POLS 461 – Environmental Politics and Policy  
California State University, Chico  
Fall Semester 2009  
266 Holt Hall, TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Professor: Dr. Allen  
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Office Telephone: 530-898-6489  
Office: 725 Butte Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1:00-5:00 p.m., Thursdays: 1:00-2:00 p.m., and by appointment.

Course Information

Description and Format:  
This course is an investigation and analysis of the political nature of the environmental crisis in the United States and the development of legal and administrative mechanisms for handling environmental problems. We first consider environmental policy in the United States by examining the political institutions that drive environmental policy change. Next we explore American environmental law by examining specific environmental laws and paradigms. The class format will be a mixture of lecture, class discussion, in-class exercises, and student presentations.

Objectives:  
• Understand how U.S. governmental institutions affect environmental policymaking and implementation.  
• Become familiar with the major environmental laws of this country.  
• Become more aware of current political events regarding the environment and develop the ability to think critically about them.  
• Develop a substantial understanding of an environmental politics, policy, or law issue through a research paper and presentation.

Materials:  
• Vista: A few of the required readings are available on the Vista course page. The course syllabus and assignments are also available on Vista if you need additional copies of what I hand out in class.

Students with Disabilities:  
Students who have a documented disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation in this course and the college experience. The staff of Disability Support Services coordinates accommodations and services for CSU, Chico courses. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation and have not contacted them, please do so at 898-5959.
Furloughs:
The California State University system is in severe debt. As a result, in addition to general campus closure days, all CSU faculty are also being required to take furlough days throughout the semester. We will not be allowed to work on those furlough days. Because my furlough dates are not yet known, this syllabus, including reading assignments, dates of exams, and due dates for assignments, is subject to change. I will post any revisions to the syllabus on the Vista course page.

Grades

- Midterm Exam 25% October 8, 2009
- Final Exam 25% December 17, 2009, 10-11:50 a.m.
- Sustainability Conference Reaction Paper 10% November 19, 2009
- Environmental Policy Resolution 15% December 10, 2009
- Current Events Paper 10%
- Daily Class Activities & Participation 15%

Course grades will be based on the following scale:

   A = 100-94%,   A- = 93-90%
   B+ = 89-87%,   B = 86-84%
   B- = 83-80%
   C+ = 79-77%,   C = 76-74%
   C- = 73-70%
   D+ = 69-67%,   D = 66-60%
   F = 59-0%

This means that if, for example, you receive an 89.4% in the course, your course grade will be a B+. I do not curve course grades. There will be no opportunities for extra credit in the course so plan accordingly. Please don’t even ask for extra credit. Grade appeals must be typed and submitted to me within one week of when I return the assignment or exam to you. Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice questions and essay questions. The final exam will not be cumulative.

Attendance:
At the beginning of each class, I will circulate a sign-in sheet for you to initial and record your attendance. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have done so before I leave the classroom. The sign-in sheet will be the official record of your attendance.

Missing Exams and Late Assignments:
Students who miss an exam for an excused reason will be allowed to make-up the exam at a designated time. Students are required to provide documentation that is appropriate to the reason for missing the exam (i.e., a doctor’s note for students who miss due to illness). The make-up exam will cover the same material as the missed exam but may be in a different format and have different questions. If you miss an exam for an excused reason, let me know as soon as possible so that we can address the situation.

Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade (10%) daily. This penalty begins at the end of the class period in which the assignment is due. This means that an assignment turned in 10 minutes after class ends is already assessed a penalty of 10%.
Writing

Writing Center:
The CSU, Chico writing center is located in the Student Services Center room 340. To make an appointment to talk about your writing with a trained peer consultant, please call 530-898-5042.

Citation of Sources:
You must cite every source that you use in any course assignment. Because students in this course come from many different majors, everyone is required to use Chicago Manual of Style (the author-date, in-text citation style system) as the citation style. For a free, online demonstration of how to use this citation style, please see:  http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.php

Academic Honesty
Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F for the entire course and his/her name will be forwarded to Student Judicial Affairs for further action, including possible suspension and expulsion. Please familiarize yourself with the University Catalog’s discussion regarding academic honesty.

Classroom Etiquette
Don’t text-message during class. Don’t read the newspaper in class. Don’t make a habit of leaving class early or coming to class late. Don’t make a habit of regularly leaving class to use the restroom.

We will be discussing some sensitive topics in this class, and we are bound to disagree with each other. This is perfectly normal and acceptable. However, please keep discussion civil and constructive. Do not engage in personal attacks.

