

Syllabus GVPT 417 Advanced Topics in Environmental Policy Analysis
Fall Semester 2017
Classroom SQH1117
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:15 PM

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Course Description:

Students in this course will learn a series of critical tools and methods used to analyze environmental policy. It is an advanced course; students already must have comprehensive knowledge in environmental policy and must have taken GVPT 273 (which is a prerequisite of this course). This class should be of interest to students who are either considering a career or graduate studies in the field. Because the objective of the course is to understand various analytical tools used in environmental analysis, classes mostly will consist of applying these methods to actual cases. This course will resemble a graduate seminar, where students come to class having carefully read the assigned readings for the week before hand. There will be in-class individual and group exercises every week. Students are expected to be active participants in these exercises and class discussion.

Course Readings:

We will use a variety of sources for our class readings, including research articles published in peer-reviewed journals, environmental policy reports by national and international organizations, and book chapters. All readings are available to you on Elms in the weekly module (or folder) when they are due. Also, we will read a few chapters from textbooks on environmental policy: The Environmental Policy Paradox (Zachary A. Smith), Environmental Politics and Policy (Walter A. Rosenbaum), and The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy (Judith A. Layzer). These chapters can be found on Elms as well. Finally, I may post additional short readings, such as newspaper articles or any other class handout. Please make sure you check regularly the **weekly modules** for them.

GVPT417 and BSOS Policy: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Course Evaluation is based on the following:

Participation (10% of final grade)

To do well in participation you must come to class well prepared and ready to comment on the readings: pose questions, share your own take of the readings, help further and deepen discussion with your classmates. Further, each week there will be an in-class exercise (either individual or group based) with a written component. Completion of these exercises determine in great part your course participation grade, so make sure you do not miss class other than for excused absences. If for any reason participating in class gives you concern, please come see me at the beginning of the semester and I will gladly help you with this.

Special Note on Attendance: As class participation is so important, it goes without saying that attendance is critical. You cannot get any credit for participation if you are not in the classroom. I will check attendance at the beginning of class but please note that I will not count you present if you are

late.

One Trade-Off Policy Matrix (10% of final grade)

In this assignment, students are asked to list in a matrix the status quo of a policy, their own policy proposal and 1 more policy alternative along four (4) dimensions. This policy matrix will test students understanding of the criteria and trade-offs in choosing a policy option from the menu of possible alternatives. This assignment is due in class on Tuesday September 26th. The policy matrix should be one (1) page long. Instructions will be posted on Elms one week before the assignment is due.

Two In-Class Exam (25% each)

There will be two exams (one midway through the semester, the other at the end) where students will be tested on their knowledge of key concepts and policy tools. Exam dates are Thursday, October 19th and December TBA (the University official final examination schedule becomes available mid-semester on Testudo). We will have a review session on Tuesday, October 17th for the first one. To make good use of the review session, make sure you bring questions to class.

One Final Policy Memo with Power Point Presentation (30% of final grade: 20% final memo, 10% class presentation)

This final assignment gives students the opportunity to carry out in-depth research on an environmental policy of their choosing. Students will research one such environmental issue using one of the methods acquired over the semester and produce a five-page policy memo that meets professional standards. While this final written assignment is due in class on Thursday, December 7th, students must present a detailed “progress report” at the end of the semester. That is, each student will give a short (5’ to 7’) power point presentation (which will be graded) of her or his work during the last 2 ½ weeks of class. I will provide specific guidelines for this assignment mid-semester, including the order of presentations.

Extra Credit: There will be one chance to earn extra credit by attending a special lecture by a guest speaker mid-semester. Time and location TBA.

Please note: For all written assignments you will need to make sure you quote and cite properly all your sources and list the complete bibliography in a separate page. The paper must follow proper citation rules. Please use the guidelines of the American Political Science Association when citing your bibliography. You can find them at: <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPSA.html> You are expected to do some outside research (beyond textbooks and assigned readings). Please only use reputable sources such as environmental policy journals (e.g., *Global Environmental Politics* and *Environmental Science and Policy*) or news sources like the NYT or the BBC- unfortunately, no Wikipedia allowed.

Academic Honesty:

Please read carefully the following statements from the UMD Teaching Policies and Guidelines: “The student-administered University Honor Code and Honor Pledge prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents and forging signatures. On every examination, paper or other academic exercise not specifically exempted by the instructor, students must write by hand and sign the following pledge, “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment.” Compliance with the code is administered by the Student Honor Council, which strives to promote a community of trust on the

College Park campus. Allegations of academic dishonesty should be reported directly to the Honor Council (4-8450) by any member of the campus community. For additional information, consult the Office of Student Conduct (studentconduct.umd.edu).”

This course has a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. All potential violations will be forwarded to the Student Honor Council.

