

Environmental Politics
POS 4931/Spring 2020/TUR2305
T|2-3 (8:30am-10:25am)
R|3 (9:35am-10:25am)

Dr. Angela F. McCarthy
Office: 207 Anderson
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday (11:30am – 3:00pm) & by appointment
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to environmental politics through a policy perspective. In doing so, we will discuss the state of the environment, the evolution of environmental policy and politics, environmental policymaking in Congress, policy protections, and contemporary environmental policies and concerns. This course has two major themes: policy analysis and environmental policymaking. Throughout this semester, we will examine the implications of issues including (but not limited to) natural energy, food production, overconsumption, hazardous waste, fracking, offshore drilling, etc. We are also interested in the policymaking process and the role of government in creating and enforcing environmental policy.

REQUIRED TEXTS

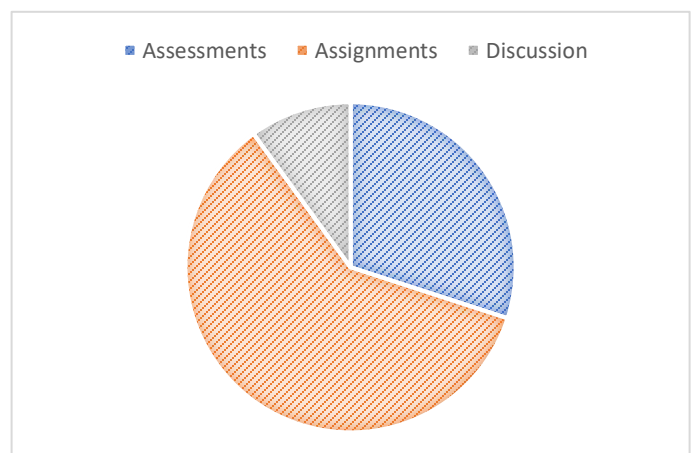
The Environmental Case
Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty First Century
Environmental Policy and Politics (Recommended)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assessments: 30%. There are **two** assessments. Each assessment is worth 15% of your final grade. Read the assigned materials for the exams. During class, we will discuss assessment questions and answers.

Assignments: 60%. There are **12** weekly assignments. Each assignment is worth 5% of your final grade. There will be one bonus assignment.

Class discussion: 10%. You are expected to give your (informed) opinion on opinions.



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ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

Assessments: 30%. See “Class Schedule” for assessment dates. Prior to the assessment period, you will receive a list of 20 terms. You will write a two paragraph response for each term. This is an open book assessment. However, there are guidelines to your assessments.

Assignments: 60%. Please note that the assignment portion of the class is worth more than exams. Take assignment seriously. On Tuesdays, I will provide students with a prompt that they must answer. Students must complete assignments by **Friday at 5pm**. You are required to submit assignments via Canvas. Assignments are time stamped. Late assignments are not graded. REPEAT: Late assignments are not graded. I’m serious about this. If you miss class, do not email me to ask about the assignment. You will need to ask a classmate or someone who is privy to the assignment details. I will NOT provide the details to someone who is not in class. Again, late assignments are not graded.

Class discussion: 10%. Discussion grades are based on your contribution to the class.

COURSE SPECIFICS/DETAILS

Grading scale: 93.0 to 100 A, 90.0 to 92.9 A-, 87.0 to 89.9 B+, 83.0 to 86.9 B, 80.0 to 82.9 B-, 77.0 to 79.9 C+, 73.0 to 76.9 C, 70.0 to 72.9 C-, 67.0 to 69.9 D+, 63.0 to 66.9 D, 60.0 to 62.9 D-, below 60.0 E.

Office Hours: Students are welcome to attend the scheduled office hours. My office is (almost) always open for student to inquire about their grades, discuss weekly assignments, or chat about public opinion and politics. If the scheduled office hours do not fit your schedule, then let’s make an appointment. I am happy to accommodate your scheduling needs.

