

**Philip Nyhus, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies**

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Time: T Th 9:30-10:45

Loc: Diamond 145

### **Introduction**

This course is a comprehensive introduction to domestic environmental policy. We build on material introduced in ES118 to explore in depth the process of developing and establishing environmental policy, discuss challenges to implementing effective environmental policy, and explore the historical and contemporary circumstances that influence public policy regarding our water, air, energy, and land resources. We also explore how US domestic environmental policy influences and is influenced by global forces.

This is a pivotal time in our history as industry, resource extraction, and our personal actions profoundly alter the earth's environment. As one of the world's largest polluters and users of natural resources, our country's domestic environmental policies have a disproportionate global impact. This semester is particularly exciting because of the upcoming presidential elections.

One goal of this course is to develop an understanding of the setting in which domestic environmental policy is formulated and the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to environmental policy. We discuss how science and technology, uncertainty and risk, dominant social and economic paradigms, ethics and values, issues of justice and equity, and public attitudes influence policy, and explore the historic context of contemporary environmental laws and policies. Another goal is to introduce the institutions, actors, laws, and tools that are a fundamental part of environmental policy. A third goal is to encourage questions, critical thinking, and effective communication about environmental policy at local, national, and global scales.

Over the course of this semester you will be introduced to new concepts and principals through lectures but there will be frequent opportunities for class discussions, student presentations, speakers, guest lectures, and independent research. You will carry out simulations and learn how to use geographic information systems (GIS) and statistics to carry out a policy analysis project. Because we will cover a considerable amount of material, it is imperative that you actively discuss the readings in class, submit assignments on time, and engage in all class activities.

### **Required Texts**

The following texts are required. Additional required readings will be made available to you electronically or as photocopies to supplement these texts (see list below). We will spend considerable time discussing current national, regional, and local news events relevant to our class discussions.

Michael E. Kraft. 2007. *Environmental Policy and Politics* (4th Edition). New York: Pearson/Longman.

Layzer, Judith E. 2006. *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy* (2nd Edition). Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

## **Projects and Activities**

### **Grading**

Your final grade will be based on the following projects and activities:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>
Policy research project	35
GIS and statistics assignment (2)	
Background paper (8)	
Preliminary analysis (10)	
Final analysis paper (15)	
Exams	45
Midterm (20)	
Final (25)	
Discussion and participation	20
Discussion essays (3 @ 3 pts/each)	
Post-election discussion (2)	
General class participation and speakers (9)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

### **Policy Research Project**

Over the course of the semester you will have the opportunity to carry out a research project that will build on your research and writing experiences in ES118. This will be a group project that focuses on a contemporary environmental policy topic. As part of the research project you will complete a computer-based assignment that will include material on how to use elementary statistics and GIS to support policy analysis.

### **Discussion Assignments**

To encourage careful reading of the assignments and preparation for classroom discussion, you will be responsible for three short essays (deadlines noted in syllabus). Each assignment will be graded out of 3 points based on the quality of your writing and organization, argument, and references and factual support (e.g., is it clear to me that you have done the readings rather than just make an argument off the top of your head). This assignment should be brief (no more than 500 words, or about 1 single-spaced page) and should be uploaded to our electronic course software (I will provide details) no later than 8:00am on the day it is due.

### **Fishbanks Simulation**

Fish Banks, Ltd. is a computer-assisted interactive, role-playing simulation in which groups manage a fishing company. As participants, you will try to maximize your assets in a world with renewable natural resources and economic competition. This game is intended to improve higher-order reasoning, communication, and group problem-solving. We will use this simulation exercise to better understand the economic, natural resource, and competitive aspects of an environmental policy scenario.

### **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism or cheating on examinations, is a very serious issue and will be subject to disciplinary action as per Colby's policies regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Examinations, papers, and projects must represent your own work and thought. Using the work of other people without acknowledging their contribution is plagiarism. Examples of plagiarism includes verbatim copying, extensive paraphrasing (changing a few words here and there), and structural plagiarism (borrowing the structure or outline of somebody else's work without acknowledgement). For additional information on academic dishonest and plagiarism, see [http://author.colby.edu/academics\\_cs/library/services/instruction/plagiarism.cfm](http://author.colby.edu/academics_cs/library/services/instruction/plagiarism.cfm)

### **Participation and attendance**

You will be expected to prepare for and to participate actively in class discussions, activities, and assignments. Several structured activities will be assigned to facilitate class discussions. It is your responsibility to notify me of any planned absences from class beforehand and to discuss with me whether it will be possible to make up or reschedule an activity or assignment noted in the syllabus. The course follows College policies regarding attendance.

