POLS 653 – Environmental Policy and the Law
California State University, Chico
Fall Semester 2008
706 Butte Hall, Thursday 4:00-6:50 p.m.

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1:30-3:00, Wednesday: 1:00-3:00, and by appointment.

Course Description and Format:
This course is an investigation and analysis of the development and implementation of environmental policies by the various levels of government within the U.S. federal system, with a particular focus on the legal context of environmental policymaking. We first consider environmental policy in the United States by examining different perspectives and approaches to environmental law and policy. Then we explore American environmental law by examining specific environmental laws and paradigms.

Class Materials:
• Blackboard Vista: Any additional readings will be made available on the Blackboard Vista course page in pdf format. In addition, the course syllabus and assignments are also available on Blackboard Vista in case you need additional copies of what I hand out in class.

Students with Disabilities:
Any student in this course who has a documented disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally 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 530-898-5959.

Grades:
• Reaction Papers 30%
• Articles Discussion Leader 20%
• Conference Reaction Paper 10%  November 20, 2008.
• Research Design Paper 20%  December 18, 2008, 6 p.m.
• Research Presentation 10%  December 4 & 11, 2008.
• Class Participation 10%
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 at 89.4% in the course, your course grade will be a B+.

There will be no opportunities for extra credit in the course so plan accordingly. I do not curve course grades. Grade appeals must be typed and submitted to me within two weeks of when I return the assignment or paper to you.

Participation:
Graduate education is largely about self-education, and it is expected and necessary that each student complete all the required reading prior to each class session. Because this course will be conducted primarily as a seminar, not as a lecture, all students must come to class familiar with the material, ready to comment regularly, assist in the analysis of the literature, and engage each other in discussion. A successful graduate seminar involves widespread participation by all students. You should anticipate that I will call on you in class to contribute your opinion or observations on the assigned readings or classroom discussion. Regular class attendance is expected and vital. You cannot participate and, thus, earn participation points unless you attend class.

Because student participation is so vital to this course, if lack of class participation becomes a problem, I will start giving weekly quizzes and use those to calculate your class participation grade.

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. Unless you miss class, an exam, or an assignment because of an excused reason for which you have proper documentation, I do not need to be told that you will be missing class.

If you miss a class for which you are seeking to be excused (because of illness, family emergency, school sponsored activity, a religious holiday that you observe, other academic reason), you 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).

Reaction Papers:
Each student will write eight separate reaction papers on eight different sets of required weekly readings. You cannot turn in more than one reaction paper per class period and set of readings. There will be no exceptions. Plan accordingly. **Please bring two hard copies with you to class to share with your classmates and then to turn in to me.** Each reaction paper should be approximately 2 pages long, typed, double-spaced, with normal font and margins (one inch all around, Times New Roman 12 point font). Do not take up half of the first page putting the name of this class, the course number, my name, etc. Just your name, the date, and a title will be sufficient.

A reaction paper is not a summary or description of the information in the readings. Instead, it identifies the main theses or arguments of the author(s) and then reacts to or critiques those theses or
arguments. The purposes of a reaction paper are to help you develop a more thorough understanding of that week’s readings, to assist you in preparing for class discussion, and to help you prepare to take the comprehensive exam for your M.A. degree (if that is your choice).

In analyzing the readings, it may be helpful to think about some the following questions, and others like them:

- Does the author(s) build a persuasive case for the main argument?
- What are the reading’s strengths and weaknesses?
- What are the main points of debate that arise for you after completing the reading?
- How and why could the authors have gone further in their arguments than they did?
- Does some point in the reading need further investigation?
- What is the strongest scholarly contribution found in the reading?
- Is there a common theme found throughout the week’s readings?
- How does this reading tie in with readings or themes discussed previously in the course?
- If the reading is a court case, do you agree with the decision of the court? Why or why not? How should the court have decided the issue?

Reaction papers do not need to cover all of the readings for a particular week (although they can). You may want to concentrate on one point or issue that the readings bring up for you and use your paper to develop that point.

**Article Discussion Leader:**
You are required to lead discussion of two articles for the class. You cannot lead discussion on more than one article per class period and set of readings. We will sign up for articles at the beginning of the semester. When you lead discussion on an article, you will be responsible for summarizing that article for the class, engaging the class in discussion about the article, and asking questions about the article. Your discussion should review the main ideas or points of the article and outline any problems or weaknesses you see with it. You should also prepare a list of questions to pose to the class about the article. Please note being an article discussion leader does not mean giving a formal presentation but rather means initiating, facilitating, and moderating discussion for the class. For each of your articles, you are required to prepare handouts for the class summarizing or outlining the article. You may write reaction papers on the articles you use to lead discussion, although you do not have to do so.

