

**Political Science 3206 - 003**  
**THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY**

**SPRING 2011**

T, Th 12:30- 1:45 PM  
Hellems 199

W Douglas Costain  
Office: Muen. D0046  
Office Phone: 303.492.6806  
Hours: T/Th 10-11:00 am,  
F 10:30-11:30 **and** by appointment

Pre Law Advising: M/W/F, by appointment

University Club 111; Set up meetings at- [aac.Colorado.edu](mailto:aac.Colorado.edu) e-mail: [costaind@colorado.edu](mailto:costaind@colorado.edu)  
Graduate Assistant: Jay Rothrock, (J.D.); Ketchum 401, W 3:45-4:45pm; Th 2:00-3:00pm:

After the 2008 and 2010 elections, and the BP oil spill, environmental protection and "Green energy"/climate change is central to the policy debate in Washington D.C. This course examines selected aspects of the formation and implementation of public policy on the environment and energy/climate change. We begin with a look at the present condition and future prospects of environmentalism as a social and political force. As President Obama and the Republicans in Congress struggle with budget, environmental and partisan challenges, we look at the processes and institutions shaping government policies. We hope to be incorporating several panels from the April Conference on World Affairs into the course. The last segment features an overview of global eco-politics, and policy options surrounding Global Warming/Climate Change and some local experience with sustainability on a Boulder student/alumni organic farm.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Required Books:** (All are paperbacks.)

Vig & Kraft, *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, (2010) Seventh edition.

Mike Hulme, *Why We Disagree About Climate Change: Understanding Controversy..*, (2009).

Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, (2006)

### **Examinations:**

*Students requiring special accommodations for exams due to a handicap or disability or Religious Obligation should notify me by Jan 27. I will make sure your needs are met.*

**First Examination, Thursday, Feb 10 (30%)**

**Second Examination, Thursday, Mar 17 (30%)**

**Final Examination, Tuesday, May 3 (40%) 4:30 -7:00 PM**

Given the large class size, exams will include short answers (and possibly, machine gradable components), as well as essays.

**Extra-Credit:** Optional Oral Reports throughout the semester.

Class presentations by individuals or small co-ops on topics related to the course will be arranged.

Bonus points worth **up to** 10 points (added to the first in-class exam score) will be earned by participants.

Four (4) brief oral reports will count as **10** extra-credit points, or you can present a "regular" report on some aspect of current environmental politics beyond the class (or a report on a CWA panel or a campus speaker). Evaluative critiques of course materials, especially the readings, are encouraged and also will earn extra-credit.

### **Honor Code / Nondiscrimination Policies**

Every student at CU is responsible for following the Honor Code // [Colorado.edu/policies/honor.html](http://Colorado.edu/policies/honor.html)  
The absence of harassment and intimidation is essential to the learning environment. Information and reporting guidelines are at: [Colorado.edu/odh](http://Colorado.edu/odh)

**TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS** (adjustments and corrections will be given in class)

Jan 11	Introduction
Jan 13-20	The Politics of the Environment Movement: Vig & Kraft; ch. 1, 3.
Jan 20-Feb 1	The Environment and American Political Institutions: Vig & Kraft; chapters 1-5.
Feb 3-8	Can EPA and the Courts Save the Environment? Vig & Kraft; chapters 6, 7.
<b>Feb 10 Th</b>	<b>FIRST EXAMINATION</b> BRING "BLUE" BOOKS (OR "GREEN" EQUIVALENTS) (A Review Sheet will be available)
Feb. 15-17	Regulations and Markets: Is Green Capitalism Possible? Vig & Kraft; ch. 9, 10.
Feb 22-24	Natural Resource Politics: Vig & Kraft; 8.
March 1-15	Overview of Climate Change: Vig & Kraft; 12, 13. Thinking Deeply About Climate Change: <i>Why We Disagree</i> ; preface, ch.1-3.
<b>March 17 Th</b>	<b>SECOND EXAMINATION --</b> BRING "BLUE" OR "GREEN" BOOKS (A Review Sheet will be available)
(MARCH 20-26)	SPRING BREAK- NO CLASSES
(March 30 Weds)	<i>Law School Information Day, Aspen room, UMC 1-4pm</i>
March 29-31	Values, Beliefs and Fears in the Debate, <i>Why We Disagree</i> ; ch. 4-6.
*(April 4-8)	*(Conference on World Affairs- Energy/Environmental panels- t.b.a.)*
April 5	Risks, <i>Why We Disagree</i> ; ch. 7.
April 7, 12	Development (CHINA!) <i>Why We Disagree</i> ; ch. 8; Vig & Kraft; 14
April 14-26	Local Sustainability, Michael Pollan, <i>The Omnivore's Dilemma (ALL)</i>
April 26-28	Reconciling Climate Change and Sustainability: <i>Why We Disagree</i> ; ch. 9-10. Vig & Kraft; chapters 15, 16.

**FINAL EXAMINATION: MAY 3 TUESDAY 4:30 - 7:00 PM**

**UNIVERSITY RULES DO NOT ALLOW EARLY EXAMS TO BE GIVEN**