

PSCI 3064: Environmental Political Theory

Spring semester 2017 • MWF 12-12:50 pm • MUEN E131

Instructor: Steve Vanderheiden

Office: Ketchum 240 • Office Hours: M 1-2 pm & W 9:45-10:45 am

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Course Description:

This course examines normative concepts and theories as they apply to the understanding and evaluation of contemporary environmental issues. Over the semester, we shall consider accounts of environmental problems through discourses of development, modernization, and security, examine alternate frames for such issues as problems for ethics, economics, or political economy, and apply concepts such as justice, democracy, and rights to issues in environmental politics, considering the potential and limits of theorizing them in these terms. We shall also apply these theoretical tools and insights to issues of urban planning and climate change, along with an extensive application of such tools to issues of food production and consumption. The goals of the course are to better understand the normative bases of major contemporary environmental issues and movements, to critically assess the role of underlying theories and concepts in shaping environmental politics, and to appreciate how environmental problems and goals rest on social and political theories. The course shall assess a range of approaches to the study of environmental politics, but does not advocate any particular value system.

Course requirements and grading:

There are three main categories of graded components to the course:

1. **Exams** (70 percent): Exams every other Friday during the semester will be worth 8 points each, and a final exam on May 10 will be worth 14 points. Biweekly exams during the semester will be administered through D2L, with the final exam held in the classroom. Further details about the format of exams will be provided in class.
2. **Paper** (15 percent): Students will be assigned to write one paper of approximately 6 to 8 double-spaced pages, from a list of topics to be distributed midway through the term. Further details on this assignments will be provided in class.
3. **Clicker quizzes** (15 percent): Students will be assessed on their class attendance and preparation through an iClicker quiz during each lecture. Students are responsible for bringing a working iClicker each day, and will only receive points if in attendance at the beginning and end of each class period. Missed clicker points cannot be made up. The lowest three daily clicker scores will not be used in calculation of semester quiz scores.

Late papers and make-up exams resulting from unexcused absences shall be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor, and with an appropriate penalty.

Texts:

All required readings for the course can be found online in the CU Desire2Learn system (D2L), organized by date. There are no required books for sale in the university bookstore.

University and course policies:

Disability accommodations: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671 and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

Religious observances: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students needing to miss class or exams for religious observances must inform the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester. http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom behavior: Students and faculty share responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which opinions are expressed. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. For further information, see <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior> and http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code for details.

Discrimination and harassment: The CU-Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the above referenced policies can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Honor code: All students of the CU-Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating (including clicker fraud), plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Further details can be found at www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

Excused absences: At the instructor's discretion, students may be given opportunities to make up exams missed as the result of documented illnesses (with note from health care provider) or other documented emergencies, religious observances, or official university activities. Wherever possible, students should inform the instructor in advance of such absences in order to make

necessary arrangements. Students with more than three excused absences should consult with the instructor to discuss options for minimizing the impact of quiz points on their course grades.

Classroom etiquette: Students are expected to arrive in class by the scheduled start time and to remain until class is dismissed. Phones and other small electronic devices cannot be used in class, and must be put away during lecture. Laptop computers or tablets cannot be used without the prior consent of the instructor, and are subject to appropriate use restrictions. All students should feel free to participate in classroom discussion, and must allow others to do the same.

Intellectual property: Lecture content is the intellectual property of the instructor. Students may not record lectures, lectures slides, or exams through audio recording, still or video photography or any other medium, and may not profit from the sale of lecture notes. Students should not post electronic course materials (e.g. course texts) on any publicly-accessible website.

Penalties for violation of any of the above-listed policies shall be determined by the instructor.

Reading, lecture, and exam schedule:

Students should read the assigned texts in advance of each day's lecture, as indicated below. The instructor reserved the prerogative to modify this schedule as needed.

January 18: Introduction (no reading assignment)

January 20: read Geisel, *The Lorax* and Diamond, "Twilight at Easter"

January 23: read Club of Rome, from *The Limits to Growth (30 Year Update)*

January 25: read Simon, "Bright Global Future"

January 27: Exam 1

January 30: read Arrow, et al, "Economic Growth, Carrying Capacity, and the Environment"

February 1: read Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons"

February 3: read Ostrom, et al, "Revisiting the Commons"

February 6: read Paavola, "Climate Change: The Ultimate 'Tragedy of the Commons'?"

February 8: read Rees, "Revisiting Carrying Capacity"

February 10: Exam 2

February 13: read WCED, from *Our Common Future*

February 15: read Sachs, "From MDGs to SDGs"

February 17: read Daly, "Sustainable Growth: An Impossibility Theorem"

February 20: read Carruthers, "From Opposition to Orthodoxy"

February 22: read Redclift, "Sustainable Development: An Oxymoron Comes of Age"

February 24: Exam 3

February 27: read Hawken, "Natural Capitalism"

March 1: read Shellenberger & Nordhaus, "Second Life"

March 3: read Pacala & Socolow, "Stabilization Wedges"

March 6: read Pollin, “Build the Green Economy” (and select responses)

March 8: read Goodin, “Selling Environmental Indulgences”

March 10: Exam 4

March 13: read Buzan, *et al*, from *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*

March 15: read Deudney, “The Case against Linking Degradation and Security”

March 17: read Eckersley, “Ecological Intervention: Prospects and Limits”

March 20: read de Shalit, “Climate Change Refugees, Compensation, and Rectification”

March 22: Vanderheiden @ conference (no class)

March 24: Exam 5

April 3: read Ball, “Democracy”

April 5: read Dryzek & Stevenson, “Global Democracy and Earth System Governance”

April 7: read Pollan, from *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*

April 10: read Goeminne, “Lost in Translation”

April 12: read Hayward, “Constitutional Environmental Rights: A Care for Political Analysis”

April 14: Exam 6

April 17: read UCC, *Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty*

April 19: read Schlosberg, “Theorizing Environmental Justice”

April 21: read Wackernagel & Rees, from *Our Ecological Footprint*

April 24: read Gottlieb & Joshi, from *Food Justice*

April 26: read Shue, “Human Rights, Climate Change, and the Trillionth Ton”

April 28: Exam 7

May 1: read O’Rourke, “Citizen Consumer” (and select responses)

May 3: read Maniates, “Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?”

May 5: Conclusions (no reading assignment)

May 10 (Wednesday), 4:30-6:10: final exam