

## SYLLABUS

PO 325S: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY

Professor A. Brunello

Phone: Ext. 8240

Office: FO-106

E-Mail: brunelar@eckerd.edu

TTh: 10:00-11:20 a.m.

Fall, 2007

### INTRODUCTION:

This course presents an analysis of politics and policy related to environmental issues. Our discussions will engage environmental politics on several dimensions. The first dimension is an examination of the policy process. A second and equally significant dimension is ideological and symbolic. Finally, the character of environmental problems emerges from the natural environment itself which exists beyond the limits of law, national territories and governments, and encompasses human and non-human habitats. Thus, this course encounters environmental politics on an international dimension, recognizing that the natural environment is part of a globally interrelated network. Moreover, much can be learned by examining the problems and policies facing nations other than the United States.

No other area of political concern touches more lives, nor has deeper long-term effects, than the human role in the natural environment. Few political issues are more complex and conflictual than environmental concerns. Advances in science and technology surpass the understanding of common people, while competing interests seek to control resources, wealth, definitions, agendas, and ultimately, power. Modern people have come to hope for technological solutions to the problems of war, disease, pollution, population, dwindling natural resources and environmental degradation on a global scale. In reality, real solutions will most likely be political, and far more difficult than dreams of technological salvation. The good news is that the political nature of many solutions to emerging environmental problems leaves us with the ability and power to effect policy and change in positive ways. The bad news is that the situation is complicated, difficult, and in so many ways, time is a luxury we can no longer afford.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- > Attendance and Participation in Class
- > Group Presentations
- > Semester Exams and Writing Assignment
- > Final Projects -- Case Study Presentations
- > Careful Reading of Texts

During the semester the class will be divided into small groups. Each group will be responsible for occasional presentations and projects during the term. Most importantly, each group will conduct a research/case study project, to be presented to the class.

Exams and short writing projects will be given during the semester. These assignments will cover aspects of the course reading and discussion. Exam questions will be handed out in advance of the tests.

COURSE TEXTS:

Jacqueline Switzer. (2007) *Environmental Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Belmont: Thomson-Wadsworth.

William Shutkin. (2001) *The Land That Could Be*. MIT Press.

James G. Speth. (2004) *Red Sky at Morning*. Yale University Press.

**NOTE:** In your Course Outline the assigned readings are listed by author as follows: *Switzer*; *Shutkin*; and *Speth*.

Listed below are suggested subjects to guide your selection of a case study project. These should not limit your selection of a project. Each small group will have a leader who will be responsible for coordination and evaluation of the group enterprise.

PROSPECTIVE CASE STUDIES: A GENERAL TOPIC GUIDE

GENERAL

Biotic Diversity  
Regulatory Agencies  
Ideology/Movements  
Parties and Institutions  
Economics vs. Environment

LAND

Tropical Forests  
Grazing Rights  
Minerals & Mining  
Forest & Timber Management  
National Parks  
"Debt-for-Nature" Policies  
Arctic Regions  
Agricultural Practices

WASTE

Land Fill  
Ocean Dumping  
Hazardous Wastes  
Recycling

WATER

Resource Management  
Finite Resource  
Dams & Wild Rivers  
Estuaries  
Toxics  
Pollution & Water Quality  
Marine Pollution  
Water Rights  
Law of the Sea

PROSPECTIVE CASE STUDIES: A GENERAL TOPIC GUIDE (Cont'd)

AIR

Urban Air Quality  
Acid Rain/Political Boundaries  
Industrial Pollution  
Assessing Air Quality  
Sick Buildings  
Radon  
Asbestos  
Tobacco Smoke  
Global Warming/Ozone Depletion

OTHER

Pesticides  
Genetic Engineering  
Law & Enforcement  
Policy Implementation  
International Organization  
Philosophy/Religion

SPECIES: ENDANGERED & OTHERWISE

Protective Legislation  
Biotic Diversity  
Endangered Species Act (ESA)  
Plant Genetics  
Wildlife Policy-Selected Species  
International Protection Treaties  
Marine Mammals; Reptiles; Fish  
Marine Fisheries  
Human Population:  
    Environmental  
    Social  
    Economic  
    Public Health

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. History of Environmental Movement and Introduction
  - A. Policy and Process
  - B. Brief Historical Overview
  - C. Five Periods in Environmental History

Reading Assignment: September 4-18

*Switzer*: Pp. vii-ix, preface; Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-36

*Speth*: Pp. ix-xv, preface; and Prologue, Pp.1-11

---

- 
- II. Symbolic Politics: Ideologies and Movements
    - A. Environmentalism and Ecologism
    - B. Philosophy vs. Ideology
    - C. Values and Policy
    - D. Sustainable Society and Green Change
    - E. Civic Environmentalism and Social Capital

Reading Assignment: September 18 - October 2

*Shutkin:* Preface Pp. xiii-xvii, Introduction, Pp. 1-20, Chapters 1, 2, 3, Pp. 21-141

*Switzer:* Pp. 37-70; Chapter 2

---

- III. Policy and Process
  - A. Public Policy Making
    - 1. Public Goods
    - 2. Baker's Dozen of Policy Assumptions
  - B. Analytical Tools
    - 1. Agendas, Streams and Cycles
    - 2. System and Process
    - 3. Impact Model
  - C. Survey of Policy Areas
    - 1. NIMBY Syndrome
    - 2. Endangered Species
    - 3. Pollution and Politics

Reading Assignment: October 2 - November 6

*Switzer:* Pp. 71-304; Chapters 3-9

*Shutkin:* Pp. 142-235, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7

---

- IV. The International Arena
  - A. Oceans: The Eco-System the World Shares
    - 1. Pollution
    - 2. Marine Fisheries
    - 3. International Regimes and Organizations

COURSE OUTLINE (Cont'd):

- B. Politics of Climactic Change and International Cooperation
  - 1. Geopolitics of Population, Pollution, and Health
  - 2. Prospects for Global Regulation
  - 3. Environmental Democracy?
  
- C. Human Populations and Other Endangered Species: Prospects for Global Governance

Reading Assignment: November 6 - December 6

*Switzer:* Pp. 305-382; Chapters 10, 11, 12

*Shutkin:* Pp. 237-244; Chapter 8

*Speth:* Pp. 11-256; Parts 1, 2, 3, 4

---

**Fall Break: October 29-30**

**Final Exam Week: December 10-13**