

POS 3003: Environmental Policy & Administration  
Department of Political Science  
Fall 2014  
Distance Learning

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- To help me keep track of email messages, please include POS 3003 in the subject line of any email message you send to me.

### Course Description

This course is designed as a broad introduction to Environmental Policy and Administration. These fields are exciting areas of discourse because they explicitly connect nature and society. The resulting policy framework influences our everyday lives – they can potentially affect public health, and the state of our environment. The course is designed for distance learning, so participation in discussion boards and with the assignments are key to helping students engage with the content.

This course examines fundamental topics surrounding Environmental Politics and Policy. As future administrators or political actors, you will be expected to address these challenges, as well as adapt to a changing environment. This course is intended to expose students to a variety of problems that governments face, and the assignments are created to encourage critical thinking in response to real life scenarios. How we choose to manage these activities will affect global-scale resource management, urban & regional planning, and sustainable growth challenges that lie at the intersection of the natural and built environment.

The primary learning objectives are for students to:

- Understand why Environmental Policy exists
- Evaluate the advantages and challenges of citizen involvement in environmental policy
- Develop a basic understanding of the growing trans-boundary character of environmental concerns
- Consider the difficulty in coordinating responses from a coalition of governments (in federalism and globally)

### Required Texts (copies are on reserve at Library West)

1. *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (2012). Vig and Kraft, CQ Press (ISBN 978-1933116013).
2. *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (2011). Layzer, CQ Press (ISBN 978-1604266122).

3. *Collaborative Environmental Management: What Roles for Government?* (2004) Koontz, T., T. Steelman, J. Carmin, K.S. Korfmacher, C. Moseley, C. Thomas. 2004. Washington D.C.: Resources for the Future (ISBN 978-1891853821).

### **Assignments**

There will be assignments every other week that are intended to help students understand the readings, and to provide exercises that allow you to apply your knowledge to real life scenarios that administrators face. The assignments are **due Friday before 11:59 pm** for the week of the assignment.

### **Quizzes**

A quiz will be given for each week and will test your knowledge of the assigned readings. Each quiz will be timed and have five questions. Students will have one minute per question.

### **Participation**

Each student will be required to participate in the discussion board each week. For each week, students will receive 0.6 points for their initial post on the discussion topic and then 0.2 points for each response to two other student's initial post (total of 0.4 points for the response) There will be ten discussion posts worth 1 point each.

### **Midterm Examination**

A midterm will be administered via Proctor U that will cover the material in the first half of the course. The midterm will be 50 multiple choice questions.

### **Final Examination**

The final examination will be administered via Proctor U. It is not be cumulative. The final exam will be 50 multiple choice questions.

### **Make-up Exams and Late Papers**

It is expected that no students will miss any exams. An unexcused absence on an exam results in a grade of 0%. Assignments not turned in by their due date will incur a grade reduction of 10% every day after the deadline (and will not be accepted if it is more than 2 days late). Since assignments are submitted through E-learning, this applies to all students (even those with excused absences). No planned opportunities for extra credit exist in this course.

### **Summary of Grading**

Assignments	20% (4 worth 5% each)
Quizzes	20% (10 worth 2% each)
Discussion Participation	10% (10 worth 1% each)
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

## Course Grades

Final grades will be assigned based on the scale below:

90% - 100%	A	70% - 75%	C
88% - 89%	A-	68% - 69%	C-
86% - 87%	B+	66% - 67%	D+
80% - 85%	B	60% - 65%	D
78% - 79%	B-	58% - 59%	D-
76% - 77%	C+	57% or less	E

Unless a computational error has been made, grades will not be changed after the end of the semester. Only in the rarest of circumstances will I grant an Incomplete ('I').

## Academic Dishonesty

For University's honesty policy regarding cheating and use of copyrighted materials, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honestybrochure.php>. Written assignments will be checked for plagiarism against published works, other papers submitted by classmates at the current and previous semesters and internet pages using Turnitin, which is UF's plagiarism detection software. It is expected that submitted work for individual assignments will solely reflect the student's own efforts. Students are expected not to collaborate in writing answers, or interpreting results. However, collaborations in running statistical software are acceptable, as long as each student works on his/her report separately.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://oss.ufl.edu/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to you, which you then give to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

## Counseling and Student Health

Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the University of Florida Counseling Center, 352-392-1575, or Student Mental Health Services, 352-392-1171. Visit their web sites for more information: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/> or <http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent>

*Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.*

## **Course Schedule**

### **Section I: Introduction to Environmental Policy**

- WK 1: Aug 25-29 Introduction and History of Environmental Policy in America  
Readings:  
    Lazyzer – Chapter 18  
    Vig and Kraft – Chapter 1  
Quiz 1 due by Friday Aug 29 at 11:59 pm  
First Discussion post due Aug 29 (to get full credit for this post, you only need to make an initial post by Friday)
- WK 2: Sept 1- 5 Challenges for Environmental Policy and Administration  
Readings:  
    Koontz et al. – Chapter 6  
    Layzer – Chapter 1  
Quiz 2 due by Friday Sept 5 at 11:59 pm  
Second Discussion post due Sept 2, Responses due Sept 4
- WK 3: Sept 8-12 Environmental Values  
Readings:  
    Koontz et al. – Chapter 1  
    Seuss 1971 – The Lorax (see packet)  
Assignment 1 due by Friday Sept 12 by 11:59 pm  
No quiz  
No discussion
- WK 4: Sept 15-19 What is the role of Government in Environmental Policy?  
Readings:  
    Fiorino (2006) – Chapters 1-2 (see packet)  
    Hardin (1968) – Tragedy of the Commons (see packet)  
Quiz 3 due by Friday Sept 19 at 11:59 pm  
Third Discussion post due Sept 16, Responses due Sept 19

### **Section II: Citizen and Interest Group Involvement**

- WK 5: Sept 22-26 Citizen Involvement  
Readings:  
    Koontz et al. 2-5  
Quiz 4 due by Friday Sept 26 at 11:59 pm  
Fourth Discussion post due Sept 23, Responses due Sept 25
- WK 6: Sept 29-Oct 3 Local Efforts to Protect the Environment  
Readings:  
    Koontz et al. 7-9  
Assignment 2 due Friday Oct 3 by 11:59 pm  
No quiz  
No discussion

WK 7: Oct 6-10      Evaluation: Why do Policies Succeed or fail?  
Readings:  
                    Vig and Kraft – Chapter 11  
No quiz  
No discussion  
\*\*\*\*\* Midterm Exams due Oct 9 by 11:59 pm \*\*\*\*\*

**Section III: Policymaking and Regulation**

WK 8: Oct 13-17      Congressional Intervention  
Readings:  
                    Vig and Kraft – Chapter 5  
Quiz 5 due by Friday Oct 17 at 11:59 pm  
Fifth Discussion post due Oct 14, Responses due Oct 17

WK 9: Oct 20-24      Executive Power in Environmental Regulation  
Readings:  
                    Vig and Kraft – Chapter 4  
Quiz 6 due by Friday Oct 24 at 11:59 pm  
Sixth Discussion post due Oct 21, Responses due Oct 24

WK 10: Oct 27-31      Judicial Intervention and Policymaking  
Readings:  
                    Vif and Kraft – Chapter 6  
Assignment 3 due Friday Oct 31 by 11:59 pm  
No quiz  
No discussion

WK 11: Nov 3-7      Federal Regulatory Agencies – EPA, NOAA and more  
Readings:  
                    Assorted Documents from EPA/NOAA on policy (in resources)  
                    Eisner, Worsham and Rinquist – Chapter 5 (see packet)  
Quiz 7 due by Friday Nov 7 at 11:59 pm  
Seventh Discussion post due Nov 4, Responses due Nov 7

WK 12: Nov 10-14      State Government in Environmental Policy and Regulation  
Readings:  
                    Vig and Kraft – Chapter 2  
Quiz 8 due by Friday Nov 14 at 11:59 pm  
Eight Discussion post due Nov 11, Responses due Nov 14

**Section IV: Intergovernmental and Transnational Policy: Challenges and Concerns**

WK 13: Nov 17-21      Federalism and Environmental Policy  
Readings:  
                    Layzer – Chapters 16, 17  
                    News Reports on Fracking and Car Emissions  
Quiz 9 due by Friday Nov 21 at 11:59 pm  
Ninth Discussion post due Nov 18, Responses due Nov 21

- WK 14: Nov 24-28    Hazardous and Nuclear Waste, Superfunds, RCRA and More  
Readings:  
    Layzer – Chapter 3  
    Assorted Documents from EPA/NOAA on policy (in resources)  
    News Reports on Superfunds and RCRA (in resources)  
No quiz  
No discussion  
Thanksgiving Break – Nov 27 and 28
- WK 15: Dec 1-5    Public Health Concerns – Air and Water Pollution  
Readings:  
    Layzer – Chapter 2  
    Portions of the Clean Air and Clean Water Act (in resources)  
No quiz  
No discussion  
Assignment 4 due Friday Dec 5 by 11:59 pm
- WK 16: Dec 8-12    Problems in International Cooperation  
Readings:  
    Layzer – Chapters 10, 3, and 5  
Quiz 10 due by Friday Dec 12 at 11:59 pm  
Tenth Discussion post due Dec 9, Responses due Dec 12
- WK 17: Dec 15-19    Final Exams Week  
\*\*\*\*\* Final Exams due Dec 19 by 11:59 pm \*\*\*\*\*

**Important Dates:**

**Oct 9 by 11:59 pm**  
**Dec 19 by 11:59 pm**

**Midterm Exam Due**  
**Final Exam Due**