

Spring 2022
1:20-2:50pm
THEATRE
204

ENVI215: Environmental Politics & Policy

Dr. Roopali Phadke

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Preceptor: Aaron Banks

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See Moodle for office
hours

The American environmental movement has transformed the nature of politics and the politics of nature over the last six decades. 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.

Pandemic Statement on Learning Goals

These last two years have taught us that there is no predictability in a pandemic. We will need to be flexible with each other and check in often. I will prioritize community building this semester and focus us on the big picture topics and skills I think you need to contribute to policy making.

Student Assessment

Attendance
and Participation
(30%)

Attending class and engaging in small and full group discussions. Participation includes hosting an enviro news briefing once during the semester.

Writing assignments
(50 %)

Oped Essay (20%)

*Intended to develop your public advocacy skills, 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. Drafts will be peer reviewed.*

Public Comment (10%)

Intended for an expert audience, your assignment is to write a public comment on the topic of nuclear waste storage. We will have a comments writing workshop.

Bezos Climate & Covid Project (20%)

Intended to develop your collaborative research, writing and presentation skills, work in small groups to develop a policy proposal aimed at climate change.

Midterm/Final
(each 10%)

Take home exams will help us refine your understanding of terms, institutions and events.

My Availability: I can usually meet before and after class. I will hold office hours most Monday and Thursday mornings. See Moodle for sign up link. 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.

Abilities & Accommodations:

I am committed to helping you be successful in this course. Contact Melissa Fletcher at the Disability Services office by emailing disabilityservices@macalester.edu to discuss your individual needs.

Your Health and Wellness:

You are encouraged to make your well-being a priority throughout this semester. If you are sick, please rest and check in with me about how to make up the work you miss. If you are feeling well but in isolation/quarantine when we are scheduled to meet in person, we will have an iPad in class that we can move around and add to small group discussions. If you are not feeling well, I do not want to set up the expectation that you need to attend class via zoom when you are not feeling up to it.

It is important to acknowledge any chronic 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 and I can assist you in seeking support resources at <https://www.macalester.edu/healthandwellness/>

Classroom Community & Connectedness Project:

A sense of community and connectedness can provide a powerful context for effective learning. Our class is participating in the Classroom Community & Connectedness Project in Spring 2022. The project is led by Professor Devavani Chatterjea and offered through the Jan Serie Center for Scholarship and Teaching at Macalester. As part of the project, you will each be asked to fill out 2 voluntary surveys through the course of the semester and to participate in one facilitated class activity (peers only; no instructor present) to collectively reflect on strengthening our classroom community. **NOTE:** Surveys are *anonymous* and responses will **NOT** be shared with me (your instructor) or anyone else on an individual course level; **DE-IDENTIFIED** data gathered from students across ~20 participating courses will be analyzed in aggregate and shared with participating faculty, the Macalester community, and in other appropriate higher-education venues.

Important Course Dates and Deadlines (subject to change)

Oped Essay:

Feb 3: Pitch session
Feb 14: Essay due 9am on Moodle & peer group
Feb 15: Peer review in class
Feb 22: Final Oped due

Public Comment:

March 1: Assignment introduced
March 3: Comments workshop in class
March 11: Final due on Moodle

Midterm:

Opens Fri March 25 and due Monday March 28

Climate & Covid Project:

March 29: Assignment and groups introduced
April 5 and 7: In class group worktime
April 21: Share drafts with Roopali by group
April 26: Class presentations and final memo due

Final Exam:

Opens Fri April 29 due May 5 at 5pm