**Research Design Paper and Presentation:**
You are required to write an original research paper on a topic reasonably related to the themes of this course. This paper is due at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2008. During the final two weeks of the course, students will present their research projects to the class in formal presentations. Separate detailed instructions about your research paper and presentation are attached at the end of this syllabus.

**Citations and References - Style Manual for Political Science:**
Because you are learning to think like a political scientist, you should start writing like one too. APSA publishes a *Style Manual for Political Science*, which details how political scientists are to prepare their text-style, in-text citations, references, tables, etc. In all your writing for this course, you must follow the guidelines of the *Style Manual for Political Science*. Do not use MLA, APA, or other citation styles. A pdf copy of the relevant sections of the *Style Manual for Political Science* are
available on Vista. Use of a style other than that outlined in the *Style Manual for Political Science* will result in a significantly lower grade.

**Late Assignments:**
Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade (10%) daily. This penalty begins as soon as the assignment is due. This means that a paper turned in 10 minutes after it is due is already assessed a penalty of 10%.

**Academic Honesty:**
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student caught 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.

**Reading Assignments:**
The following required reading assignments should be completed prior to each class. Please note that the topic for each class is listed in bold, followed by the reading assignments for that day. Please bring your reading assignments with you to class.

**Week 1 August 28**  
Welcome and Class Introduction.

**Week 2 September 4**  
Perspectives on Environmental Law  
• Chapter 1.

**Week 3 September 11**  
Approaches to Environmental Protection  
• Chapter 2.

**Week 4 September 18**  
Endangered Species  
• Chapter 3.

**Week 5 September 25**  
The Constitution, Federalism, and Environmental Law  
• Chapter 4.

**Week 6 October 2**  
Judicial Review and Administrative Process.  
• Chapter 5, pages 360-439.

**Week 7 October 9**  
Judicial Review and Administrative Process.  
• Chapter 5, pages 441-510.

**Week 8 October 16**  
Air Pollution.  
• Chapter 6.

**Week 9 October 23**  
Water Pollution.  
• Chapter 7.

**Week 10 October 30**  
Hazardous Waste.  
• Chapter 8.
Week 11  November 6  This Way to Sustainability IV Conference at CSU, Chico
  • No class. Attend three hours of conference workshops or panels instead.
  • Conference reaction paper due November 13, 2008.

Week 12  November 13  Environmental Film.

  • Paper conferences with professor. No assigned readings.

Week 14  November 27  No Class. Thanksgiving Vacation.

Week 15  December 4  Student Research Presentations.

Week 16  December 11  Student Research Presentations.

Finals  December 18  Research Papers due at 6 p.m.
Your assignment is to attend three workshops or panels at the This Way to Sustainability IV Conference to be held at CSU, Chico, on November 6-9, 2008. After you have attended your conference workshops or panels, write a reaction paper about them.

**Your conference reaction paper must include the following:**
1. The titles of the session you attended.
2. The days and times of the sessions you attended.
3. The names and affiliations of the presenters (if made available) at the sessions you attended.
4. An explanation of the topic of the sessions. (Note: Do not lift this directly from the program. Put this into your own words.) In other words, what were the sessions about?
5. An explanation of what you learned in your sessions that could be relevant to the current challenges of environmental policy or environmental law.

**Details:**
- Your papers are due at the beginning of class on November 20, 2008.
- Your paper should be approximately 5 pages long, typed, double-spaced, with normal font and margins.
- Number your pages.
- Please staple your pages together.
- Do not take up very much of the first page putting the name of this class, the course number, etc. Just your name, the date, and a title at the top of the page will be sufficient.

**Conference Reaction Paper Grading Guide:**
- Discussion of session title, day, time, presenter: 5 points
- Explanation of session topic: 5 points
- Discussion of what you learned in session: 5 points
- Technical details of paper: (length, margins, page numbers, etc.) 5 points
- Overall writing quality: 5 points
Assignment:
Your assignment is to write an original research design on a specific topic reasonably related to the themes of this course. You may select any topic on environmental politics, policy, or law you want, provided that the issue poses a question on a topic related to this course in some fashion.

