

FOR 465: NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY

SYLLABUS – FALL 2015

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CLASS TIME AND LOCATION: 8:00 to 9:20 Tuesdays and Thursdays in 146 Baker Hall.

OFFICE HOURS: Professor: 12:30 to 2:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment.
Teaching Assistants: To be Announced

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 conservation biology, forestry, environmental science, environmental studies, natural resources management, recreation, water resources, wildlife management, or some other discipline, governments make decisions that affect what you do and how you do it. This course gives you the tools to understand how and why government policies affect natural resources.

COURSE OUTLINE: The course is organized around three key questions:

- What tools does government use in natural resources policy, and what other factors influence whether those policies achieve their objective?
- What policies govern natural resources on public federal and state lands?
- What policies govern natural resources on private lands?

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, and
4. Describe and explain historical and current United States natural resources policy governing public and private lands, including wildlife, water, wetlands, marine, agriculture, and forest policy.

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

READINGS: 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. Note: This course does not use Blackboard.

GRADES: I will calculate grades on the following basis:

1. Three (3) one hour and twenty minute examinations (250 points),
2. Daily quizzes (100 points); and
3. Attendance (25 points).

Students receive a letter grade based on their percentage of 375 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%	

No portion of students' grades are based on class participation.

Except as noted below (see "Extra Credit"), students will receive the grade they earn based on the course requirements. I will not adjust grades or provide students with "additional assignments" to raise their grade.

The Examinations: There are three (3) examinations during the course of the semester. Each examination is worth 100 points

- **Lowest Examination Worth One-Half (½) other Two Examinations.** Students' lowest examination grade will be worth one-half (½) of their examination grades on their other two (2) examinations. This grade will be calculated by dividing the lowest examination by one-half (½) of students' grade; thus students' final course grade will be based on 250 points.
- **No Final Examination.** There is no final examination during Final Examination Week; the last examination is non-cumulative.

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 8:02. 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 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 are required to attend class every day. To encourage student attendance, 6.7 percent of students' grades are based on attendance. Attendance grades will be assigned 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-two and one-half (22.5) attendance points;
- Students who miss three (3) classes will receive twenty (20) attendance points;
- Students who miss four (4) classes will receive seventeen and one-half (17.5) attendance points;
- Students who miss five (5) classes receive fifteen (15) attendance points;
- Students who miss six (6) classes receive ten (10) attendance points;
- Students who miss seven (7) classes will receive five (5) attendance points;
- Students who miss eight (8) or 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.

Students who miss class for an approved reason will be excused from class. To be officially excused from class, students **must:** 1) miss class because of illness, attendance at a professional conference, death in their family, observance of a religious holiday, or a professor-approved reason, and 2) **email Ms. Henger (nhenger@syr.edu)** the reason for their excused absence within seven (7) days of missing class.

Extra Credit (0-5 Points): Student feedback greatly improves my teaching and the class.

Unfortunately since ESF instituted an on-line course evaluation, the percentage of students completing these evaluations is extremely low (15-40%) for most courses. To encourage student evaluations of the course, I will add points to students' *total points for the course* (not course average) based on the percentage of students who complete the course online course evaluations by the assigned due date – note percentages are based on the total number of undergraduate and graduate students in the course. Extra credit will be assigned as follows:

- If 75% to 80% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive one (1) extra point;
- If 80% to 85% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive two (2) extra points;
- If 85% to 90% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive three (3) extra points;
- If 90% to 95% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive four (4) extra points;
- and
- If 95% to 100% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive five (5) extra points.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: I assume that as juniors, seniors, and graduate students, you understand that academic dishonesty is a breach of trust between a student, one's fellow students, or the professor. By registering for courses at ESF, you acknowledge your awareness of the ESF Code of Student Conduct (<http://www.esf.edu/students/handbook/StudentHB.05.pdf>) and that academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism and cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. The Academic Integrity Handbook contains further information and guidance (<http://www.esf.edu/students/integrity/>). Infractions of the academic integrity code may lead to academic penalties as per the ESF Grading Policy (<http://www.esf.edu/provost/policies/documents/GradingPolicy.11.12.2013.pdf>). If you have questions about this policy, please ask the professor because the ESF Code of Student Conduct will be strictly enforced.

CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: To maintain the best possible environment for learning, all students in this class **will**:

- 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 (*including email or internet content*) during class,
- Turn off all cell phones 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: Unless approved by the Professor, students are prohibited from accessing the internet during class.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES: SUNY-ESF works with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at Syracuse University, who is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations. Students can contact ODS (804 University Avenue- Room 309, 315/443-4498) to schedule an appointment and discuss their needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Students may also contact the ESF Office of Student Affairs (110 Bray Hall, 315/470-6660) for assistance with the process. To learn more about ODS, visit <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>. Authorized accommodation forms must be in the professor's possession one week prior to any anticipated accommodation. Since accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

**FOR 465: Natural Resources Policy
Fall 2015 Course Schedule**

Class	Date and Class Topic	Readings All Readings are from Class Reader
I. Government and Natural Resource Policies		
1. Sept. 1	What is Public Policy and What <i>Really</i> Drives It?	
2. Sept. 3	Do Government Policies Make a Difference? The Effects of Changes in Technology	Raup (1997)
3. Sept. 8	Policy Tools: NR in Agriculture Policy	Johnson and Monke (2014) and SKIM Stubbs (2103)
4. Sept. 10	Policy Tools Example: Individual Transferable Quotas and Marine Policy	Buck (1995)
5. Sept. 15	Unintended Consequences of Government Policies: Land Ownership Trends	Fernholz, Bowyer, and Howe (2007) and Diaz (2012)
6. Sept. 17	Unintended Consequences of Government Policies: Wildfire	Gorte and Bracmort (2012)
7. Sept. 22	<i>No Class – RWM at Conference</i>	
8. Sept. 24	Implementing Government Policies: Wildfire	Gorte (2008) – pages 1-16
9. Sept. 29	<u>Examination I</u>	
II. Public Lands Policies		
10. Oct. 1	Acquisition and Disposal of Federal Public Lands I	Alexander and Gorte (2007)
11. Oct. 6	Disposal of Federal Public Lands II	Vincent (2004) – pages 1-10
12. Oct. 8	Retention of Federal Public Lands I	Vincent (2004) – pages 21-42
13. Oct. 13	Retention of Federal Public Lands II	Vincent (2004) – pages 43-57
14. Oct. 15	Retention of Federal Public Lands III	Vincent (2004) – pages 57-71
15. Oct. 20	Natural Resource Agencies	
16. Oct. 22	Planning and NEPA	Alexander (2007)
17. Oct. 27	New York State’s Public Lands	NYS DEC (2013) and PA DCNR (2013)
18. Oct. 29	<u>Examination II</u>	
III. Private Lands Policies		
19. Nov. 3	Wildlife Policy I	Musgrave and Stein (1993)
20. Nov. 5	Wildlife Policy II/The Endangered Species Act I	Corn, Alexander & Buck (2012) pages 1-16
21. Nov. 10	The Endangered Species Act II	Corn, Alexander & Buck (2012) pages 16-26
22. Nov. 12	Water Resources Policy	Copeland (2014) and EERC (2013)
23. Nov. 17	Wetlands Policy	Copeland (2013)
24. Nov. 19	Wetlands Policy – Implementation	TBA
25. Nov. 24	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>	
26. Nov. 26	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>	
27. Dec. 1	Mining Policy	Humphries (2005) and Sylvester (2013)
28. Dec. 3	TBA	
29. Dec. 8	Globalization and Course Conclusion	Woodworth (2012)
30. Dec. 10	<u>Examination III</u>	