writing projects (50%)

Oped Letter (15%)

*Intended to develop your persuasive writing skills for the general public, your assignment is to write a polished, persuasive opinion editorial about a **policy that you would like to propose, see implemented, strengthened or defended** at the regional, national or international level. A subset of the class opeds will be published by our media partner, MN Environmental Partnership, this Spring. The pieces will be peer reviewed in class. Your final grade includes timely submission of a draft and constructive participation in your peer group.*

Public Comment on Polymet Controversy (15%)

Intended to develop your argumentative writing skills for an expert audience, your assignment is to write and submit a public comment to the MN DNR.

Small Group Policy Memo (20%)

Intended to develop your collaborative research and writing skills, you will be assigned to a small working group to examine a case study of EPA's international initiatives and write a transition memo. You will review official documents and media accounts. Your evaluation includes a class presentation and a written memo based on a template.

3) Mid-term and Final In-class Exams (15% each – 30% total) The exams will test your understanding of key terms, institutions, historical events and the assigned readings.

If you submit late assignments, you WILL be graded down one full step for each day past the deadline.

Final Grade Scale: A (95-100); A- (90-94); B+ (87-90); B (83-87); B- (80-83)
Similar ranges for C grades (70-79) and D grades (60-69); Below 60 is a failing grade.

Academic Integrity: It is assumed that all members of the class will act with academic integrity and will not engage in behavior such as plagiarism, academic dishonesty, misrepresentation, or cheating. Please refer to the college's policy on academic honesty.

Important Course Dates and Deadlines

Oped Essay:

Jan 30: Bring to class title/image/paragraph summary
Feb 6: Draft due in class to Roopali and peer group
Feb 8: Oped peer review in class
Feb 15: Final Oped due in class

Polymet Public Comment:

Feb 8: Optional fieldtrip/live stream of Polymet hearing
March 6: Public comment submitted to PUC and on Moodle

Midterm: March 22 in class

Group Policy memo:

April 10: Progress report on Moodle
April 17: Class presentations and memo due

Final Exam: April 26 in class

Laptops, Cell Phones, & Other Electronic Devices: Please turn off all electronic devices before class begins.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please meet with Allison Quinn, Director of Disability Services. You can reach her at aquinn2@macalester.edu. Additional information regarding the accommodations process for students with disabilities can be found at: <http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/>

RECOMMENDED ENVIRO News sites:

<http://www.grist.com/>
<http://www.eenews.net/eed/>
<http://planetark.org/enviro-news/>
<http://www.ens-newswire.com/>
<http://www.carbonpositive.net/>

Required Books (at campus store)

- J. S. Dryzek. 2005. *The Politics of the Earth*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (2nd edition or newer)
- J.A. Layzer. 2012. *The Environmental Case*. Washington DC: CQ Press.

The rest of the readings will be on Moodle.

Summary of Topics and Readings (subject to change)

Thursday January 18: Introductory Class – Studying environmental politics and policy

- K. Conca. 2001. "Green Politics in the Bush Era" *Dissent*. Pp 29-33.

Part I: Environmental Discourses

Tuesday January 23: Global Limits and Prometheans

Read in this order:

- Dryzek - Chapter 1: Making Sense of Earth Politics. (*Scan for method*)
- Dryzek - Chapter 2: Global Limits and Their Denial.
- Steffen et al. 2015. "Planetary Boundaries," *Science*. Pp. 1-8.
- Dryzek - Chapter 3: Growth Forever. Pp. 45-60.
- B. Lomborg. 2001. "Things are Getting Better - The Litany," *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. Cambridge Univ Press. Pp. 3-33.

Thursday January 25: Administrative Rationalism and Democratic Pragmatism

- Dryzek - Chapter 4: Leave it to the Experts.
- Dryzek - Chapter 5: Leave it to the People.

+Introduction to the oped assignment in class

Tuesday January 30: Ecological Modernization

- Dryzek - Chapter 8: Industrial Society and Beyond.
- "An Ecomodernist Manifesto" April 2015.

