Course Description

This course is an introduction to the forces that are shaping environmental policy and administration as we enter the new century. We will review major federal environmental legislation and recent policy trends including delegation to state and local governments and practical policy analysis techniques. The course includes field trips and guest speakers to connect what we are learning in class with our local community.


Recommended Reference:

Web site: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html (This is a simple guide to the American Psychological Association (APA) style that you will use to write your research paper.)

ADA If you believe that you require accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact the Office of Disability Services (MC 147) at 687-2015.

Grading

Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

Class preparation and participation – 20%

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 – 10%

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 – 10%

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.

Examinations – 40%

There will be two ‘short essay’ type take home exams, the midterm and the final. Each will be 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.

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Students are expected to follow the highest standards of academic and professional honesty. Plagiarism will result in an automatic grade of F. Please consult the CSU Policy on Academic Misconduct in the Student Handbook which is available through the University website.

Course Outline – Class Topics and Assignments

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

Tuesday, 8/25

Introduction to Course
Personal Introductions
Research Project Brainstorming
Tuesday, 9/1  Chap. 1 – Environmental Policy over Four Decades: Achievements and New Directions

Tuesday, 9/8  Chap. 2 – Racing to the Top, the Bottom, or the Middle of the Pack? The Evolving State Government Role in Environmental Protection

Tuesday, 9/15  Chap. 3 – Past the Tipping Point? Public Discourse and the Role of the Environmental Movement in a Post-Bush Era

Tuesday, 9/22  **Paper Proposals Due**

Chap. 4 – Presidential Powers and Environmental Policy

Tuesday, 9/29  Chap. 5 – Environmental Policy in Congress

Tuesday, 10/6  **Midterm Distributed**

Chap. 6 – Environmental Policy in the Courts

Chap. 7 – Science, Politics, and Policy at the EPA

Tuesday, 10/13  **Midterm Due at 6 pm**

Chap. 8 – Conflict and Cooperation in Natural Resource Management

Tuesday, 10/20  Chap. 9 – Applying Market Principles to Environmental Policy

Chap. 10 – Toward Sustainable Production: Finding Workable Strategies for Government and Industry

Tuesday, 10/27  Chap. 11 – Sustainable Development and Urban Life in North America

Tuesday, 11/3  Chap. 12 – Global Climate Change: Kyoto and Beyond

Tuesday, 11/10  **Research Papers Due at 6 pm**

Chap. 13 – Environment, Population and the Developing World

Tuesday, 11/17  **Paper Presentations**

Chap. 14 – China: The Great Leap Backward?

Tuesday, 11/24  **Paper Presentations**
Chap. 15- Environmental Security

Tuesday, 12/1

Paper Presentations

Final Distributed

Chap. 16 – Conclusion: Toward Sustainable Development?

Tuesday, 12/8

Final Due at 6 pm (Electronically) – No Class

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 we will discuss 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 issue or career do you want to study? Why are you interested in this particular area?

What do you know about this topic right now?

At this point, what do you think the solution is or what do you think you need to do to pursue the career you are interested in?

Possible field research (optional): Are there some people you would like to talk with about your topic or your career? Who are they? When do you plan to talk with them?

For the paper: Add the literature review, any field research that you have done and the conclusion to your proposal.

Literature review: Your paper must have at least 10 references from books or academic journals. We will do some library research in class. The CSU librarians are also 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 your topic? Has the paper made you want to learn more about this area or career? What other insights did you have?