

ENVI215
Spring 2020
T/R 9:40-11:10
OLRI 301

Environmental Politics & Policy

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Office hours: Mon 1:30-3

The American environmental movement has transformed the nature of politics and the politics of nature over the last five decades. This has impacted the world. Because of seminal laws, like the Clean Air and Clean Water acts, the U.S. 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. As an introduction to the field of Environmental Politics & Policy, we will chart the evolution of the environmental movement in the U.S. and how the U.S. has engaged in international commitments.

Learning Goals

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

Student Grading

Attendance/
Participation (20%)

Come to every class! If you are ill or have an extenuating issue, contact me before class. More than one unexcused absence may result in a reduction in participation your grade. Check with your peers for missed material. Your participation grade will be based on familiarity with the assigned reading and respectful and productive engagement in class.

Writing Projects (50%)

Oped Letter (20%)

Your assignment is to write *for the general public* 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. The best pieces will be published by our partner, Ensia. Drafts will be peer reviewed.

Public Comment (10%)

Intended for an expert audience, your assignment is to write and submit a public comment to the Public Utilities Commission on the Plum Creek Wind Project.

U.S. EPA Policy Memo (20%)

Intended to develop your collaborative research skills, small working groups will write a policy memo about the upcoming G-7 meeting. Your evaluation includes a class presentation and a written memo based on a template.

Midterm/Final (30%)

These exams will assess your understanding of terms, institutions and events.

My Availability: I can usually meet before and after class. If you need more time, please make an appointment on Monday or contact me for another time. It may take me 24 hours to respond to email.

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.

Electronic Devices: Silence and stow away phones and laptops before class.

Abilities & Accommodations:

I am committed to helping 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. More information regarding accommodations for students with disabilities can be found at: <http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/>.

Your Health and Wellness:

You are encouraged to make your well-being a priority throughout this semester. It is important to acknowledge any stressors you may be facing, which can be mental, emotional, physical, financial, etc., and how they can have an academic impact. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, please don't hesitate to contact me. We can find support resources at <https://www.macalester.edu/healthandwellness/>.

Important Course Dates and Deadlines

Oped Essay:

Feb 11: Bring to class title/image/summary

Feb 18: Oped peer review in class

Feb 25: Final Oped due in class

Public Comment: March 10

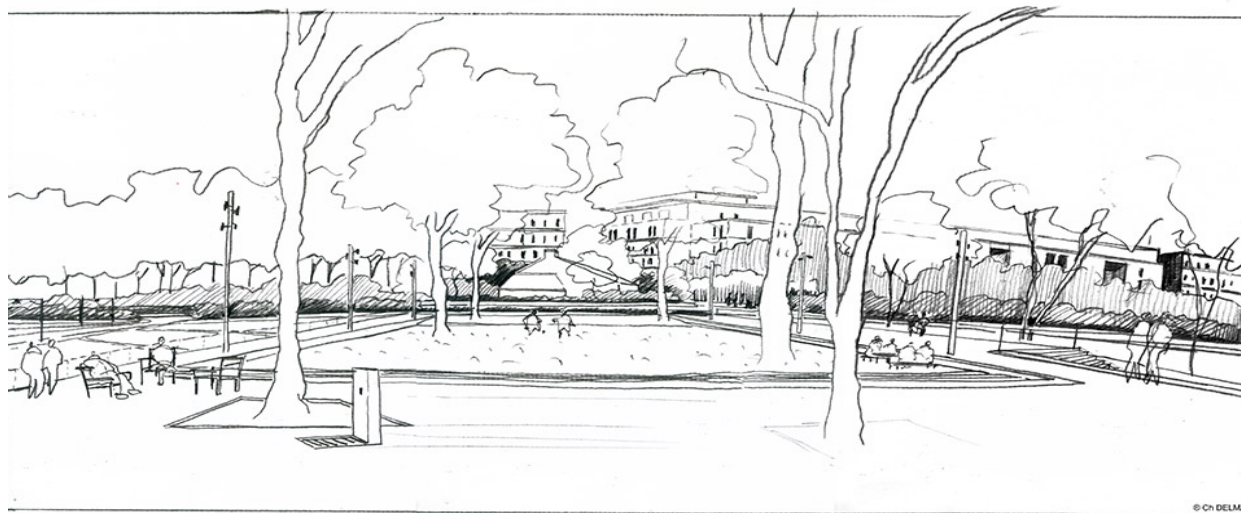
Midterm: March 31

Group Policy memo:

April 16: Progress report on Moodle

April 28: Class presentations and memo due

Final Exam: May 7



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.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