Thursday February 1: Environmental Journalism and the Oped assignment with MN Environmental Partnership staff

- Stephens "Tips for Oped Writing" NY Times. August 2017.
- Past student published op-ed pieces (on Moodle)

+Bring to class a title, image and paragraph summary of an oped idea

Tuesday February 6: Deep Ecology – Green Radicalism and Green Parties – led by Becca Krasky

- Dryzek - Chapter 9: Green Consciousness.
- Dryzek - Chapter 10: Green Politics.
- Naess, A. and G. Sessions. "Deep Ecology Platform"
<http://www.deepecology/platform.htm>
In class screening of scenes from *DamNation*

+ Opeds due in class to Roopali and your peer group

Part II: Rise of US Environmental Policy

Thursday February 8: Environmental Policy and the Rise of the Conservative Agenda

- M. Kraft and N. Vig. 2009. "Environmental Policy over four decades," in *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21st Century*. Pp. 1-26.
- + Oped Peer Review in class -- Bring marked up copies and evaluation forms

Tuesday February 13: National Environmental Policy Act with guest Katie Pratt, EQB

- Read the original - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (4 pages)
- J. Hendry. 2004. "Decide, Announce and Defend" in *Communication and Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making*. Albany: SUNY. Pp. 99-112.
- Read file on the Mn Env Quality Board

Thursday Feb 15: Wilderness Act and Endangered Species Acts

- R. K. Wilson. 2014. "Chpt 8: National Wilderness Preservation System," in *America's Public Lands*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. Pp. 219-254.
 - J. A. Layzer. 2006. "Jobs vs. Environment" Pp. 191-222. (You should own this book)
- + Final Opeds Due in Class

Tuesday February 20: Clean Air and Clean Water Acts with guest Bill Droessler, Env Initiative

- J. A. Layzer. 2012. "Chapter 2: The Nation Tackles Pollution," *The Environmental Case*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 29-53.

Thursday Feb 22: Energy, Mining and Public Lands with guest Aaron Klemz, MCEA

- Weber et al. 2016, "Energy Policy" in N. Vig and M. Kraft (eds), *Environmental Policy* (9th edition). Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 172-190.
- Phadke. 2018. "Green energy futures: Responsible mining on Minnesota's Iron Range," *Energy Research and Social Science*.

Tuesday February 27: No Class – Roopali at a conference

Thursday March 1: Superfund and Brownfields

J. A. Layzer. 2012. "Chapter 3: Love Canal and the Politics of Fear," *The Environmental Case*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 56-82.

+ Public Comment Due to DNR and on Moodle

Tuesday March 6: Toxic Bus Tour of Eastside with Melanie Kleiss, Lower Phalen Creek

Thursday March 8: Agricultural Policy: The Farm Bill and Food Safety Act

- Food and Water Watch. 2012. "Farm Bill 101 Report". Pp. 1-17.

SPRING BREAK

Tuesday March 20: Exam review

Thursday March 22: In class Midterm EXAM

III. International Environmental Perspectives

Tuesday March 27: Global Environmental Politics and International Treaties (multilateralism, regionalism and bilateralism) with guest Brianna Besch

- G. Speth. 2004. "Chapter 4: First Attempt at Global Environmental Governance," *Red Sky at Morning*. New Haven: Yale Univ Press. Pp. 77-97.
- P. Chasek et al. "Chapter 2: Actors in the Environmental Arena," *Global Environmental Politics*. Boulder: Westview Press. Pp. 49-99.

+Introduce group assignment

Thurs March 29: Successes: Montreal Protocol (In class screening of film *Shattered Sky*)

- K. Litfin. 1994. "Chapter 3: Historical and Scientific Background," *Ozone Discourses*. NY, NY: Columbia Univ Press. Pp. 52-77.

Tuesday April 3: Successes: Biodiversity Conventions: CITES and Cartagena - Led by Becca

- J. Hutton and B. Dickson (eds). 2000. "Chapter 1: The Vision" and "Chapter 12: Developing CITES," *Endangered Species—Threatened Convention. The Past, Present and Future of CITES*. London: Earthscan. Pp. 3-12; 134-151.
- 2003. *An Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol. Montreal: Secretariat of the Conventional of Biodiversity*. Pp 1-20.

+ Assign group cases

Thursday April 5: In class group work time on EPA Project

Tuesday April 10: Failures: The Basel Convention and High-Tech Wastes (In screening of film *Complicit*)

- E. Grossman. 2006. "Not in our Backyards" *High Tech Trash*. Pp. 182-210.
- 2016 BAN Report -- <http://wiki.ban.org/images/1/12/ScamRecyclingReport-web.pdf>

+ In class work time on group memos -- Group progress report due on Moodle

Thursday April 12: New Approaches: Turtles, Mercury and the Minimata Treaty

- J. A. Layzer. 2012. "Chapter 12: Dolphins, Sea Turtles" Pp. 348-378.
- H. Selin. 2014. "Global Environmental Law and Treaty-Making" *Global Environmental Politics* 14 (1): 1-19.

+ In class work time on group memos

Tuesday April 17: Class presentations and Policy Memos Due

Thursday April 19: The Paris Agreement and COP23

- A. Savaresi. "The Paris Agreement: a new beginning?," *Journal Of Energy & Natural Resources Law* 2016

Tuesday April 24: Review session

Thursday April 26: In class -- Final EXAM

