

## **PSCI 3206: Environment and Public Policy**

Fall semester 2016 • T & Th 12:30-1:45 pm • HUMN 250

Instructor: Steve Vanderheiden

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### **Course Description:**

This is a course in environmental policy, and shall examine the processes by which such policy is made, including the governmental and nongovernmental actors that play roles in the agenda setting and policymaking processes, as well as the tools and concepts by which environmental policy can be assessed. In order to better understand contemporary environmental policy and politics, we shall examine a series of case studies, including policy issues involving pollution control, access to and management of natural resources, urban design and restoration, and energy development. These case studies will also consider environmental policy in the state and local, national, and international contexts, and will require students to think critically about how one might resolve conflicting policy goals and to coordinate policy efforts across scales and political jurisdictions.

The goals of the course are to better understand the actors and processes, both within and outside of the state, that are involved in environmental politics and policy. Students will be expected to apply the knowledge and tools from the course to ongoing policy issues that develop during the semester, partly through a required research paper and partly through other course activities, as well as to follow current environmental policy developments in the news.

### **Course requirements and grading:**

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

1. **Exams** (65 percent): Two midterm exams worth 20 points each and a final exam worth 25 points account for the majority of points used to calculate course grades. Further details about the format of exams and a study guide for each will be provided in class.
2. **Paper** (20 percent): Students will be assigned to write one paper of approximately 6 to 8 double-spaced pages, on an environmental policy issue of their choosing. Further details and instructions for the assignment will be provided in class midway through the term.
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 two 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:**

There are two required texts for this course, as well as a required iClicker. All are available for purchase in the CU bookstore. In addition, several other assigned texts shall be placed online in Desire2Learn (abbreviated as D2L, below), where they can be accessed at no charge.

Judith A. Layzer, *The Environmental Case*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (CQ Press, 2016)

Norman Vig & Michael Kraft, *Environmental Policy*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition (CQ Press, 2016)

Note that both of these texts have earlier editions with different pagination and content. We will be using current editions, which are abbreviated as EC and EP on the Reading Schedule.

### **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\\_religh.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_religh.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/classbehavior.html> and [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](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](mailto: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](http://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. The instructor reserves the right to distinguish excusable from non-excusable absences. Missed daily quiz points resulting from excused absences cannot be made up; students missing more than three days of class from 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. Laptop computers and other electronic devices cannot be used in class without the prior consent of the instructor, and are subject to appropriate use restrictions. Penalties for violation of this policy shall be determined by the instructor. All students should feel free to participate in classroom discussion, and must allow others to do the same.

### **Reading, lecture, and exam schedule:**

Lectures will focus upon the readings assigned for a given day, as indicated below. Assigned texts should be read in advance of each day's scheduled topic, and may be the subject of reading quizzes. The instructor reserves the prerogative to modify this schedule if necessary.

In addition to listed reading assignments, students should follow current environmental news stories from *The New York Times*, which will be made available for students to read online in the D2L page for the course by noon on the day prior to each scheduled meeting.

August 23: Introduction

August 25: D2L learning assessment (no class meeting)

August 30: The environmental policymaking process (read EP, ch. 1)

September 1: Vanderheiden @ APSA meeting (no class meeting)

September 6: Policy actors 1: state and local government (read EP, ch. 2)

September 8: Policy actors 2: media and civil society (read EP, ch. 3)

September 13: Policy actors 3: presidents and executive branch agencies (read EP, chs. 4, 7)

September 15: Policy actors 4: Congress (read EP, ch. 5)

September 20: Policy actors 5: the courts (read EP, ch. 6)

September 22: Policy actors 6: international organizations (read EP, Ch. 13)

September 27: Policy analysis framework (EC, ch. 1)

September 29: **First midterm** (in class)

October 4: Case 1: EPA and pollution (read EC, ch. 2)

October 6: Case 2: Acid rain and the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (read EC, ch. 5)

October 11: Case 3: Love Canal (read EC, ch. 3)

October 13: Case 4: ecosystem management in the Chesapeake Bay (read EC ch. 4)

October 18: Case 5: New England Fisheries (EC, ch. 10)

October 20: Case 6: snowmobiles in Yellowstone (EC, ch. 9)

October 25: Case 7: BLM and grazing (EC, ch. 7)

October 27: Case 8: spotted owls in the PNW (EC, ch. 8)

November 1: **Second midterm** (in class)

November 3: Case 9: food systems (read EP, ch. 9)

November 8: Case 10: population and development (read EP, ch. 14)

November 10: Case 11: climate change (read EC, ch. 12)

November 15: Case 12: smart growth in Portland (read EC ch. 15)

November 17: Case 13: Hurricane Katrina and NOLA (read EC ch. 16)

November 21-25: Fall Break (no class)

November 29: Case 14: fracking (read EP, ch. 8, EC, ch. 14)

December 1: Case 15: Cape Wind (read EP, ch. 11, EC, ch. 13)

December 6: Case 16: oil exploration and extraction (read EC, chs. 6, 11)

December 8: Conclusions (no reading assignment)

December 12 (Monday), 1:30-3:10 pm, **final exam**