

PSCI/ENVS 3064: Environmental Political Theory

Maymester 2018 • 9 am -12 pm • DUAN G2B21

Instructor: Steve Vanderheiden

Office: Ketchum 240 • Office Hours: Tu & Th 12:15-1:15 pm and by appointment

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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** (60 percent): There will be two exams: a midterm in class on May 22 and a final in class on June 1. Each exam is worth 30 points, with a non-comprehensive final. Both exams will be comprised of multiple-choice, short answer and essay questions. Further details about and a study guide for exams will be provided in class.
2. **Paper** (25 percent): Students will be assigned to write one paper from a list of topics to be distributed midway through the term. Students will have one week to complete the paper. Further details on the assignments will be provided in class.
3. **Participation** (15 percent): Students will be assessed on their attendance, preparation and participation in class with a score that reflects a combination of these qualities.

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, Willard 322, 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. See full details: 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 information, see <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> 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, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment 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, 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 on the honor code 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. The instructor reserves the right to distinguish excusable from non-excusable absences.

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 shall be subject to appropriate use restrictions. All students should feel free to participate in the intellectual life of the course, 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. Given long daily meeting times and the pace of Maymester courses, we will break up readings and lecture into two halves of each day's reading assignment, taking a short break between each half session.

May 14: Introduction

Geisel, *The Lorax*
Diamond, "Twilight at Easter"

May 15: Ecological limits

Club of Rome, from *The Limits to Growth (30 Year Update)*
Simon, "Bright Global Future"
Arrow, et al, "Economic Growth, Carrying Capacity, and the Environment"

May 16: Greening the development agenda

WCED, from *Our Common Future*
Daly, "Sustainable Growth: An Impossibility Theorem"
Carruthers, "From Opposition to Orthodoxy"

May 17: Ecological modernization

Wallace-Wells, "The Uninhabitable Earth"
Hawken, "Natural Capitalism"
Shellenberger & Nordhaus, "Second Life"

May 18: Democracy: obstacle or opportunity?

Ball, "Democracy"
Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons"
Dagger, "Stopping Sprawl for the Good of All"

May 21: Politicizing science

Mooney, "Political Science 101"
Pielke, Jr., "When Scientists Politicize Science"
Bäckstrand, "Civic Science for Sustainability"

May 22: Midterm exam (in class)

May 23: Environment as economic problem

Baumol, "Taxation and the Control of Externalities"
Anderson & Leal, from *Free Market Environmentalism*
Goodin, "Selling Environmental Indulgences"

May 24: Environment and security

Buzan, et al, from *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*
Deudney, "The Case against Linking Degradation and Security"
Eckersely, "Ecological Intervention: Prospects and Limits"

May 25: **Consumerism and consumption**

Wackernagel & Rees, from *Our Ecological Footprint*

O'Rourke, "Citizen Consumer" (and select responses)

Maniates, "Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?"

May 28: **Memorial Day (no class)**

May 29: **The politics of food**

Berry, "The Pleasures of Eating"

Pollan, from *The Omnivore's Dilemma*

Gottlieb & Joshi, from *Food Justice*

May 30: **Environmental justice**

UCC, *Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty*

NPCELS, "Principles of Environmental Justice"

Shue, "Human Rights, Climate Change, and the Trillionth Ton"

May 31: **Environment and rights**

Stone, "Should Trees Have Legal Standing?"

Hayward, "Constitutional Environmental Rights: A Care for Political Analysis"

de Shalit, "Climate Change Refugees, Compensation, and Rectification"

June 1: **final exam (in class)**