

**Natural Resource and Environmental Policy Analysis: NRE 381**  
**Fall 2014**

**Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:**

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**Course Description:**

This course examines the historical development of natural resource and environmental policies, provides an overview of the policy process and key federal agencies which manage natural resources or implement environmental regulations, and introduces basic policy analysis techniques so students can prepare and present a case-specific analysis of existing resource or environmental policy.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Introduce the student to various policies and regulatory approaches relevant to environmental and natural resource management.
2. Enable the student to identify the key processes, institutions, and stakeholders in environmental policy development and implementation.
3. Enable the student to evaluate environmental and natural resource policies in terms of effectiveness, fairness and efficiency.
4. Improve the student's critical thinking skills.

**Textbooks:**

1. Rosenbaum, W. A. (2014). *Environmental Politics and Policy* (9th ed.). Los Angeles, CA: CQ Press. (ISBN: 978-1-4522-3996-5)
2. Layzer, J. A. (2012). *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy* (3rd. ed.). Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. (ISBN: 978-1-60426-612-2)
3. Other readings will be provided to the student

**Assignments and Grades:**

Classes will primarily consist of short lectures, class discussions, pop quizzes and other class exercises centered on course readings. Readings will be assigned in advance during class. There will be three exams given. Each exam will consist of essay questions. In addition students will be required to do several group presentations. Finally a policy analysis paper (3-5 pages) will be required at the end of the semester.

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Quizzes and class exercises- 25%

Three exams - 15% each

Group presentations/leading class discussions - 15%

Paper - 15%

Grading Scale: A=90%-100%; B=80%-89%; C=70%-79%; D=60%-69%; E=0%-59%

**Class Attendance:**

There will be valuable content in class discussions that cannot be totally captured on an exam or other assignment. Therefore you are expected to attend all classes. You are responsible for all material presented, handouts, announcements and changes in the syllabus whether you are in class or not. During most classes, in addition to class lecture and discussion, there will be a class exercise and/or quiz. Quizzes and class exercises can only be made-up after a valid excuse is provided in writing. Valid excuses include serious illness of you or an immediate family member, death in the family, official university trip, major religious holidays, or other similar circumstances. Make-up quizzes and class exercises will include the quiz/class exercise and an additional assignment. Make-up work must be done within two weeks of returning to class. A make-up exam will be allowed only after you present me with a valid excuse in writing before the exam or a valid written medical excuse explaining

your illness or that of an immediate family member. I reserve the right to require additional verification before make-up work is allowed. Pop quizzes and class exercises can start at anytime during the class. If you come to class late and miss a quiz or class exercise you will receive a zero for that assignment. Finally, starting with the fourth unexcused absence, there will be a 5% reduction in your course grade for each unexcused absence.

**Course Website:**

There is a website associated with this course. On this website you will have access to the assigned readings outside of the texts, links to submit your assignments online, an online calendar to book appointments with me, and other resources. You can access this website through Blackboard or directly (<http://nre381.weebly.com/>). The password for the site is ukstudent381.

**Office Hours (Schedule a meeting outside of class):**

Interacting with faculty outside of class and getting personalized assistance is an important part of your education. Therefore you are strongly encouraged to meet with me outside of regular class time to discuss your coursework, get career or academic advice, or to discuss other topics of interest. My availability to meet with students is generally very flexible and accommodating. To make meeting with me as easy as possible you will have access to an online calendar through the course website where you can schedule meeting times convenient for you.

**Academic Honesty:**

All class work is expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a course grade of E. If you have any doubts concerning whether your work conforms to these standards please ask me.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

You are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner during all class activities. This includes coming to class on time, refraining from the use of electronic devices during class and not disrupting the class in any other manner. Policy is an inherently controversial subject. Discussion and debate is strongly encouraged to facilitate learning and development of critical thinking skills. However you are expected to be civil and respectful to me and your fellow students during all class discussions. Failure to adhere to any of the above requirements can result in dismissal from class or being dropped from the course.

**Course Content:**

- I. Introduction
  - a. History of environmental policy
  - b. Economic/social causes of environmental problems
- II. Making Environmental Policy
  - a. The policy process
  - b. The policy cycle
  - c. Science and policy
- III. Common Policy Challenges
  - a. Cost-benefit analysis
  - b. Risk assessment
  - c. Efficiency v. cost effectiveness
  - d. Command and control versus market oriented strategies
  - e. Environmental Justice
- IV. Air and Water Pollution
- V. Public Land Management
- VI. Regulation of Natural Resources on Private Land
  - a. Biodiversity
  - b. Wetlands
- VII. Energy Policy
- VIII. Toxic and Hazardous Substances
- IX. Global Environmental Policy and Climate Change
  - a. Climate Change
  - b. Sustainability

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities should contact the Disability Resource Center to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Website: <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/contact.html>

Telephone: (859) 257-2754

**Directions for an Emergency**

*If an emergency arises in this classroom, building or vicinity, your instructor will advise you of actions to follow to enhance your safety. If a situation requires emergency shelter (i.e., during a severe weather event), the nearest shelter location is in the basement of this building. If building evacuation occurs (i.e., fire alarm), follow posted evacuation routes and assemble on the lawn in front of the building so the instructor can help ensure their students have evacuated the building safely and they are not hindering emergency personnel access to the building. If you may require assistance during an emergency, notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester. In order to prepare for emergencies while on campus please continue to the below links for detailed emergency response guidelines: the UK Division of Crisis Management & Preparedness website (<http://www.uky.edu/EM/emergency-response-guide.html>) and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (<http://www.ca.uky.edu/>). To receive emergency messages, sign up for UK Alert (<http://www.uky.edu/EM/UKAlert>). Always turn cellular phones to silent mode when entering the classroom. If you observe or receive an emergency alert, immediately and calmly inform your instructor.*

**Both the content and structure of the class may be modified as the need arises.**