What is a research design?
“In general, a research design is a plan that shows how a researcher intends to fulfill the goals of a proposed study. It indicates what observations will be made to provide answers to the questions posed by the researcher, how the observations will be made, and the analytical and statistical procedures to be used once the data are collected. If the goal of the research is to test hypotheses, a research design will also explain how the test is to be accomplished” (Johnson and Joslyn 1995, 111).


Basically, a research design contains all the traditional elements of a research paper except for the actual collection of data and accompanying analysis needed to answer your hypothesis. Instead of actually collecting data to test your hypothesis, you will discuss what data you would collect to test your hypothesis and how you would go about analyzing that data if you were to carry out the study.

Abstracts:
In order to make sure everyone is working on appropriate topics to the course, please turn in an abstract outlining your research paper in class on Thursday, October 23, 2008. Your abstract should have at least one paragraph describing your topic and the research question(s) you hope to address. If you fail to turn in an abstract of your paper by October 23, 2008, I will deduct 10% from your research paper’s overall grade.

Your paper needs to do the following:
- Include a title page with an interesting title for your paper.
- Have an explicit research question stated in the introductory section of your paper.
- Present and analyze the relevant scholarly literature on your topic (a literature review).
- Propose a hypothesis (or set of hypotheses) about your topic.
- Include a section on the data you would collect to test your hypothesis and the method you would use to analyze your data.
- Include an introduction and conclusion.
- Include in-text citations and a list of references at the end (see below for more details on citations and references).

Other Details:
- Your paper should be about 15-20 pages long, typed, double-spaced, with normal font and margins (Times New Roman, 12 point font, one inch margins on all sides).
- Number your pages.
- Use headings for the different sections of your paper.
- At the end of your paper, you must include a reference list of all the sources that you cite in the text.
of your paper. You should use a minimum of 8-10 scholarly/academic/professional sources in your paper.

- Staple your paper together in the following order: title page, abstract, main text of paper, any endnotes, any tables and/or figures, any appendices, and a complete list of references. Please do not put your paper into any type of folder or binder.
- Your paper is due at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2008, in hard copy (not in any electronic version). Late papers will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade daily. This penalty begins as soon as the paper is late. This means that a paper turned in 10 minutes late is already assessed a penalty of 10%.

Citations and References:
Always give credit to sources that you use in your paper, including the course books and readings. The general rule is that you must cite all information and ideas you get from an outside source, including ideas that you put into your own words. You are not expected to cite common knowledge or your own thinking (for example, that the sky is blue). Citations should appear in parenthesis in the text as: (author year, page number). You should put a citation at the end of the sentence that contains the information from your source. Do not just put citations at the end of a paragraph in an attempt to use a single citation for the whole paragraph.

At the end of your paper, you must include a reference list of all the sources that you cite in the text of your paper. You cannot include sources that you do not actually cite. You must follow the guidelines of the Style Manual for Political Science. Do not use MLA, APA, or other citation styles. Use of a style other than that outlined in the Style Manual for Political Science will result in a significantly lower grade. If you do not know how to use this documentation style, I would be happy to help you with it. Please see me if you have any citation questions.

A pdf copy of the relevant sections of the Style Manual for Political Science are available on Vista. You can also purchase a copy of the complete Style Manual for Political Science from APSA ($3 for members or $6 for nonmembers) at: http://www.apsanet.org/section_362.cfm.

Grading Guide for Research Papers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to paper &amp; statement of research question:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature review:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothesis:</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation &amp; analysis of research material:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion to paper:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations &amp; references:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar, spelling, &amp; other technical details:</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Assignment:
Your assignment is to present your research paper to the class in a 15-20 minute formal presentation. Your presentation should focus on the main elements outlined in the research paper assignment. These elements include: your explicit research question, a summary of the relevant scholarly literature on your topic, your hypothesis (or set of hypotheses), the data you propose to collect to test your hypothesis, and the method you would use to analyze your data. Each student must prepare handouts, overheads, or a PowerPoint presentation for the class. You must also provide me with a copy of the handouts, overheads, or PowerPoint.

Other Details:
• Be prepared for questions from myself and classmates at the end of your presentation.
• Please be in class on time on presentation days so we can begin promptly.
• We will sign up for presentation dates during a class period in November.

Grading Guide for Research Presentations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion of research question</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion of literature review</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion of hypothesis</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion &amp; analysis of research material</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handouts, overheads, or PowerPoint</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall presentation quality</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
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