Students with Disabilities:

Students who anticipate problems with fulfilling course requirements because of the way they see, hear, read, or get around campus should let me know within the first two weeks of class. Special arrangements will be made in cooperation with staff at the Disability Support Services (301.314.7682 or Dissup@umd.edu)

Week 1 August 29 and 31

Go over syllabus and class expectations

Defining the Policy Problem

“The Problem of Policy Problems” (pp. 1-44) by B. Guy Peters and Hoornbeck (online version in Elms, not 2005 published article)

“How a nested framework illuminates the challenges of comparative environmental analysis” by Eleanor K. Bors and Susan Solomon in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, May 7, 2013, vol. 110, no. 19, pp. 7531–7532

Individual Exercise: Job Announcement

Week 2 September 5 and 7

Public Opinion and Environmental Regulation

Chapters 2 and 3 (pp.8-58) by Zachary A. Smith, The Environmental Policy Paradox, 6th Edition, 2013

Aklin, M., & Urpelainen, J. (2014). Perceptions of scientific dissent undermine public support for environmental policy. Environmental Science & Policy, 38, 173-177

Group Exercise: Survey Design

Week 3 September 12 and 14

Data and Measures Assessment

“The United States and Climate Diplomacy: The Emerging Politics of Global Environmentalism” (pp. 363-394) by Walter A. Rosenbaum, Environmental Politics and Policy, 8th Edition, 2011

“Mine Safety: Report on Coal Mine Dust Exposure” (pp. 1-24) by the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), August 17, 2012

Group Exercise: Coding Dummy Variables (bring your laptop to class)

Week 4 September 19 and 21

Documentary: How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change (2016)

Week 5 September 26 and 28

Cost-Benefit Analysis

“More Choice: The Battle over Regulatory Economics” (pp. 162-191) by Walter A. Rosenbaum, Environmental Politics and Policy, 8th Edition, 2011

Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Environment: Introduction (pp.3-25) by Nick Hanley and Clive L. Spash, 1993

Group Exercise: CBA of a small case study

Trade-Off Policy Matrix due on Tuesday September 26th.

Week 6 October 3 and 5

Risk Assessment and Environmental Justice

“Common Policy Challenges: Risk Assessment and Environmental Justice” (pp. 128-161) by Walter A. Rosenbaum, Environmental Politics and Policy, 8th Edition, 2011

Maantay, J. (2007). Asthma and air pollution in the Bronx: methodological and data considerations in using GIS for environmental justice and health research. Health & Place, 13 (1), 32-56.

“Hydraulic Fracturing Threats to Species with Restricted Geographic Ranges in the Eastern United States” (pp. 1-12) by Jennifer L. Gillen and Erik Kiviat in Environmental Reviews and Case Studies, 2012

Individual Exercise: Speed pitching, a one-minute policy pitch on an environmental justice problem of your choosing.

Week 7 October 10 and 12

Environmental and Social Impact Assessments

“Cape Wind: If Not Here, Where? If Not Now, When?” (pp. 308-347) by Judith A. Layzer in The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy, Third Edition, 2012

“Dams and Development Project: Social Impact Assessment of Affected People-Final Report” (pp. I-XXVIII and 1-28) by the United Nations Environmental Program, 2007

Group Exercise: Designing a EIA

Week 8 October 17 and 19

Midterm Review on Tuesday 17th

In-Class Exam on Thursday 19th

Week 9 October 24 and 26

Documentary: Flow, For Love of Water (2008)

Week 10 October 31 and November 2

Social Network Analysis in Natural Resource Management

“Some Basic Structural Characteristics of Networks” (pp. 29-43) by Christina Prell in Social Networks and Natural Resource Management: Uncovering the Social Fabric of Environmental Governance, edited by Orjan Bodin and Christina Prell. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

“Social Network Models for Natural Resource Use and Extraction” (pp. 180-205) by Ken A. Frank in Social Networks and Natural Resource Management: Uncovering the Social Fabric of Environmental Governance, edited by Orjan Bodin and Christina Prell. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Group Exercise: Coding Relational Variables (bring your laptop to class)

Week 11 November 7 and 9

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in Environmental Policy

“Ecosystem-Based Management in the Chesapeake Bay” (pp. 447-487) by Judith A. Layzer in

The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy, Third Edition, 2012.

“The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Monitoring and Evaluation Policy” by the GEF Evaluation Office, November 2010.

Individual Exercise: Job Announcement II

Week 12 November 14 and 16

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)

“Paying for Avoided Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon: from Cost Assessment to Scheme Design” (pp. 496-511) by J. Borner and S. Wunder in International Forestry Review 10 (3), 2008.

Kashwan, P. (2015). Forest Policy, Institutions, and REDD+ in India, Tanzania, and Mexico. Global Environmental Politics, 15 (3): 95–117.

The United Nations Environmental Program Global Environmental Outlook Report. Most recent one.

Group Exercise: Case Study Comparison

Week 13 November 21 and 23 (No class on the 23 –Thanksgiving)

Power Point Presentations of Final Memos (Progress Report)

Week 14 November 28 and 30

Power Point Presentations of Final Memos (Progress Report)

Week 15 December 5 and 7

Power Point Presentations of Final Memos (Progress Report) and 2nd Exam Review

Final Memo Due in Class on Thursday December 7th

Final Exam (@SQH1117) Date will be assigned mid-semester by Testudo