DESCRIPTION

Overview
This graduate-level course examines environmental politics and policymaking at various geopolitical scales. It considers the roles of governmental, private sector, non-governmental, community, consumer, and other actors in environmental governance. The course begins with a survey of the interrelated fields of environmental philosophy, politics and policy, respectively; and continues with case studies of environmental policymaking in domestic (community-based and multi-level), international, and global arenas, respectively. Each week, students write short, critical commentaries on required readings; these essays will serve as the starting point for class discussion. In addition, students engage in a semester-long research project, applying course concepts to a related topic of their choosing. At the end of the semester, students give an oral presentation and submit a medium-length paper communicating their research findings and analysis.

Objectives
By the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Distinguish the importance of geopolitical, economic, cultural, and ecological factors on various geopolitical levels of environmental policymaking and governance;
- Demonstrate familiarity with the philosophies, roles, and contributions of political parties, governmental, private sector, non-governmental, community, consumer, and other actors in environmental policymaking and governance;
- Distinguish between regulatory, voluntary, market-based, and participatory approaches to environmental policymaking and governance;
- Comfortably, clearly, and persuasively master the art of the short, critical essay;
- Demonstrate proficiency in applying basic course concepts, analytical frameworks, and/or theoretical perspectives to a research topic of their choosing.
Procedures
The course meets each Thursday morning during the semester; it is organized, in the first instance, as a reading and writing seminar, with weekly readings and related short, formal essays. Commentaries are due to the instructor and all course participants by e-mail, no later than 8:00 am, Wednesday, the day before the class. (Guidelines for these commentaries will be handed out separately.) Students are expected to read all commentaries as well as the required texts prior to class. Each Thursday morning, we will begin our discussion of the assigned text(s) with the commentaries.

In the second aspect of the course, students explore the relevance and application of course concepts to a related research topic/area of their own selection. The weekly commentaries may explore interrelationships between course materials and the research topic. By the end of the course, students will have completed a seminar paper utilizing concepts and approaches examined in the course. In the final session(s), the research projects are shared with course participants in the form of short talks, multi-media or poster presentations.

Requirements
- Attend all class sessions;
- Read all required texts;
- Submit weekly commentaries (@ 2 pp. max.) on the required readings;
- Prepare, present, and submit a medium length (~15 pp.) seminar paper applying course concepts to a relevant research topic.

Grading
Weekly commentaries, 40%
Semester-long research project, 40%, of which:
  -- Written paper, 80%
  -- Oral presentation, 20%
Attendance and participation, 20%

Communication
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TEXTS


Bookstore

Follett's Orange Bookstore, Marshall Square Mall, 720 University Ave., tel. 478.6821

SEMINAR PAPER

Topic. By Week 3, submit a written proposal outlining an environmental issue or topic you would like to develop into a seminar paper for this course, and from what perspective you propose to examine that topic. You may expand on a topic addressed in one of the course texts, or develop another topic of your choice. Proposal should be 1-2 pp., typed, double-spaced. (Feb. 3)

Abstract, Outline, and Bibliography. By Week 7, submit a working abstract, outline and bibliography for your seminar paper (two cc; Mar. 3)

Buddy Comments. In Week 8, submit comments on your seminar partner's working abstract, outline and bibliography (two cc; Mar. 10)

Oral Presentation. Brief presentation of your research project in class, ~10 min., including questions and discussion. Weeks 13-14. (Apr. 14 & 21, 20% of Seminar Paper grade)

Seminar Paper. ~15 pp. typed, double-spaced, plus cover page & references. Due at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Final Exam period for this course. (80% of Seminar Paper grade)

SCHEDULE

I. Politics of the Environment: A Theoretical and Analytical Framework

Week 1 – Course Introduction

Course Introduction

Theory: Thinking about the Environment

REQUIRED:
**Week 2 – Parties and Movements**

Green Political Parties
The 'Greening' of Established Parties
Environmental Groups

**REQUIRED:**

*** Commentary #1 due ***

**Week 3 – Environmental Policy**

The Environment as a Policy Problem
Greening Government
Policy Instruments and Implementation

**REQUIRED:**

*** Paper Topic Due ***

*** Commentary #2 due ***

**Week 4 – Globalization and the Environment**

Sustainable Development and Ecological Modernization
Global Environmental Politics
Globalization, Trade, and the Environment

**REQUIRED:**

**RECOMMENDED:**
Mol, et al, *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*

*** Commentary #3 due ***

**II. Case Studies I: Environmental Governance in China**

**Week 5 – China in Transition**

**REQUIRED:**

**RECOMMENDED:**
Economy, *The River Runs Black*
*** Commentary #4 due ***

**Week 6 – Energy, Consumption, Water, Biotechnology**

REQUIRED:


RECOMMENDED:

*** Commentary #5 due ***

**Week 7 – Mid-Semester Check-in: Seminar Papers**

Abstract, Outlines, Preliminary Bibliography

Two copies – one for your seminar paper 'buddy'

*** Abstract, Outline and Bibliography due (2cc) ***

**Week 8 – China’s Future**

REQUIRED:

Jahiel, A.R., "China, the WTO, and Implications for the Environment". Pp. 162-181 in *Environmental Governance in China*


RECOMMENDED:

*** Commentary #6 due ***

*** Buddy Comments due (2 cc) ***

**SPRING BREAK**
III. Case Study II: *Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline*

**Week 9 – Environmental Justice in Louisiana**
- Environmental Justice Struggles in Perspective
- Roots of Environmental Injustice in Louisiana
- Role of the Judiciary

**REQUIRED:**
- Roberts and Toffolon-Weiss, *Chronicles*, Preface, ch's 1-3, pp. vii-100

*** Commentary #7 due ***
*** Buddy Comments due (2cc) ***

**Week 10 – The Experience of Local Struggles**
- Shintech PVC Plant
- Grand Bois Oilfield Waste Dump
- Municipal Landfill

**REQUIRED:**
- Roberts and Toffolon-Weiss, *Chronicles*, ch's 4-7, pp. 101-222

*** Commentary #8 due ***

IV. Case Studies III: Governing Global Environmental Flows

**Week 11 – Labor Rights and Environmental Justice**
- The Quest for Sustainability and Justice
- The Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition
- Worker Health in Scotland
- Community-Based Organizing on the U.S.-Mexico Border
- Taiwan's Hsinchu Science Park
- New Perspectives for Organized Labor

**REQUIRED:**
- Smith, et al., *Challenging the Chip*, Foreword, Introduction, Part I Section Introduction, pp. ix-16; Part II, ch's 9-17, pp. 107-200

*** Commentary #9 due ***

**Week 12 – Electronic Waste and Extended Producer Responsibility**
- Environmental Politics and Lifecycle Analysis
- High-tech Pollution in Japan
- High-tech's Dirty Little Secret
- International Environmental Agreements and the IT Sector
Private Sector Politics: The Dell Corporate Campaign

REQUIRED:
Smith, et al., *Challenging the Chip*, Part III, ch's 18-25, Appendices, pp. 201-310
*** Commentary #10 due ***

V. Applying the Framework in Your Own Research

*Week 13 – Open Session*

*Week 14 – Oral Presentations*

*Final Exam Period – Seminar Paper Due*