

POL/ENST/STS 325: Environmental Politics

Course Overview:

Environmental issues loom large in today's politics. What kinds of environmental problems do we face today? How do we, as a society, address these problems? In this course, we will look at the key political issues around the environment. We will build a framework to help understand and analyze the critical components of environmental politics. You will learn to identify and evaluate the political actors, choices, and institutions that structure environmental politics and policy, and you will gain the tools to evaluate environmental problems and ideal vs. politically feasible, solutions.

Student Learning Objectives and Course Goals:

At the end of this course, students will:

- Analyze, evaluate, explain, and apply core concepts, debates, and controversies in environmental politics.
- Critically evaluate and analyze the role of interests, values, and scientific information in shaping the "inputs" to environmental politics and policy.
- Critically evaluate and analyze the role of institutions and politics in shaping the "process" of making environmental policy.
- Critically evaluate and analyze the "outputs" of environmental politics, including the types of environmental policy, and the distribution of costs and benefits resulting from those policies (including issues of environmental justice)
- Rigorously apply the course framework to new environmental issues and problems.

The associated learning goals of the political science discipline can be found at {<http://www.casl.umd.umich.edu/politicalsciences/>}. The associated learning goals of the environmental studies program can be found at {<http://www.casl.umd.umich.edu/573301/>}. Please see the science & technology studies site {<http://www.casl.umd.umich.edu/sts/>} for those learning goals.

Student Responsibilities:

In order to achieve the course objectives, you will need to read, watch, and digest the course texts, think through and complete the assignments, and participate fully in course activities and discussions. These are all necessary for the completion of the various assignments (incl. papers, exams) which will give you the opportunity to apply the knowledge, understanding, and skills you will gain in the course. Any changes to the syllabus (incl. exam/due dates or required readings) will be posted to the Canvas page for this course, which you should check regularly.

Professor Contact Information

Professor Emily Matthews Luxon can be reached at {eoluxon@umich.edu}. Her office is SSB 2194, and her office hours this semester are Tuesdays 4:15-5:15pm, and Fridays 1-2pm. She is also available to meet with you by appointment. She is happy to respond to e-mail, but if you have very complex and lengthy questions, she may suggest that an in-person meeting would work better!

Required Texts:

Some of the course materials are available on course reserves at Mardigian Library. You can access these materials at: {http://library.umd.umich.edu/Services/course_reserves.php}. Other course materials are available on the course Canvas page, and will be posted throughout the semester. The main course texts are available for purchase in the bookstore. They are:

1. Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2014. *Environmental Politics and Policy*. 9th Edition. Sage and CQ Press, Thousand Oaks, California.
2. Layzer, Judith A. 2012. *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy*. 3rd Edition. CQ Press, Washington, D.C.

Student Assessment:

To earn a grade in this course, you must complete:

1. Three short-answer essays: 5% each (15% total)
2. Participation: 10%
3. Two in-class midterms: 15% and 20% (35% total)
4. Paper: 20%
5. Final exam: 20%

Exams will consist of both short-answer and key-term questions and essay questions; exams will be based on lectures, presentations, readings, and films. The three short-answer essays will require you to respond to questions posed at the end of three different chapters in the Layzer text; detailed instructions for this assignment will be provided in class. The final paper will require you to apply what you learn in the course to an environmental issue of your choosing; you will need to use outside sources to complete this paper; the paper assignment and writing guidelines will be passed out after the first exam (unless otherwise noted). Participation requires you to attend class and take an active role in class discussions. All assignment and exams will be evaluated as percentages (out of 100%); information on how to calculate the weight for each assignment/exam in your overall grade will be provided on the course Canvas page. Late papers and take-home assignments will be penalized. Extensions, incompletes, or make-up exams will be given only in pressing and properly documented cases and in accordance with UM-D policy; petitions for these must be timely.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who may need accommodations are encouraged to notify, as soon as possible, Disability Resource Services {http://www.umd.umich.edu/cs_disability/} in order to work out the particulars. The University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to register with Disability Resource Services (DRS) every semester they are enrolled for classes. DRS is located in Counseling & Support Services, 2157 UC. To be assured of having services available when they are needed, students should register no later than the end of the add/drop deadline of each term. Note: DRS should be notified *in advance* of any course deadlines or due dates to ensure appropriate support.

