

PSCI/ENVS 3064: Environmental Political Theory

Fall semester 2017 • T & Th 12:30-1:45 pm • HUMN 1B90

Instructor: Steve Vanderheiden

Office: Ketchum 240 • Office Hours: Tu & Th 9:45-10:45 am and by appointment

E-mail: vanders@colorado.edu • Phone: 303-492-7440

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** (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, from a list of topics to be distributed midway through the term. Further details on the 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/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 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 <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:

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.

August 29: Introduction (no reading assignment)

August 31: Theory, narrative, and prescription: what should be done?

Geisel, *The Lorax*

Diamond, "Twilight at Easter"

September 5: Ecological limits

Club of Rome, from *The Limits to Growth (30 Year Update)*

IPCC, *Climate Change 2014, Synthesis Report*, summary for policymakers

September 7: Ecological limits

Arrow, et al, "Economic Growth, Carrying Capacity, and the Environment"

September 12: Prometheanism

Simon, "Bright Global Future"

"The Greening of Planet Earth" (video)

September 14: Commons tragedies

Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons"

Ostrom, *et al*, "Revisiting the Commons"

September 19: Greening the development agenda

WCED, from *Our Common Future*

Sachs, "From MDGs to SDGs"

September 21: Sustainable development?

Daly, "Sustainable Growth: An Impossibility Theorem"

Carruthers, "From Opposition to Orthodoxy"

September 26: Ecological modernization

Hawken, "Natural Capitalism"

Shellenberger & Nordhaus, "Second Life"

September 28: Democracy: obstacle or opportunity?

Sagoff, “Values and Preferences”

Ball, “Democracy”

October 3: First exam (in class)

October 5: Politicizing science

Mooney, “Political Science 101”

Pielke, Jr., “When Scientists Politicize Science”

October 10: Climate science denial

“A Burning Question: Propaganda and the Denial of Climate Change” (film)

October 12: Climate science denial

Jacques, “A General Theory of Climate Denial” (podcast)

October 17: Environment as economic problem

Baumol, “Taxation and the Control of Externalities”

Anderson & Leal, from *Free Market Environmentalism*

October 19: Environment as economic problem

Goodin, “Selling Environmental Indulgences”

Polin, “Build the Green Economy”

October 24: Environment and security

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

Deudney, “The Case against Linking Degradation and Security”

October 26: Environment and security

Eckersely, “Ecological Intervention: Prospects and Limits”

October 31: Environment and human security

de Shalit, “Climate Change Refugees, Compensation, and Rectification”

November 2: Climate change and security

Dalby, “Climate Change: New Dimensions of Environmental Security” (podcast)

November 7: Second exam (in class)

November 9: Consumerism and consumption

O’Rourke, “Citizen Consumer” (and select responses)

November 14: Consumerism and consumption

DeGraff, from *Affluenza*

Redefining Progress, *The Genuine Progress Indicator 2006*

November 16: The politics of food

Berry, "The Pleasures of Eating"

Pollan, from *The Omnivore's Dilemma*

November 20-24: Fall Break (no class)

November 28: Consumption and inequality

Wackernagel & Rees, from *Our Ecological Footprint*

November 30: Environmental justice

UCC, *Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty*

NPCELS, "Principles of Environmental Justice"

December 5: Environmental justice

Martínez-Alier, "Environmental Justice (Local and Global)"

Gottlieb & Joshi, from *Food Justice*

December 7: December 3: Environment and rights

Stone, "Should Trees Have Legal Standing?"

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

December 12: December 8: Environment and rights

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

December 14: Conclusions

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

December 18 (Monday), 4:30-6:10 pm: final exam