

PS 475/575 -- Prof. Weber
Fall Qtr. 2012

Office Hours: Tues., 12-1:30 PM
Thurs., 1:30-2:30

Environmental and Natural Resource Politics and Policy

Do acid rain, intractable urban smog, and endangered spotted owls signify a march toward ecological disaster? Is the challenge of using and sustaining the capacity of the environment to generate a continuous flow of resources and services becoming ever more difficult? Or are we instead racing forward to a new age of environmental optimism where cheaper and smarter environmental policies, and market mechanisms, as well as decentralized, participative decision-making venues rule the day? And where does climate change fit in all this?

This course will engage questions related to environmental and natural resources policy and politics in the United States. The class is grounded in the premise that because institutions are humanly devised constraints that shape human interaction, the way institutions are designed will strongly influence the interaction between people and the natural environment. Of primary concern is the capacity of current institutions--political, policy and administrative--for managing the natural environment. How do such institutions connect people to their natural environment? How do our current institutions work and what has been their influence on environmental/natural resource policy? Can we actually get to sustainable management of the natural environment?

By the end of this course, students should have a critical appreciation for the changing state of affairs in natural resource governance, the new governance institutions employed to manage the natural environment, the key debates in this particular policy arena, including an extended look at climate change policy and potential tools to deal with this phenomenon.

*****ALL students should go to the Blackboard course space to view the written descriptions of the learning modules and assignments.**

Required Books

- Vig & Kraft (2012). *American Environmental Politics*. CQ Press.
- Judith Layzer. 2012. *The Environmental Case*. MIT Press.
- Kerry Emmanuel. 2012. *Climate Change*. (a very brief, very clear explanation of this complex topic). MIT Press.
- + other readings sprinkled throughout the course class-by-class.
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Assignment and Grading Overview

Please go to Grade Center w/in this course's Blackboard space and click on Grade Schema to see what percentages are associated with which grades of A, B, C, etc. For example, As are awarded for scores b/w 93 and 98%, while a B+ ranges b/w 87.5% and 90%, and so on. The Grade Schema gives you all the details on this.

For undergraduates this course has a series of grades totaling 500 points in all. Graduate students will do more work and will be scored on a 640 point total grade basis. As per usual, those assignments with a smaller point count mean less work, while those with more points mean more. And as you will see, the Final Exam (for undergrads only) and the paper

assignments carry the most weight. But you will also receive credit for Attendance and Participation, each will be worth 2.5% of the total course grade (or 25 points each). The attendance policy can be viewed at its own individual link in this Syllabus and Learning Modules section.

All assignments and their due dates are noted within the individual Learning Modules, and the grade weights and due dates for each assignment are also noted within the My Grades on a column-by-column basis. To see the details of the actual assignments go to the "Assignments" link in this course space.

Please note that you will engage many different smaller assignments throughout this course and will then have a final exam that covers the last half or so of the course (specifics will be determined later in the quarter, but it will not be a comprehensive final). **The good news is that there is only one exam for undergrads and no final exam for graduate students.** However, as you will see, the graduate students are not being cut any slack, they will end up with additional opportunities to apply their higher level thinking skills by writing a major research paper, completing a team-based climate change policy paper, and writing reviews of major research pieces (all these are over and above the undergraduate assignments).

And please keep in perspective the amount of reading required for this course. Especially when you get to the climate change part of the course you will see what seem to be a gazillion readings.....there are a gazillion readings here, but more importantly many of them are only a few pages long because they are op-eds, letters to the editor, and other press accounts, not full blown research articles/book chapters.

This is going to be a great class. We're going to have fun.

