

Environmental Policy

PST 562

Spring 2010

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Course Description

Environmental Policy will explore the decision making process that underlies most of our current environmental laws and regulations in the U.S. Students will learn about the process of environmental decision-making from an incentive-based approach and alternatives analysis. Topics such as air, water, hazardous substances, climate change, and environmental justice will be discussed. The course is meant as an introductory theme into environmental policy.

Requirements

1. **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Attendance is monitored by online discussion responses. Each week, a number of online questions are asked in conjunction with the reading and written lecture materials. You are required to respond to these questions (called discussion boards) by the stated deadline. In addition, you are required to interact (comment on at least one other students response) in each discussion board question. These responses are considered your attendance and will form the basis for your class participation grade.
2. **Online Access:** Course materials will be housed at MyCourses (formerly WebCT). The address to the site is: dartmouth.umassonline.net. The username is password is *exactly* the same as your UMass Dartmouth email username and password. All of your online courses are located at this site.
3. **Outside Readings/Personal Interests:** Students are encouraged to develop a dialogue in the online setting based on outside readings, experiences, or personal interests that are related to the subject matter. Because we are dealing with subjects of health, welfare, and justice (sustainability), each student undoubtedly has personal experiences/viewpoints that will add to the discussion. You are encouraged to share such viewpoints.

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Required Readings

Tietenberg, *Environmental Economics & Policy*, 6th Edition (2010).

Web-postings (provided by professor at the online course website)

Student Behavior/Conduct

UMass-Dartmouth has developed a detailed student handbook to deal with various issues of student behavior. Each student should consult this resource for a better understanding of issues surrounding academic dishonesty. Any perceived negative behavior in this class will result in the student being reported and disciplined. I strive to treat each student as an adult, and will do so unless I am given a reason to act otherwise.

<http://www.umassd.edu/studenthandbook/academicregs/ethicalstandards.cfm>

Course Assignments

Week 1 - Introduction	Why <i>should</i> we care about the environment? Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 1, Ch. 6 Web Postings
Week 2 – Valuing the Environment	Concepts Surrounding Valuation Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 2 Web Postings
Week 3 – Valuing the Environment	Methods for Valuation Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 3 Web Postings
Week 4 – Goals for the Environment	Sustainable Development Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 5 Web Postings
Week 5 – Defining the Environment	Property Rights and Common Pool Resources Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 4, Ch. 13 Web Postings
Week 6 – Assessing Choices	Types of Economic Analyses Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 7, Ch. 14 Web Postings
Week 7 – Specific Policies	Energy Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 8 Web Postings
Week 8 – Specific Policies	Water Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 9, 18

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	Web Postings
Week 9 – Specific Policies	Land, Waste Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 10, 19 Web Postings
Week 10 – Specific Policies	Argiculture Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 11 Web Postings
Week 11 – Specific Policies	Forests Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 12 Web Postings
Week 12 – Specific Policies	Air Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 15 Web Postings
Week 13 – Specific Policies	Transportation Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 17 Web Postings
Week 14 – Policy Analysis	Development Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 16, Ch. 20 Web Postings
Week 15 – Policy Analysis	Development (contd) Readings: Tietenberg, Ch. 21, Ch. 22 Web Postings

Grading

Weight

Class Participation	25%
Assignments	25%
Midterm	20%
Final Paper	30%

There will be three short **answer assignments** throughout the course. Both the assignment and due dates will be clearly displayed online. You will submit your response directly online through a prompt in the course website.

A **midterm** will be given during the middle of the semester.

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The **final paper** will be due at the end of the course, and explained in further detail during the semester. The paper will be between 15-20 pages, 1-inch margins, typed (12 point font) and double-spaced. A suggested paper outline and topics are listed below for your consideration, but again, will be more fully explained during the semester:

SUGGESTED PAPER OUTLINE:

The research paper can be divided into six sections:

- I. Introduction: Describe the selected topic and establish its importance.
- II. Literature Review: Review the literature that deals with the topic you have selected.
- III. Analysis of the Literature: Analyze and critique the literature.
- IV. Application of Theoretical Framework: Which theoretical framework(s) of public policymaking best applies to the development of the environmental policy you have chosen to study.
- V. Summary and Conclusion: Summarize your arguments. Give your opinion about what should be done along with a brief statement of support.
- VI. References.

SUGGESTED PAPER TOPICS:

Air or Water Pollution
Marine Pollution
Acid Rain
Wildlife Conservation Management
Recycling and Conservation
Energy Policy
Toxic Substance Policy
Land Use Policy
Nonrenewable Metal and Mineral Resources
Alternative Energy Sources
Nuclear Energy
Nuclear Waste Disposal
Endangered Species
Deforestation

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Hazardous Waste Policy
Public Opinion and Environmental Issues
Landfills
Pesticides
Comparative Environmental Policymaking
The United Nations and Environmental Policy
Climate Change
International Organizations and Environmental Protection
Multinational Corporations and the Environment
The Green Parties
Citizen Participation and Grass Roots Movements
Environment/Ecology Theory
Depletion of Ozone Layer
Law of the Sea
Environmental Justice
The Plight of Indigenous Peoples
Sovereignty and Environmental Protection
Redefining Security to Include the Environment
Green Technologies
The Role of Business in Environmental Policymaking
Ecological Modernization

All of these grading components will be more clearly discussed on the course website throughout the semester.

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