### **Schedule**

The following is a draft schedule as of the first day of class and is subject to change. Please note that additional readings may be assigned and made available during the semester.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic and text readings</b>	<b>Assignments &amp; events</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Introducing environmental policy</b> Kraft ch 1 (pp 1-24 ); (optional: Kraft ch 2) Layzer ch 1 (pp 1-25)	
<b>2</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Evolution of environmental policy I</b> Kraft ch 4 (pp. 85-90) Marsh "Human Responsibility for Land" Muir "A Voice for Wilderness" Leopold "A land Ethic" Pinchot "The Birth of 'Conservation'" Carson Pesticides	
<b>3</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Evolution of environmental policy II</b> (Andrews 2006) Kraft ch 4 (pp. 90-109), Kraft ch 6 (pp. 196-199) Layzer ch 2 (pp. 26-49) and ch 13 (pp. 346-369)	<b>Discussion essay due</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Environmental policy process and institutions I</b> Kraft ch. 3 (pp. 56-84)	
<b>5</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Environmental policy process and institutions II</b> Kraft ch 5 (pp 132-139)	
<b>6</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Risk, costs, and benefits in environmental policy</b> Kraft ch 7 (pp. 205-240), Kraft ch 5 (139-255) (Kennedy 2004)	<b>Discussion essay due</b>
	<b>(Wed)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Maureen Drouin</b> , Executive Director of the Maine League of Conservation Voters "Making Maine's Environment a Political Priority"	<b>Recommended Talk</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Video</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Work on background paper; evening speaker</b>	<b>Background paper due</b> Gijsbert Nollen, Principal Consultant, ICE BV, Olin 1 7:00pm
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
<b>9</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Research methods laboratory</b> (GIS lab) <b>Extra Lab session (tentative: 7:00-8:30pm)</b>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Research methods laboratory</b> (GIS lab)	<b>GIS and statistics assignment due</b>
	<b>Tu</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>FALL BREAK</b>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Toxic chemical regulation and policy</b> Kraft ch 5 (123-132)	<b>Guest Lecture (in class): Dr. Gail Carlson</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Work on projects</b>	
<b>14</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Land management and natural resource policy</b>	

			Kraft ch 6 (pp. 173-192) Layzer ch 7 (pp. 159-185)	
<b>15</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Endangered species and forests</b> Kraft ch 6 (pp. 192-201) Layzer ch 8 (191-217) (Nie 2001)	
<b>16</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>ESA discussion</b> Doremus TVA vs Hill	<b>Discussion</b> essay due
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
<b>17</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>State and local policy and planning</b> Layzer ch 17 (pp. 466-487)	<b>Preliminary analysis</b> <b>project due</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Post-election discussion</b>	
<b>19</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Work on projects</b>	
<b>20</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Water Policy</b> Kraft ch 5 (pp. 118-123)	
<b>21</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Climate and energy policy I</b> Kraft ch 6 (pp. 159-123) Layzer ch 6 (pp. 130-154)	
<b>22</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Climate and energy policy II</b> Layzer ch 11 (pp. 278-307) (Price 2006)	
<b>23</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Work on projects</b>	<b>Projects due</b>
<b>NOV 26-30 THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>				
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
<b>24</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>FISHBANKS</b>	
<b>25</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Beyond tragedy: Fisheries and common pool resources</b> Layzer ch 10 (pp. 251-274) (Dietz et al. 2003)	<b>Wrap up</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>				

### First Semester 2008

Wednesday, Sept. 3	First classes
Monday and Tuesday, October 13 and 14	Fall break (no classes)
Wednesday, Nov. 26, – Sunday, Nov. 30	Thanksgiving recess
Friday, Dec. 5	Last classes of first semester
Saturday, Dec. 6	Last day for scheduled events
Wednesday, Dec. 10, – Monday, Dec. 15	Semester examinations

### Readings

The following readings and those listed above are required and you will be expected to be ready to discuss them in class the day they are assigned. See fileserver for readings by Marsh, Muir, Leopold, Pinchot, and Carson.

Short readings (on fileserver): Carson, R. Pesticides; Leopold, A. A land ethic; Marsh, G.P. Human responsibility for the land; Muir, J. A Voice for wilderness; Pinchot, G. The birth of “conservation”

Andrews, R. N. L. 2006. Learning from History: U.S. environmental politics, policies, and the common good (vol 48, pg 28, 2006). *Environment* **48**:27-27.

Dietz, T., E. Ostrom, and P. C. Stern. 2003. The struggle to govern the commons. *Science* **302**:1907-1912.

Doremus, H. 2005. The story of TVA v Hill: A narrow escape for a broad law in R. Lazarus, and O. Houck, editors. *Environmental Law Stories*. Foundation Press, New York.

Kennedy, R. F. J. 2004. The junk science of George W. Bush. *The Nation* **March 8**.

Nie, M. A. 2001. The sociopolitical dimensions of wolf management and restoration in the United States. *Research in Human Ecology* **8**:1-12.

Price, T. 2006. The New Environmentalism. *CQ Researcher* **16**:985-1008.