Lecture (Tuesday): Tuesday classes are designed to be lectured centered. However, students should expect organically formed group discussion.

Enrichment (Thursday): Thursdays are designated enrichment days. We will use the 1-hour block of time to enrich our understanding of the materials. Thursday meetings will be heavy discussion days (via online or in class). Students should be prepared to contribute something of value.

Late work: **Late work is not accepted.** If you find yourself unable to complete your assignments on time, email me as soon as possible. I reserve the right to make an exception, provided there is valid documentation. Of course, students can make up exams and assignments due to a university obligation, illness, death of a family member, or civic duties. Students who miss an assignment and have a valid excuse are given three days after the missed assignment to arrange a makeup. Otherwise, you are not allowed to make up the assignment. Without a valid excuse, you are not allowed to make up assignments. No exceptions.

Attending class: Class attendance is required and expected. You will need to fulfill your commitment and obligation to be in class and on time every day that class is held. **Exception: Please do not come to class ill.** If you think that you are ill then stay home, get some rest, go to the doctor, and recover. We will make arrangements on how to accommodate your missing class. Note: you are responsible for completing missed assignments. See the “Late work” discussion for more information.

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Recordings: Please see the Student Honor Code. Students are not allowed to record or video record lectures without my permission.

Electronics: Feel free to use laptops and tablets during lectures. However, you may be doing yourself a disservice. See [Attention, Students: Put Your Laptops Away](#). If social media proves to be disruptive to the learning environment, then I will limit the use of electronic devices in the course.

Evaluations: Evaluations are part of our course. To ensure the highest quality of education for the entire UF student body, students are expected to provide feedback on their satisfaction with the course.

Tentative: Life is often unpredictable. This syllabus is subject to change. This is to protect the needs of both the instructor and the students.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students with Disabilities. The University of Florida is committed to providing accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability which may require accommodation, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565).

Academic Honesty. It is your responsibility to refrain from cheating, academic misconduct, and/or plagiarism. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities or you are questioning your academic integrity, then contact me immediately. Visit the [Dean of Students Office](#) for an explanation of plagiarism, student conduct, and conflict resolution.

Counseling and Wellness Center. If you feel that you need emotional support, then contact information for the [Counseling and Wellness Center](#).

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

January 6	Classes Begin
January 6 – 10	Drop/Add and Late registration
January 20	No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 29 – March 7	No Class: Spring Break
April 10	Drop Deadline and Withdrawal deadline
April 11	Faculty Course Evaluation Period Opens
April 22	Drop/Add or Withdraw from Spring Courses (must petition college)
April 22	Classes End
April 23 & 24	Reading Days
April 24	Faculty Course Evaluation Period Closes
April 25 – May 1	Final Exams
May 1 – May 3	Commencement

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CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 1-7 & 1-9	Syllabus/Overview of Course Kraft: Environmental Problems and Politics (Chapter 1)
WEEK 2 1-14 & 1-16	Framework Vig and Kraft: U.S. Environmental Policy Achievements and New Directions (Chapter 1) Layzer and Rinfret: A Policymaking Framework: Defining Problems and Portraying Solutions in U.S. Environmental Politics (Chapter 1) Assignment #1
WEEK 3 1-21 & 1-23	State of the Environment Kraft: Judging the State of the Environment (Chapter 2) Layzer and Rinfret: The Nation Tackles Air and Water Pollution: The Environmental Protection Agency and Clean Air and Clean Water Acts (Chapter 2) Assignment #2
WEEK 4 1-28 & 1-30	Policymaking Process Kraft: Making Environmental Policy (Chapter 3) Kraft: The Evolution of Environmental Policy and Politics (Chapter 4) Vig and Kraft: Environmental Advocacy at the Dawn of the Trump Era: Assessing Strategies for the Preservation of Progress (Chapter 3) Layzer and Rinfret: Love Canal: Hazardous Waste and the Politics of Fear (Chapter 3) Assignment #3
WEEK 5 2-4 & 2-6	Policymaking Process Layzer and Rinfret: Ecosystem-Based Management in the Chesapeake Bay (Chapter 4) Layzer and Rinfret: Market-Based Solutions: Acid Rain and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (Chapter 5) Assignment #4
WEEK 6 2-11 & 2-13	Governmental Institutions Vig and Kraft: Presidential Powers and Environmental Policy (Chapter 4) Vig and Kraft: Environmental Policy in Congress (Chapter 5) Layzer and Rinfret: Oil Versus Wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Chap 6) Assignment #5
WEEK 7 2-18 & 2-20	Governmental Institutions Vig and Kraft: Environmental Policy in the Courts (Chapter 6) Layzer and Rinfret: Federal Grazing Policy: Some Things Never Change (Chapter 7) Assignment #6

