

# FOR 465: NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY

## SYLLABUS – FALL 2011

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Robert W. Malmshaimer

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Office Hours: To Be Announced

**CLASS TIME AND LOCATION:** 8:00 to 9:20 Tuesdays and Thursdays in 145 Baker Hall.

**OFFICE HOURS:** 12:30 to 2:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment.

**INTRODUCTION:** Understanding natural resources policy is a critical part of becoming a natural resource or environmental professional. Natural resource and environmental professionals are employed by: 1) government agencies managing resources, 2) non-profit organizations specializing in resources management, and 3) private resources management firms or consultants that are regulated by the government. Whether your specialty is water resources, natural resources management, forestry, recreation, environmental science, or wildlife ecology, governments make decisions that affect what you do and how you do it. This course will give you the tools to understand how and why government policies affect natural resources.

This is many students' first policy and/or government course since high school. Other students take this course after successfully completing a college environmental policy course. Because of the differences in student experience, the course is designed to review the basics as well as focus on more advanced topics.

Much of our focus in this class will be on developing your critical thinking skills. The name and date details are less important than learning the government policies that effect natural resources management on public and private lands, and what factors affect those polices and their success.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon completion, students will be able to:

1. Describe the roles of government institutions and participants in natural resources policy;
2. Describe the drivers of natural resources policy and explain how these drivers can affect (often in unintended ways) natural resources policies;
3. Describe the tools (and their limitations) available to policymakers to effectuate natural resources policy;
4. Describe and explain historical and current United States natural resources policy governing public and private lands, including wildlife, water, wetlands, marine, agriculture, and forests policy;
5. Demonstrate their mastery of the subject through writing.

**PREREQUISITES:** This course has no prerequisites. If students have questions about their ability to successfully complete the course, they should see Dr. Malmshaimer.

**READINGS AND INTERNET RESOURCES:** This course uses a course reader that contains various readings. Students can purchase (approximately \$20.00) the reader from the ESF Copy Center in the Bray Hall's basement.

**E-MAIL REQUIREMENT:** All students are required to have an **.syr.edu** e-mail account and to check that e-mail account *regularly* for class announcements.

**GRADES:** I will calculate grades on the following basis:

1. **Three (3) one hour and twenty minute examinations.** The first examination is worth fifty (50) points, the second and the third examinations are worth one hundred (100) points. There is no final examination during Examination Week; the last examination is non-cumulative.
2. **Daily quizzes** (100 points);
3. **One policy memoranda** (50 points); and
4. **Attendance** (25 points).

Students receive a letter grade based on their percentage of 425 possible points:

A = 93% or greater	B+ = 89.9% – 87.0%	C+ = 79.9% – 77.0%	D = 69.9% – 65.0%
A- = 92.9% – 90.0%	B = 86.9% – 83.0%	C = 76.9% – 73.0%	F = 64.9% or less
	B- = 82.9% – 80.0%	C- = 72.9% – 70.0%	

I will not adjust grades; students will receive the grade they earn based on the course requirements set out above. I also will not provide students with “additional” assignments (so that they can raise their grades), except as noted.

**The Examinations:** There are three (3) examinations during the course of the semester. There is no final examination during Exam Week. Students with unexcused absences from examinations (see below) will **not** be allowed to make-up an examination.

**The Policy Memorandum:** You must complete a policy analysis memorandum in which you will apply the analytical techniques you have learned in class to a policy issue. We will hand out information on the policy memorandum during the class.

**Daily Quizzes:** This course relies on class discussions to advance your knowledge. The discussions are an important part of what we will learn in the course. The readings form a basis for the discussion and provide a common frame of understanding among the students. It is essential that you complete the readings **before** you come to class and that you attend class. I use the quizzes as an incentive for **on time** attendance and completing the readings. Since class starts at 8:00, quizzes, when they occur, will usually be over by 8:03. Missed quizzes *cannot* be made up.

Students will take approximately twenty (20) quizzes during the semester. Students’ final course “Quiz Grade” will consist of only of the quizzes containing their 75% highest grades – the remaining (lower graded) quizzes will not be used to calculate students’ final course “Quiz Grade.”

**Attendance:** Students who miss class because of illness, conference attendance, or family death are excused from class and **must** email Ms. Ekblad the reason for their excused absence within two (2) days of missing class. Attendance will be evaluated as follows:

- Students who miss zero (0) or one (1) classes will receive twenty-five (25) attendance points;
- Students who miss two (2) classes will receive twenty (20) attendance points;
- Students who miss three (3) classes will receive fifteen (15) attendance points;
- Students who miss four (4) classes will receive ten (10) attendance points;
- Students who miss five (5) classes receive five (5) attendance points;
- Students who miss six (6) to nine (9) classes will receive zero (0) attendance points; and
- Students who miss ten (10) or more classes will receive no (0) attendance points **AND** lose twenty-five (25) points from their total course grade.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** I assume that as juniors and seniors, class members understand what plagiarism is and that it will not be an issue. Plagiarism will **not** be tolerated. All papers **must** contain original thoughts **or** contain complete **and** correct citations to other’s work. Note: If you quote someone’s work, you **must** provide the page number for the quotation.

Unless specifically authorized in the syllabus or by Dr. Malmshiemer, students **must** complete graded assignments without any assistance from classmates or others. In other words, students are **strictly prohibited** from substantively discussing graded assignments with classmates. Students **may** discuss the assignment's procedural aspects (e.g., due dates, assignment requirements, etc.) with classmates. Any students found to be interacting with classmates on assignments or plagiarizing will **automatically receive an "F"** for the final course grade and be reported to ESF student affairs. If you have questions please ask, but be aware that the student code of conduct will be ***strictly*** enforced.

**CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** To maintain the best possible environment for learning, all students must:

- Be on time for class and not leave early,
- Not have conversations among themselves during class that distract other students or the instructor,
- Not read the newspaper or other non-classroom materials during class,
- Turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering the class, and
- Not taunt or belittle other students or use vulgarity or profanity in class.

Students who violate these standards will be given one warning. Another violation of these rules will result in the student being dropped from the class *and* being reported to the ESF Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

**CLASS TAPE RECORDING POLICY:** Students are prohibited from recording classes.

**INTERNET USE IN THE CLASSROOM POLICY:** Students using personal computers during class are prohibited from accessing the internet during class.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you have an identified disability and will need accommodations, you should first contact the ESF Office of Student Life in 110 Bray Hall or the appropriate administrator in your home college. They will discuss their disability policy with you and work with you to access supportive services. If you have a learning disability, they will require you to provide supportive documentation and will develop an approved accommodation sheet for you. I can not provide accommodations until you provide me with the accommodation sheet *and* we meet to discuss its applicability to this course. I will not provide accommodations retroactively. If you have any questions about disabilities, please contact me and/or your appropriate administrator as soon as possible. All conversations will be confidential.