Cleveland State University
Levin College of Urban Affairs
Fall, 2007
Environmental Policy and Administration (ENV / UST / PDD 652 / 752)
UR 106 – Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:50 p.m.

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Office hours: Tuesday 5-5:45 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the forces that have shaped environmental policy and administration in the United States from the 1970s to the present. These forces include Congress, the Courts, the President, citizens, the States and the private and nonprofit sectors. As environmental problems become more complex, our ability to be proactive is essential to reducing the impact of human activity on living systems. Because environmental policy and administration is not limited to what occurs within a nation’s borders, we also examine the recent U.S. responses to global environmental controversies and explore opportunities for international collaboration. In order to develop your skills in analyzing, developing and implementing policies to solve environmental problems, we will practice these techniques in class and you will develop and carry out your own policy analysis project.

Course Objectives

The course has two objectives. The first is to provide you with a working knowledge of the history of environmental policy and administration in the United States so that you can develop further strategies to address the challenges of the future. The second is to train you to evaluate, develop and implement public policy.


Additional readings: Available on Electronic Course Reserve (ECR)

ADA If you believe that you require accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact the Office of Disability Services (UC 434) at 687-2015.
Grading

Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

Class preparation and participation – 15%

Attendance and dialogue are important components of this course. You are expected to attend class prepared to thoughtfully discuss the assigned readings. If you are unable to attend class, please contact me before the class. You are responsible for obtaining notes and information from your colleagues.

Outline of research paper – 5%

To make writing your final paper easier, you will prepare a 3-5 page narrative outline (complete sentences not bullet points) describing the research question (what you want to find out). We will spend class time searching the academic literature for information about your topic.

Research paper – 20%

The paper should be written using APA style. I will explain this simple author / date style of citing published works in class. The paper should be 10-15 pages long, double-spaced with a one-inch margin around the text.

Presentation of research – 5%

Near the end of the semester everyone will have the opportunity to present their research to the class. This presentation is limited to 10 minutes with 5 additional minutes for questions from the class.

Weekly homework and article presentation – 35%

Instead of a midterm exam, you will have homework due each week. I will provide you with review questions for each of the 14 assignments and they will each be worth 2 points. Each student will also choose a journal article or book chapter (all available through electronic course reserve or from me) to present in class. The article presentation is worth 7 points for a total of 35 points in this category.

Final Exam – 20%

The final will be a take home exam worth 20 points.

You will see from the above that you have many opportunities to earn 100 points. Using the table below as a guide, you will always know how you are doing in the course.

A  95-100  B-  75-79
A-  90-94  C  70-74
Course Outline – Class Topics and Assignments

(This is a general schedule and may be modified during the semester.)

Tuesday, 8/28  Introduction to Course
  Personal Introductions
  Policy analysis topic brainstorming
  Choose article and paper presentation dates

Tuesday, 9/4  Vig & Kraft Chap. 1 (Kraft and Vig) Environmental Policy from the 1970s to the Twenty-First Century, p. 1-33.

Tuesday, 9/11  Vig & Kraft Chap. 2 (Rabe) Power to the States: The Promise and Pitfalls of Decentralization, p. 34-56.

Tuesday, 9/18  Vig & Kraft Chap. 3 (Paehlke) Environmental Sustainability and Urban Life in America, p. 57-77.
  Bardach, Part II, Steps 61-88.

Tuesday, 9/25  Paper Proposal Due

Vig & Kraft Chap. 4 (Bosso and Guber) Maintaining Presence: Environmental Advocacy and the Permanent Campaign, 78-99.

Tuesday, 10/2
Vig & Kraft Chap. 5 (Vig) Presidential Leadership and the Environment, p. 100-123.

Tuesday, 10/9
Vig & Kraft Chap. 6 (Kraft) Environmental Policy in Congress, p. 124-147.
Vig & Kraft Chap. 7 (O’Leary) Environmental Policy in the Courts, p. 148-168.

Tuesday, 10/16
Vig & Kraft Chap. 8 (Rosenbaum) Improving Environmental Regulation at the EPA: The Challenge in Balancing Politics, Policy, and Science, p. 169-192.

Tuesday, 10/23
Vig & Kraft Chap. 9 (Freeman) Economics, Incentives, and Environmental Policy, p. 193-214.

Tuesday, 10/30

Video – William McDonough: “Cradle to Cradle”

Video - Business as an Agent of World Benefit: David Cooperrider, CWRU

Tuesday, 11/6


Tuesday, 11/13

**Research Papers Due**


Tuesday, 11/20

**Paper Presentations**

Vig & Kraft Chap. 11 (Ringquist) Environmental Justice: Normative Concerns, Empirical Evidence, and Government Action, p. 239-263.


Tuesday, 11/27

**Paper Presentations**


Vig & Kraft Chap. 16 (Vogel) International Trade and Environmental Regulation, p. 354-373.

Tuesday, 12/4

**Paper Presentations**

**Final Distributed**

Vig & Kraft Chap. 17 (Vig and Kraft) Toward Sustainable Development?, p. 374-394.
Tuesday, 12/11

Final Due

Guidelines for Research Proposal and Final Paper

Format: The proposal and paper should be written in American Psychological Association (APA) style. This is a very simple author/date style that I will explain in class. Please double space your paper, use a simple typeface (e.g., Times New Roman), 12-point type, and put a one-inch margin around the text. Make sure to number the pages and use paragraphs rather than spaces to separate groups of sentences. You do not need to prepare an abstract or use a running header on each page.

For the proposal:

State the problem: What environmental policy do you want to study? Why are you interested in this environmental problem?

Audience: Who are you writing this paper for? Your tone will vary depending on who you are speaking to. Your audience may be the members of the class or you may want to share your work with your agency or supervisor.

What do you think the solutions are? Be very specific in stating what you think the solutions may be. Explain why you hold that opinion. You may use either textbook as a resource for this.

Possible field research (optional): Are there some people you would like to talk with about the current policy? Who are they? When do you plan to talk with them? If you decide to interview people I will help you present your proposal to the CSU Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to conducting your field research.

For the final paper:

Add the literature review, any field research that you have done and your conclusions.

Literature review: Your paper must have at least 10 references from academic journals. The CSU librarians are very helpful and a wonderful resource.

Conclusion (for final paper only): Discuss whether the literature supported the solutions that you proposed initially. Did you have any surprises when you were studying the policy? Has the paper made you want to learn more about this area? What other insights did you have?