

**POLS 461 – Environmental Politics and Administration**  
**California State University, Chico** ☎  
**Fall Semester 2008**  
**104 Butte Hall, TR 11:00-12:15 p.m.**

Professor: Dr. Allen  
Email: mdallen@csuchico.edu  
Office Telephone: 530-898-6489  
Office: 725 Butte Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 1:30-3:00 p.m., Wednesday: 1:00-3:00 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:**

- Vig, Norman J., and Michael E. Kraft. 2005. *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.
- Kubasek, Nancy K., and Gary S. Silverman. 2008. *Environmental Law*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
- Blackboard Vista: A few of the required readings are available on the Blackboard Vista course page. The course syllabus and assignments are also available on Blackboard 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.

**Grades**

• Midterm Exam	20%	October 2, 2008.
• Sustainability Conference Reaction Paper	10%	November 18, 2008.
• Research Presentation	10%	
• Research Paper	15%	December 11, 2008.
• Final Exam	20%	December 18, 2008, 10-11:50 a.m.
• Current Events Papers	10%	
• Class Participation Points	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 two weeks 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 and Participation:**

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. Class attendance and participation are expected and vital for several reasons: First, you cannot participate and, thus, earn participation points unless you attend class. Participation involves not only coming to class but also completing the readings and engaging in class discussion. Second, it takes a large group of people contributing equally to make a good group discussion. Third, you are making a significant investment of your time and/or money to be in college. The best way to ensure a meaningful return on your investment is to fully participate in the classroom learning experience.

### **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.

### Grammar Tips:

#### Possessives

Singular nouns: Add 's to the end. Ex: student's book.

Exception: possessive pronouns. Ex. Its, yours, hers.

Plural nouns ending in s: Add ' to the end. Ex. students' books

Plural nouns not ending in s: Add 's to the end. Ex. Men's books

#### Plurals

When you want to make a word plural, just add an "s." Don't use an apostrophe. Ex: books, students.

#### Run-On Sentences & Comma Splices

Ex: I want to go to lunch I am hungry. (run-on sentence)

Ex: I want to go to lunch, I am hungry. (comma splice)

Break into 2 separate sentences by using a period or semi-colon.

Ex. I want to go to lunch. I am hungry. OR I want to go to lunch; I am hungry.

#### Capitalization

Capitalize titles, organization, and names of things.

Ex. Democrat, U.S. Supreme Court, Congress, Conservation Act, the New York Times.

#### Confused Words:

##### • Its and It's

"It's" means "it is." Ex. It's not very warm today.

"Its" is the possessive of "it." Ex. It's natural for a school to be concerned about its students.

##### • Affect and Effect

Affect is a verb and means to have an influence on. Ex: This law affects environmental pollution.

Effect is a noun Ex: This law will have a significant effect on environmental pollution.

##### • Their, There, and They're

Their is the possessive of they. Ex. This is their house.

There means in that place. Ex. I want to go over there.

They're means "they are." Ex. They're really nice people.

##### • To and Too

To is a preposition. Ex. I went to the city.

Too means also or extremely. Ex. I want to go too. That exam was too hard.

##### • Then and Than

Then is used when talking about time. Ex: I have to go to the class and then go to lunch.

Than is used to make a comparison. Ex: This class is more exciting than my 9:30 class.

### 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/chicagofd.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 random class days, we will engage in some kind of in-class activity worth 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 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.

August 26 – **Welcome and Class Introduction.**

- No assigned readings.

August 28 - **Review of the U.S. Political System.**

- No assigned readings

September 2 – **Introduction to Environmental Policy.**

- Vig and Kraft Chapter 1: Environmental Policy from the 1970s to the Twenty-First Century
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 4, pages 138-149: Evolution of our Environmental Policy

## **GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICYMAKING**

- September 4 – **Environmental Policy and Presidential Leadership**
- Vig and Kraft Chapter 5: Presidential Leadership and the Environment
- September 9 – **Environmental Policy and Congressional Influence**
- Vig and Kraft Chapter 6: Environmental Policy in Congress
- September 11 – **Environmental Policy and the Courts**
- Vig and Kraft Chapter 7: Environmental Policy in the Courts
- September 16 – **Environmental Policy and the Bureaucracy**
- Vig and Kraft Chapter 8: Improving Environmental Regulation at the EPA: The Challenge of Balancing Politics, Policy, and Science
  - Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 3: Administrative Law and Its Impact on the Environment
- September 18 – **Environmental Policy and Interest Groups**
- Vig and Kraft Chapter 4: Maintaining Presence: Environmental Advocacy and the Permanent Campaign
- September 23 – **Environmental Film**
- September 25 – **Environmental Policy and the Animal Rights Movement**
- Do (Should) Animals Have Rights? (Blackboard Vista)
  - The Extremist (Blackboard Vista)
  - Two Movements and Human-Animal Continuity: Positions, Assumptions, Contradictions (Blackboard Vista)
- September 30 – **Midterm Exam Review**
- October 2 – **Midterm Exam**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

- October 7 – **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 9 – **Regulation and Environmental Assessment**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 4: An Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy

- October 14 – **Regulation and Environmental Assessment continued**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 4: An Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy
- October 16 – **Control of Hazardous Wastes**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 8: Waste Management and Hazardous Releases
- October 21 – **Control of Hazardous Wastes continued**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 8: Waste Management and Hazardous Releases
- October 23 – **The Clean Air Act and Ambient Standards**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 5: Air-Quality Control
- October 28 – **The Clean Air Act and Ambient Standards continued**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 5: Air-Quality Control
- October 30 – **The Clean Water Act and Technology-Based Standards**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 6: Water-Quality Control
- November 4 – **The Clean Water Act and Technology-Based Standards continued**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 6: Water-Quality Control
- November 6 – **This Way to Sustainability IV Conference at CSU, Chico**
- No class. Attend conference workshop or panel instead.
  - Conference reaction paper due November 18, 2008.
- November 11 – **No class. Veteran’s Day**
- November 13 – **Endangered Species Preservation**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 10, pages 409-418.
  - Plater, et al. Chapter 14, pages 671-686, 692-709 (Blackboard Vista)
- November 18 – **Natural Resources and Public Land**
- Kubasek and Silverman Chapter 10: Natural Resources.
  - Vig and Kraft Chapter 14: A Return to Traditional Priorities in Natural Resource Policies.
  - Rosenbaum: Our 700 Million Acres: The Battle for Public Lands (Blackboard Vista)
  - Conference reaction papers due.
- November 20 – **Research Paper Work Day**
- Paper conferences with professor.
- November 25 – **No Class. Thanksgiving Vacation**

November 27 – **No Class. Thanksgiving Vacation**

December 2 – **Student Presentations**

December 4 – **Student Presentations**

December 9 – **Student Presentations**

December 11 – **Student Presentations and Final Exam Review**  
• Research papers due.

December 18 – **Final Exam in 104 Butte Hall 10:00-11:50 a.m.**