<u>PS 475 Grade Weights & Assignments</u>		<u>Due Date</u>	<u>PS 575 Grade Weights & Assignments</u>
Attendance	25 points	N/A	Same
Participation	25 points	N/A	Same
Policy Values	25 points	Sept. 27	N/A
Congressional Gridlock	10 points	Oct. 2	N/A
State Env Policy	20	Oct. 9	N/A
American Env Mvmts	25	Oct 11	Same
Rural v. Urban	10	Oct 11	N/A
Wicked Problems	45	Oct 17	N/A
Sustainability	45	Oct 30	Same
Urban Sprawl	45	Nov 1	Same
Spotted Owls	25	Nov 6	Same
Inconvenient Truth Movie	15	Nov 20	N/A
CC Policy Paper	N/A	Nov 20	90 points
Precautionary Princ. Paper	85	Nov 27	Same
Research Paper	N/A	Dec. 5	185 points
Critical Review Pieces	N/A	vary/TBD	90 points
FINAL EXAM (take home)	100	Dec 5	N/A

Attendance Policy

We all know that attendance is important. Showing up, whether it is in university courses or life, more generally, is typically half the battle when it comes to success. I expect students to be here every class period. Having said that I also know that on occasion life can get in the way. This is why the attendance policy gives everyone two "freebie" misses. I do not need to hear why you missed. However, there are penalties for missing more than two classes during the quarter.

0 - 2 misses = 100%, or all 25 attendance points
 3-4 misses = 60%, or just 15 of the possible 25 attendance points
 More than 4 misses = 0%, or zero of the possible 25 attendance points

Late Policies for Assignments

We will have two late policies in this course.

- 1) For any and all papers (connoted as such in Assignments)

Late policy: same day, but later than the beginning of class = 5% penalty (1/2 grade)

Day 2 by 4 PM = 15% penalty

Day 3 by 4 PM = 30% penalty

Papers turned in **after** DAY 3 at 4 PM will receive zero credit.

2) for assignments other than papers.....you will get one "freebie," which means you can turn in one assignment late, but no later than 48 hours after it is due. All other assignments must be turned in on time in order to get credit--no excuses. The exception to this rule is the final exam. It must be turned in on time (i.e., late means a zero score).

Students with Disabilities

Accommodations are collaborative efforts b/w students , faculty and Services for Students w/ Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD are responsible for contacting me prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations, but have not yet obtained approval through SSD should contact SSD immediately at 541-737-4098.

Cheating Policies for All Students

Academic dishonesty is "an intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person and uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work." Academic dishonesty includes activities such as cheating (e.g., in-class exams, take home exams, etc.), fabrication, assisting another student to commit an act of academic dishonesty, tampering with professors' comments and/or grades, and plagiarism (representing and using another person's ideas, writings, and work as one's own). If you engage in such behavior, I will give you a zero on the assignment and submit the relevant paperwork on your case to the appropriate university committee.

For more on OSU's philosophy and policies regarding student conduct, see

<http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/index/htm>

Week 1: Overview & Env Policy Background

**Students are expected to do all assigned readings prior to class. So for Class #1 on Tuesday, Sept. 25th.....yes, you should have read Vig and Kraft Chapter 1. For Class #2, you need to read Layzer and Steel pieces before you see me on Thursday...and so on throughout the course.*

Tuesday, September 25: Course Overview + Background on Environmental Policymaking

Vig and Kraft. 2013. Chapter 1.

Thursday, September 27: Background on Environmental Policymaking (continued)

Layzer, Chapter 1

Steel, Brent, "An Introduction to Natural Resource Policy and the Environment: Changing Paradigms and Values." (see attached)

*****Make sure you do the assignment for today. It is due before class starts. See the first assignment under the Assignments link.**

Weeks 2 & 3: American Govt.--The Big Picture

Tuesday, October 2: Seeing the Big Political Picture: The Basics of American Government (Separate institutions sharing power; checks and balances)

Read Vig & Kraft, Chapter 4 (Presidency)

Read Vig & Kraft, Chapter 5 (Congress)

Economist. 2012. "Greendex: Green, Grow or Guilt?" Can be found at: <http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2012/07/greendex>

Thursday, October 4: The Courts & Bureaucracy

Vig and Kraft, Chapter 6 (courts)

Vig and Kraft, Chapter 7 (...the EPA)

Tuesday, October 9: Federalism/State Governments Role

Vig and Kraft, Chapter 2 (State governments)

Thursday, October 11: Translating Politics into Environmental Movements

Weber. 2000. "A New Vanguard for the Environment? ..." Society and Natural Resources.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/089419200279081> I had difficulty getting the download to work, so if you have the same problem then just grab the article from the attachment above.
 Brunson, Mark, and Bruce Shindler and Brent Steel, "Rural versus Urban Differences in Natural Resource Management Preferences."