Daily Class Activity & Participation Points
During many class days, we will engage in some kind of in-class activity worth participation points. Often this will be a short, easy quiz question about that day’s reading assignment. Or we may engage in some sort of group exercise or other activity done in class. Daily Class Activity and Participation Points cannot be made up if you are absent from class that day (for any reason) or even if you make it to class but are late and miss the daily activity. So, I highly encourage you to attend every class and make it to class on time. Again, there are absolutely no make-ups if you miss a daily class activity. Daily Class Activity and Participation Points are worth 15% of your overall course grade.

Reading Assignments
The following reading assignments should be completed prior to each class. You should anticipate that I will call on you in class to contribute your opinion or observations on the assigned readings or classroom discussion. Please note that the topic for each class is listed in bold, followed by the reading assignments for that day. In addition, I may hand out additional material, which you will also be responsible for reading. Please bring your reading assignments/textbook with you to class.

INTRODUCTION

August 25  Welcome and Class Introduction.
  • No assigned readings.
August 27  Review of the U.S. Political System.
• No assigned readings

September 1  Introduction to Environmental Policy.
• Vig and Kraft Chapter 1: Environmental Policy over Four Decades: Achievements and New Directions
• Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 4, pages 138-149: Evolution of our Environmental Policy

September 3  Introduction to Environmental Policy continued.
• Vig and Kraft Chapter 1: Environmental Policy over Four Decades: Achievements and New Directions
• Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 4, pages 138-149: Evolution of our Environmental Policy

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICYMAKING

September 8  Campus Closure Day. No class.

September 10  Environmental Policy and Presidential Leadership
• Vig and Kraft Chapter 4: Presidential Powers and Environmental Policy

September 15  Environmental Policy and Congressional Influence
• Vig and Kraft Chapter 5: Environmental Policy in Congress

September 17  Environmental Policy and the Courts
• Vig and Kraft Chapter 6: Environmental Policy in the Courts

September 22  Environmental Policy and the Bureaucracy
• Vig and Kraft Chapter 7: Science, Politics, and Policy at the EPA
• Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 3: Administrative Law and Its Impact on the Environment

September 24  Environmental Policy and Interest Groups
• Vig and Kraft Chapter 3: Past the Tipping Point? Public Discourse and the Role of the Environmental Movement in a Post-Bush Era

September 29  Environmental Film: Cadillac Desert

October 1  Environmental Policy and the Animal Rights Movement
• Do (Should) Animals Have Rights? (Vista)
• The Extremist (Vista)
• Two Movements and Human-Animal Continuity: Positions, Assumptions, Contradictions (Vista)

October 6  Midterm Exam Review
October 8       Midterm Exam

October 13  Writing Policy Resolutions
            • No assigned readings at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

October 15     Campus Closure Day. No class.

October 20  Introduction to American Environmental Law
            • Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 1: The American Legal System: The Source of Environmental Law
            • Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 2: The Litigation Process and Other Tools for Resolving Environmental Disputes

October 22     Regulation and Environmental Assessment
            • Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 4: An Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy

October 27     Regulation and Environmental Assessment continued
            • Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 4: An Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy

October 29     Control of Hazardous Wastes
            • Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 8: Waste Management and Hazardous Releases

November 3     Control of Hazardous Wastes continued
            • Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 8: Waste Management and Hazardous Releases

November 5     This Way to Sustainability Conference at CSU, Chico
            • No class. Attend conference workshop or panel instead.
            • Conference reaction paper due November 19, 2009

November 10   The Clean Air Act and Ambient Standards
            • Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 5: Air-Quality Control

November 12   The Clean Air Act and Ambient Standards continued
            • Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 5: Air-Quality Control

November 17   The Clean Water Act and Technology-Based Standards
            • Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 6: Water-Quality Control
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td><strong>The Clean Water Act and Technology-Based Standards continued</strong></td>
<td>• Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 6: Water-Quality Control</td>
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<td>• Conference reaction paper due</td>
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<td>November 24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Vacation. No Class.</td>
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<td>November 26</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Vacation. No Class.</td>
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<td>December 1</td>
<td><strong>Endangered Species Preservation</strong></td>
<td>• Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 10, pages 409-418.</td>
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<td>• Plater, et al. Chapter 14, pages 671-686, 692-709 (Vista)</td>
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<td>December 3</td>
<td><strong>Natural Resources and Public Land</strong></td>
<td>• Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 10: Natural Resources.</td>
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<td>• Vig and Kraft Chapter 8: Conflict and Cooperation in Natural Resource</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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<td>• Rosenbaum: Our 700 Million Acres: The Battle for Public Lands (Blackboard</td>
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<td>December 8</td>
<td><strong>Class Discussion of Environmental Policy Resolutions</strong></td>
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<td>December 10</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam Review</strong></td>
<td>• Environmental Policy Resolution due</td>
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<td>December 17</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam in 266 Holt Hall 10:00-11:50 a.m.</strong></td>
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