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- WEEK 8**
2-25 & 2-27 **Environmental Protection Policy**
Kraft: Environmental Protection Policy: Controlling Pollution (Chapter 5)
Vig and Kraft: Racing to the Top, the Bottom, or the Middle of the Pack? The Evolving State of Government Role in Environmental Protection (Chapter 2)
Vig and Kraft: The Environmental Protection Agency (Chapter 7)
Layzer and Rinfret: Jobs Versus the Environment: Saving the Northern Spotted Owl (Chapter 8)
ASSESSMENT
- WEEK 9**
SPRING BREAK
- WEEK 10**
3-10 & 3-12 **Environmental Protection Policy**
Vig and Kraft: Applying Market Principles to Environmental Policy (Chapter 10)
Layzer and Rinfret: Playground or Paradise? Snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park (Chapter 9)
Layzer and Rinfret: Crisis and Recovery in the New England Fisheries (Chapter 10)
Assignment #7
- WEEK 11**
3-17 & 3-19 **Energy Policies and Environmental Quality**
Kraft: Energy and Natural Resource Policies (Chapter 6)
Vig and Kraft: Energy Policy Fracking, Coal, and the Water-Energy Nexus (Chapter 8)
Vig and Kraft: Eating and the Environment Ecological Tensions in Food Production (Chapter 9)
Layzer and Rinfret: Fracking Wars: Local and State Responses to Unconventional Shale Gas Development (Chapter 14)
Assignment #8
- WEEK 12**
3-24 & 3-26 **Energy Policies and Environmental Quality**
Vig and Kraft: Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously: What Cities are Doing? (Chapter 12)
Layzer and Rinfret: Climate Change: The Crisis of our Time (Chapter 12)
Layzer and Rinfret: Cape Wind: If Not Here, Where? (Chapter 13)
Assignment #9
- WEEK 13**
3-31 & 4-2 **Evaluating Environmental and Resource Policies**
Kraft: Evaluating Environmental Policy (Chapter 7)
Vig and Kraft: Toward Sustainable Production: Finding Workable Strategies for Government and Industry (Chapter 11)
Layzer and Rinfret: The Deepwater Horizon Disaster: The High Cost of Offshore Oil (Chapter 11)
Assignment #10

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- WEEK 14**
4-7 & 4-9 **Sustainability**
Kraft: Environmental Policy and Politics for the Twenty-First Century (Chapter 8)
Vig and Kraft: Global Climate Change Governance Where to Go After Paris? (Chapter 13)
Layzer and Rinfret: Making Trade-Offs: Urban Sprawl and the Evolving System of Growth Management in Portland, Oregon (Chapter 15)
Layzer and Rinfret: Post- Katrina: Lessons From a Disaster (Chapter 16)
Assignment #11
- WEEK 15**
4-14 & 4-16 **Population, Environment, and Development**
Vig and Kraft: Environment, Population, and the Developing World (Chapter 14)
Vig and Kraft: Conclusion: Past and Future Environmental Challenges (Chapter 15)
Layzer and Rinfret: Conclusions: Politics, Values, and Environmental Policy Change (Chapter 17)
Assignment #12
- WEEK 16**
4-21 **Assessment**