TH Jan 23	Introductory Class: How Different is the Trump Administration on Environmental Policy, Really?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Conca. 2001. "Green Politics in the Bush Era" <i>Dissent</i>. Pp 29-33. • Popovich et al. 2019. "83 Environmental Rules Rolled Back Under Trump." <i>New York Times</i>
	PART I: ENVIRO DISCOURSES	
TU Jan 28	Global Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dryzek - Chapter 1: Making Sense of Earth Politics. (Scan for method) • Dryzek - Chapter 2: Global Limits and Their Denial. • Hardin, G. 1969. "The Tragedy of the Commons." <i>Science</i>. 162 (3859): 1243- 1248. • Rockstrom et al. 2009. "A Safe Operating Space for Humanity." <i>Nature</i>. 461 (7263): (pp. 472-475)
TH Jan 30	Prometheans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dryzek - Chapter 3: Growth Forever. • B. Lomborg. 2019. "What Science Could Teach Alexandria Ocasio Cortes About Climate Change." <i>New York Post</i> (Jan. 27). • If interested: B. Lomborg. 2001. <i>The Skeptical Environmentalist</i>. London: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 1 on Moodle.
TU Feb 4	Administrative Rationalism and Democratic Pragmatism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dryzek - Chapter 4: Leave it to the Experts. • Dryzek - Chapter 5: Leave it to the People. (You should have this book - not on Moodle) <p>+ Introduce Op-ed assignment</p>
TH Feb 6	No Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roopali at Big Questions event in Denver
TU Feb 11	Opeds with Ensia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Stephens "Tips for Oped Writing" <i>NY Times</i>. August 2017. • Past student published op-ed pieces <p>+ Bring to class a title, image and paragraph summary for your oped. We will workshop.</p>
TH Feb 13	Ecological Modernization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dryzek - Chapter 8: Industrial Society and Beyond. • Ecomodernist Manifesto
TU Feb 18	Deep Ecology & Green Radicalism + Oped Peer Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dryzek - Chapter 9: Green Consciousness. • Dryzek - Chapter 10: Green Politics. • A. Naess and G. Sessions. "Deep Ecology Platform" <p>+ Bring copies of your marked up drafts to class</p>
TH Feb 20	In-Class Symposium on Climate Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. A. Legget. 2018. "Evolving Assessments of Human & Natural Contributions to Climate Change." Washington DC: Congressional Research Service, pp. 1-22. • E. Klinenberg. 2012. "Adaptation." <i>New Yorker</i>. <p>+ Bring your position paper to class</p>

	PART II: US ENVIRO POLICY	
TU Feb 25	Environmental Policy and the Conservative Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Kraft and N. Vig. 2009. "Environmental Policy over Four Decades". Pp. 1-26. + Final Opeds due
TH Feb 27	Clean Air and Clean Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layzer, J. 2016. "The Nation Tackles Pollution," The Environmental Case. Washington, DC: CQ Press, pp. 31-58 (You should own this book) + Introduce public comment assignment
TU Mar 3	Wilderness and Endangered Species Acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilson, R.K. 2014. "Chpt 8: National Wilderness Preservation System,". Pp. 219-254. Layzer, J.A. 2016. "Jobs vs. Environment." The Environmental Case. Pp. 239-275. (You own this book) Friedman, L. 2019. "The U.S. Significantly Weakens Endangered Species Act." NYT.
TH Mar 5	NEPA/MEPA with guest Katie Pratt, EQB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. EQB materials on Moodle
TU Mar 10	Energy and Public Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weber et al. 2016. "Energy Policy" in N. Vig and M. Kraft. Environmental Policy. Pp. 172-190. + Public Comment due for Plum Creek Wind
TH March 12	Superfund and Brownfields Toxic Tour (9:30am-12pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layzer, J.A. 2016. "Love Canal and the Politics of Fear," The Environmental Case. Washington, DC: CQ Press, pp. 63-90. (You should own this book).
	SPRING BREAK	
TU Mar 24	Superfund cont. & Agricultural Policy	The Farm Bill and Food Safety Act with Anya Reading TBA
TH Mar 26	Midterm Review	
TU Mar 31		Midterm
	PART III Int'l Enviro Treaties	
TH April 2	Global Environmental Politics with invited guest Brianna Besch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. Speth. 2004. "Chapter 4: First Attempt at Global Environmental Governance," Red Sky at Morning. New Haven: Yale University Press. Pp. 77-97. P. Chasek et al. "Chapter 2: Actors in the Environmental Arena," Global Environmental Politics. Boulder: Westview Press. Pp. 49-99.
TU April 7	Successes: Montreal Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K. Litfin. 1994. "Chapter 3: Historical and Scientific Background," Ozone Discourses. NY, NY: Columbia Univ Press. Pp. 52-77. J. Gillis. 2013. "The Montreal Protocol, a Little Treaty that Could." The New York Times (Dec. 9). The New York Times Editorial Board. 2019. The World Solved the Ozone Problem. It Can Solve Climate Change." The New York Times (Dec. 7). In class screening of film Shattered Sky + Assign group cases

TH April 9	Successes: Biodiversity Conventions: CITES and Cartagena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Hutton and B. Dickson (eds). 2000. "Chapter 1: The Vision" and "Chapter 12: Developing CITES," <i>Endangered Species—Threatened Convention. The Past, Present and Future of CITES</i>. London: Earthscan. Pp. 3-12; 134-151. • 2003. <i>An Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol</i>. Montreal: Secretariat of the Conventional of Biodiversity. Pp 1-20. • In class: Watch short film "Threats and Promises in Brazil's Lawless Amazon." <i>The New York Times</i>. October 6, 2019 (10 min.)
TU April 14	Failures: The Basel Convention and High-Tech Wastes with guest Amanda Lagrange, CEO TechDump	Led by Anya and TBA
TH April 16	New Approaches: Turtles, Mercury and the Minimata Treaty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. A. Layzer. 2012. "Chapter 12: Dolphins, Sea Turtles" Pp. 348-378. • H. Selin. 2014. "Global Environmental Law and Treaty-Making" <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> 14 (1): 1-19. <p>+ In class work time on group memos and group progress report due</p>
TU April 21	The Paris Agreement and COP24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savaresi. "The Paris Agreement: a new beginning?," <i>Journal Of Energy & Natural Resources Law</i> 2016 • K. Johnson. 2019. "Is the United States Really Leaving the Paris Climate Agreement?" <i>Foreign Policy</i> (11.5). • C. Fang's short blog posts, "The Case for Advocacy: Individual vs Collective Action in the Environmental Movement." and "The Case for Optimism"
TH Apr 23	EPA Project time	Group check-ins and work time
TU Apr 28	EPA Project time	Class presentations and Policy Memos Due
TH Apr 30	Final Exam Review	+Receive final exam essay questions
TH May 7 8-10am		FINAL EXAM