



**Course** PSCI 4396.001, Selected Topics: Environmental Policy  
**Professor** Robert Lowry  
**Term** Spring 2016  
**Meetings** Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:15 pm, FN 2.104

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**Professor's Contact Information**

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**Office Hours** Monday 4-5 pm; Tuesday 2:30-4:30 pm; or by appointment.

**Teaching Assistant:** TBA

**General Course Information**

<b>Prerequisites</b>	GOVT 2301/2302 or GOVT 2305/2306 or permission from the instructor.
<b>Course Description</b>	This course examines the politics of public policy making and substantive policies in the closely related areas of environmental protection, conservation of natural resources, and energy. We will focus primarily on politics and policy at the national and state levels in the United States, with some attention to international issues and other countries.
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes</b>	Upon completing this course students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify major institutions and actors involved in making U.S. environmental policy at the national and state levels.</li><li>2. Analyze the politics of environmental policy decision making and the pros and cons of different policy options.</li><li>3. Assess the need for international action on environmental issues and attempts to find solutions.</li></ol>
<b>Required Texts &amp; Materials</b>	<p>The following book will be available in the bookstore and should be purchased:</p> <p>Walter A. Rosenbaum. 2014. <i>Environmental Politics and Policy</i>. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 9<sup>th</sup> edition.</p> <p>Other required readings are listed at the end of the syllabus and referenced by number in the course schedule below.</p> <p>Additional readings may be added to the syllabus. These will be announced in class and on <b>eLearning</b>.</p> <p>Students are not required to print material available electronically.</p>

**Assignments & Academic Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Reading and Assignments*</b>
Jan. 12	Course Introduction	
	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS IN THE U.S.</b>	
Jan. 14	Overview of environmental politics and policy	Rosenbaum, Ch. 1
Jan. 19	Making Policy: External forces and constraints	Rosenbaum, Ch. 2
Jan. 21	“ “	
Jan. 26	Making policy: Political Institutions	Rosenbaum, Ch. 3
Jan. 28	“ “	[1]
Feb. 2	States and environmental policy	[2]
Feb. 4	<b>First exam</b>	
	<b>ANALYTICAL CONCEPTS AND TOOLS</b>	
Feb. 9	Justifications for government action	[3]
Feb. 11	Risk assessment and fairness	Rosenbaum, Ch. 4; [4]
Feb.16	“ /Economic tools	Rosenbaum, Ch. 5
Feb. 18	Economic tools and analysis	<b>Research questions due</b>
	<b>U.S. DOMESTIC POLICIES</b>	
Feb. 23	Air and water pollution	Rosenbaum, Ch. 6
Feb. 25	Air & Water/Toxic Substances	Rosenbaum, Cha. 7
March 1	Toxic and hazardous substances	
March 3	Environmental and energy issues in Texas	[5]-[7]
March 8	Review/catch-up	
March 10	<b>Second Exam</b>	
March 15	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>	
March 17	“ “ “	
March 22	Energy policy	Rosenbaum, Ch. 8; [8]
March 24	Energy policy/Public Lands	Rosenbaum, Ch. 9
March 29	Public lands	
	<b>INTERNATIONAL ISSUES</b>	
March 31	Environment, Population, and the Developing World	[9]
April 5	Climate change & other international issues	Rosenbaum, Ch. 10; [10]
April 7	“	
April 12	Future Challenges	[11], [12]
April 14	<b>Presentations</b>	
April 19	<b>Presentations</b>	
April 21	<b>Presentations</b>	
April 26	Review	
April 28	<b>Third Exam</b>	
May 5	<b>Papers Due, 5 pm</b>	

\* Numbers in brackets refer to the Additional Readings at the end of the syllabus.