Academic Integrity:

Your instructor takes academic dishonesty very seriously. Any student violating UM-D's Student Conduct policies will earn an 'E' or 'F' in the course and will be reported to the University for investigation. The University of Michigan-Dearborn values academic honesty and integrity. Each student has a responsibility to understand, accept, and comply with the University's standards of academic conduct as set forth by the Code of Academic Conduct, as well as policies

established by the schools and colleges. Cheating, collusion, misconduct, fabrication, and plagiarism are considered serious offenses. Violations will not be tolerated and may result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University. For more information, please see: the Tutorial on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism {<http://webapps.umd.umich.edu/aim/>}.

Improving Your Writing:

The Writing Center provides support for all UM-Dearborn students wishing to improve their writing. Students needing regular one-on-one help in developing basic writing skills, as well as more advanced students wishing to improve their writing, will find the center useful. The center is located in 3035 CB with smaller satellites on the first floor of Mardigian Library and Fairlane Center North 138 (check website for hours). The center tries to accommodate walk-ins but prefers students make appointments online at {http://casl.umd.umich.edu/writ_center/}.

***Tentative* Course Calendar:**

Additional material may also be required reading; these will be posted, with advance notice, to Canvas. If adjustments need to be made to the calendar and assignments, notice will be given in class and on Canvas.

Week 1: Politics; and Environmental Problems [total 18p]

Edwards 2008: How to Read a Book [10p]
 Kernell et al. 2009: "The Logic of American Politics" [5p]
 O'Neil 2003: "What is Comparative Politics" [1p]
 Almond et al. 2010: "What is Politics" [2p]

Week 2: Humans and the Environment [total 52p]

Pollan 1991: Ch. 10 "The Idea of a Garden" [26p]
 Steinberg 2002: Chs. 1 "Wilderness Under Fire" [11p]
 Steinberg 2002: Ch. 3 "Reflections from a Woodlot" [15p]

Week 3: Building a Framework [total 50p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 1 "A Policymaking Framework" [23p]
 Layzer 2012: Ch. 18 "Conclusions" [9p]
 Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 219-237 [18p]

Week 4: US Environmentalism [total 87p]

Rosenbaum 2014: Ch. 1 "After Earth Day" [29p]
 Layzer 2012: Ch. 2 "The Nation Tackles Pollution" [23p]
 Rosenbaum 2014: Ch. 8 "Energy" [35p]

Week 5: Policy Inputs 1: Values and Frames [total 73p]

Wilson 1989: Ch. 17 "Problems" [18p]
 Layzer 2012: Ch. 8 "Playground or Paradise?" [25p]
 Layzer 2012: Ch. 11 "Cape Wind" [30p]

****Tuesday, February 11: First in-class exam.**

Week 6: Policy Inputs 2: Interests [total 93p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 44-70 [27p]

Rosenbaum 2014: Ch. 9 "635 Million Acres of Politics" [41p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 13 "Backlash" [25p]

Week 7: Policy Inputs 3: Science, Data, and Information [total 101p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 70-74 [5p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 129-147 [18p]

Rosenbaum 2014: Ch.7 "A Regulatory Thicket" [31p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 3 "Love Canal" [22p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 9 "Crisis and Recovery in the New England Fisheries" [25p]

Week 8: Policy Process 1: Institutions Making Policy [total 63p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 33-44 [12p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 81-97 [17p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 116-124 [9p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 5 "Oil versus Wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" [25p]

Week 9: Policy Process 2: Institutions Implementing Policy [total 47p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 97-116 [20p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 6 "Federal Grazing Policy" [27p]

Week 10: Policy Outputs 1: Types of Policy [total 93p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 182-193 [12p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 197-219 [23p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 14 "Market-Based Solutions" [27p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 15 "Ecosystem-Based Management in the Chesapeake Bay" [31p]

****Tuesday March, 25: Second in-class Exam.**

Week 11: Policy Outputs 2: Costs & Benefits Distributed [total 80p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 165-181 [17p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 7 "Jobs versus the Environment" [28p]

Week 12: Policy Outputs 3: Environmental Justice [total 65p]

Rosenbaum 2014: pp. 147-158 [12p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 4 "Community Activism and Environmental Justice" [22p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 17 "Hurricane Katrina Hits New Orleans" [31p]

****Thursday, April 3: No class - paper writing day.**

Week 13: Going Global with the Framework [total 91p]

Rosenbaum 2014: Ch. 10 "Climate Change, Domestic Politics, and the Challenge..." [31p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 10 "Climate Change" [31p]

Layzer 2012: Ch. 12 "Trade vs. the Environment" [29p]

Week 14: Synthesis of Environmental Politics

****Thursday, April 17: Paper Due.**

****Final Exam: Date and time TBA.**