****Make sure you log into the Assignments page while doing these readings. You need to complete two short exercises prior to class today.**

Wks 4 & 5: Changing Problems & Changing Approaches

Tuesday, October 16: The Changing Character of Problems.....from Simple to Complex

NO READING

Thursday, October 18: Changing Our Approach: Collaboratives/Integrated Policy

Vig and Kraft, Chapter 8

Tuesday, October 23: Changing Our Approach: Using Markets to Fight the Battle

Vig and Kraft, CH 9

Layzer, Chapter 14

Whitworth, Joe. 2012. "Water Quality Trading addresses freshwater problems with economic, environmental unity," *The Oregonian* (August 18).
http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2012/08/water_quality_trading_addresse.html

Joe Whitworth. 2012. (TED lecture/video) "Rivers are not supposed to burn."
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBzuV2d_8DE

--this TED lecture/video will be shown in class (14 minutes)

Weeks 5 & 6: Ecosystem Mgmt & Sustainability

Thursday, October 25 and Tuesday, Oct. 30: Ecosystem Mgmt & Sustainability

Layzer, Chapter 15, Ecosystem Management

Vig and Kraft, Chapter 10 "Toward Sustainable Production"

Vig and Kraft, Chapter 14 "China's Quest for a Green Economy."

Douglas Brown. 2012. "[Community Supported Agriculture spreads deep roots in the Front Range as area farmers cultivate new clients,](http://www.denverpost.com/coloradosunday/ci_20992932/community-supported-agriculture-spreads-deep-roots-front-range?)" *The Denver Post* (July 4).

http://www.denverpost.com/coloradosunday/ci_20992932/community-supported-agriculture-spreads-deep-roots-front-range?

WATCH Portlandia video in class on Eating Local.....If you want to watch before class (it's just a few minutes), you can find it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2LBICPEK6w>

Economist. 2012. "Green Growth: Shoots, Greens and Leaves," (June 14): 68-70. <http://www.economist.com/node/21556904>

Week 6: Controlling Urban Sprawl

Thursday, November 1: Controlling Urban Sprawl?

– Layzer, Chapter 16, Growth Management in Portland, OR

***There is an essay due today prior to class. See Assignments section under Urban Sprawl & Portland

Week 7: Forestry & Spotted Owls

Tuesday, November 6: Forestry and endangered species

– Layzer, Chapter 7, Spotted Owl case

Weeks 7, 8, 9 & 10: Climate Change, Energy, etc.

Thursday, November 8: Introduction to Climate Change: The Issue, Causes & Expected Effects

Kerry Emmanuel book. 2012. Read all.

Economist. 2012. *The Vanishing North: What the melting of the Arctic means for trade, energy and the environment*. A Special Report (June 16): 14 pp. You can find this at: <http://www.economist.com/node/21556921>

TED Talk. 2012. "James Hansen: Why I must speak out about climate change." http://www.ted.com/talks/james_hansen_why_i_must_speak_out_about_climate_change.html **(shown in class.....)**

Tom Yulsman. 2012. "Western Fires: Payback Time?" *The Daily Climate* (June 29). <http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2012/06/wildfire-deficit>

Juliet Eilperin. 2012. "Global warming no longer Americans' top environmental concern, poll finds," *Washington Post* (July 7) http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/global-warming-no-longer-americans-top-environmental-concern-poll-finds/2012/07/02/gJQAs9IHJW_story.html