**Course Policies**

<b>Grading Criteria</b>	<p>There will be three in-class exams on <u>February 4</u>, <u>March 10</u> and <u>April 28</u> (these are all Thursdays). Exams will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. Exams will focus mainly on the material covered since the previous exam, but it is assumed you will retain knowledge of the major concepts.</p> <p>In addition, students will complete a research project that involves an in-class presentation and a paper. Students may form groups of up to three; all students in the same group will get the same grade, unless someone fails to contribute to the presentation or the paper. Research projects may focus on a particular policy issue, government institution, or political or policy actor(s). Each project must start with a <i>research question</i> that the students in the group want to answer. Research questions are due in class <u>Thursday, February 18</u>. Groups will make presentations of the class on <u>April 14, 19 or 21</u>. Note that you are not expected to have a complete project by then; these presentations are the verbal equivalent of a first draft. Each group must submit a final paper of 7-10 pages by <u>Thursday, May 5</u>, during finals period.</p> <p>Course grades will be determined using the following weights:</p> <table data-bbox="456 926 922 1167"> <tr> <td>First exam</td><td>20 %</td></tr> <tr> <td>Second exam</td><td>25 %</td></tr> <tr> <td>Third exam</td><td>25 %</td></tr> <tr> <td>Research question</td><td>5 %</td></tr> <tr> <td>Research project presentation</td><td>5 %</td></tr> <tr> <td>Research project paper</td><td>15 %</td></tr> <tr> <td>Attendance at presentations</td><td>5 %</td></tr> </table> <p>The final grading scale will be no stricter than the conventional 90-80-70-60 cutoffs.</p>	First exam	20 %	Second exam	25 %	Third exam	25 %	Research question	5 %	Research project presentation	5 %	Research project paper	15 %	Attendance at presentations	5 %
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Third exam	25 %														
Research question	5 %														
Research project presentation	5 %														
Research project paper	15 %														
Attendance at presentations	5 %														
<b>Late Work</b>	<p>Make-up exams will be given in the event of a documented medical, family or work emergency. <u>No other excuses will be accepted</u>. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 20 % for each day (including weekends) they are late.</p>														
<b>Class Attendance</b>	<p>Everyone is expected to attend the group presentations on April 14, 19 and 21. This will count in your grade. Aside from that, I will not take attendance but you are strongly encouraged to attend class <u>and take notes</u>. I will be covering material in class that supplements the assigned readings. This material may be on the exams. In addition, while I will post the outline from each class on eLearning I will not be posting detailed lecture notes.</p>														
<b>University Policies</b>	<p>Additional UTD policies regarding student conduct and discipline, academic integrity, email use, withdrawing from class, grievance procedures, incomplete grades, disability services, religious holy days, and resources to help you succeed can be found at <a href="http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/">http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/</a>.</p>														

*These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*

### **ADDITIONAL READINGS**

Unless otherwise noted, links to all readings can be found on the class eLearning page. Additional readings may be added during the semester. If so, they will be announced and links will be posted if necessary on eLearning.

- [1] *Massachusetts et al. v. Environmental Protection Agency et al.* 549 U.S. 497 (2007).
- [2] Konisky, David M. and Neal D. Woods. 2013. "Environmental Policy." In Virginia Gray, Russell L. Hanson and Thad Kousser (eds.) *Politics in the American States: A Comparative Analysis*, 469-500. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 10<sup>th</sup> edition.
- [3] Rothenberg, Lawrence S. 2002. "Environmental Action, Environmental Caution: The Case for Government Intervention." In *Environmental Choices: Policy Responses to Green Demands* 21-37. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- [4] Stiglitz, Joseph E. 2013. "Inequality & Environmental Policy." *Resources* 182:36-40.
- [5] Krupnick, Alan J. and Juha Siikamaki. 2014. "Would You Pay to Reduce Risks from Shale Gas Development? Public Attitudes in Pennsylvania and Texas." *Resources* 185:38-43.
- [6] Hartman, Kristy. 2015, June 1. "Economies of Shale." *State Legislatures Magazine* <http://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/economies-of-shale.aspx>
- [7] Palmer, Karen L. 2015. "Complying with EPA's Clean Power Plan: Options for States." *Resources* 189:35-39.
- [8] Darmstadter, Joel. 2014. "Reflections on the Oil Shock of 40 Years Ago." *Resources* 186:27-31.
- [9] Tobin, Richard J. 2016. "Environment, Population, and the Developing World." In Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft (eds.), *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 311-332. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 9<sup>th</sup> edition.
- [10] "Green Light: What to Expect After a Deal that Exceeded Expectations," *The Economist*, Dec. 19, 2015, 89-90.
- [11] Vig, Norman J. and Michael E. Kraft. 2016. "Conclusion: Future Environmental Challenges and Solutions," in *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 358-378. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 9<sup>th</sup> edition.
- [12] Davies, J. Clarence. 2015. "Thoughts on the Future of Environmental Regulation." *Resources* 190:37-41.

### **INTERESTING WEBSITES**

U.S. Council on Environmental Quality [www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [www.epa.gov/](http://www.epa.gov/)

U.S. Department of the Interior [www.doi.gov/](http://www.doi.gov/)

U.S. Energy Information Administration [www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov)

Environmental Council of the States [www.ecos.org/](http://www.ecos.org/)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [www.tceq.state.tx.us/](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/)

Railroad Commission of Texas [www.rrc.state.tx.us/](http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/)

Texas General Land Office <http://www.glo.texas.gov/>

Resources for the Future [www.rff.org](http://www.rff.org)

League of Conservation Voters [www.lcv.org/](http://www.lcv.org/)

Numerous nonprofit environment and conservation organizations: Search by group name in Google.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs Division  
[www.uschamber.com/etra](http://www.uschamber.com/etra)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [www.ipcc.ch/](http://www.ipcc.ch/)