Brett Israel. 2012. "Generation X on Climate Change: Meh." *The Daily Climate* (June 17).
<http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2012/07/gen-x-climate-attitude>

Krupp, Fred. 2012. "[A New Climate-Change Consensus,](#)" *Wall Street Journal* (August 6).
 (see attachment)

[A response to Krupp's op-ed by Cohen \(American Physical Society\), Happer \(Princeton\), and Lindzen \(MIT\).](#) (see attachment)

Matt Ridley (the former Science editor for the Economist). 2012. Writing at Wired.com (August 17): "The Lukewarmers in the debate over climate change." (see attachment)

Tuesday, November 13: Assumptions and "General" Policy Approaches to CC

Ed Weber. 2008. *Political Science* article (in brief) (see attachment)

Goldstein, Lorrie. 2012. "Green 'drivel' exposed: The godfather of global warming lowers the boom on the CC hysteria," *The Toronto Sun* (June 23) (this is the James Lovelock dissent piece in attachment above).

David Rose. 2011. "Scientist who said climate change sceptics had been proved wrong accused of hiding truth by colleague," *The Daily Mail* (UK) (October 30). <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2055191/Scientists-said-climate-change-sceptics-proved-wrong-accused-hiding-truth-colleague.html#ixzz20At7kP02>

Thursday, November 15: The Case For and Against Renewable Energies

Layzer, CH 11, Wind energy & siting issues

TED Talk (video). 2007. "John Doerr sees salvation and profit in greentech."
[http://www.ted.com/talks/john doerr sees salvation and profit in greentech.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/john_doerr_sees_salvation_and_profit_in_greentech.html) (shown in class...) (Doerr is a legendary Silicon Valley venture capitalist)

Tucker, William. 2008. "Terrestrial Energy," in W. Tucker *Terrestrial Energy*. Washington, D.C.: Bartleby Press: pp. 28 - 39 (see attachment)

Morriss, Andrew, William Bogart, Andrew Dorchack, and Roger Meiners. 2009. *The 7 Myths about Green Jobs,* PERC Policy Series (No. 44): 33 pp. (see attachment/ PDF file)

Sickingler, Ted. 2012. "Wave Energy test up and running on the Oregon coast," *Oregonian* (Sept. 7).
[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/09/wave energy test up and runnin.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/09/wave_energy_test_up_and_runnin.html)

Rael Jean Isaac. 2012. "Europe's Green Energy Suicide," *Wall Street Journal* (June 6): A15. (see attachment)

Tuesday, November 20: Policy Solutions: Which One is Best? Carbon tax? Feed-in tariffs? Emissions trading? Increased use of alternatives to fossil fuels? Subsidies to change consumer habits? Or.....???

--Readings TBD.

Thursday, November 22; THANKSGIVING DAY

Tuesday, November 27: CC & Energy Policy: The Keystone XL Pipeline & ANWR

Steven Mufson. 2012. "Keystone XL pipeline expansion driven by oil-rich tar sands in Alberta," *Washington Post* (June 30): A1+ http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/keystone-xl-pipeline-expansion-driven-by-oil-rich-tar-sands-in-alberta/2012/06/30/gJQAVe4ZEW_story.html

Steven Mufson. 2012. "Keystone XL Pipeline Would Add Link in US-Canada Trade Relations," *Washington Post* (July 6): A1+ (http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/keystone-xl-pipeline-creates-sticking-point-in-us-canada-trade-relations/2012/07/06/gJQAxcrRW_story.html)

Layzer, Chapter 5, "Oil versus Wilderness" (ANWR debate)

Thursday, November 29: In the Larger Scheme of Things, How Important is Climate Change?

– Lomborg TED video, "Global Priorities Beyond Climate Change" (approx.. 18 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/bjorn_lomborg_sets_global_priorities.html

– Bjorn Lomborg. 2012. "Feel Good Environmentalism at the U.N." *Wall Street Journal*, (June 22): A13. (see attachment)