

ENV 149: US Environmental Policy
Spring 2010
T/Th 1:15-2:30
Room Location: Gray 228

Dr. Gene Fisher
gene.fisher@duke.edu
Office Hours: T/Th 2:30-3:30pm
Perkins 318J

TA: Maura Nowalk
maura.nowalk@duke.edu

Course Summary

U.S. environmental and resource management policies have evolved from a strict reliance on property rights to direct federal regulation to experimentation with a variety of alternative approaches. In this course students will study this evolution. The history, context and philosophical underpinnings of U.S. environmental policy processes and institutions will first be examined. Command approaches to air and water pollution and waste management are then considered. Next, policy instruments such as market-based cap and trade programs, self-regulation, certification and collaboration are discussed. Issues such as the management of land and natural resources, environmental justice, climate change and international trade will be studied. Students will explore these topics through readings, case studies, memo writing, discussion, op-ed writing, briefings and group presentation.

Required Texts

Layzer, Judith. (2006). *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy* (2nd edition). Washington, D.C.: CQ Press [Layzer]

Bardach, Eugene. 2008. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving* (3rd edition). Washington, DC: CQ Press. [Bardach]

Rosenbaum, Walter A. (2007). *Environmental Politics and Policy* (7th edition). Washington DC: CQ Press. [Rosenbaum]

Course Requirements

Students should read assigned materials and participate in class discussions. Students should be informed about current issues in environmental policy by reading a national daily newspaper or on-line journal such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, or *Greenwire* at <http://www.greenwire.com>.

Students will prepare a 500-word opinion editorial describing a local environmental policy issue and two 3-page policy memos. The memos will present an environmental science policy issue, policy recommendations, and the reasoning behind them to an appropriate policy maker. It should be written as if you are either a congressional staff member writing to your boss, who is a Member of Congress; or as a staff member in an agency writing for your boss, who is a policy level appointee. Because case discussions are a key component of the course, students will prepare discussion questions in advance of each class time case discussions.

Finally, students will be assigned roles to play in a mock Congressional hearing on a proposed climate change regulatory policy. Each student will prepare a written testimonial describing their position on the

policy and deliver that testimony in a 5 minute statement to their peers. Each student will prepare a reaction paper describing the mock hearing.

Summary of Graded Work

Case Discussion Questions: 30% (6@5% each) [**January 26, February 2, February 9, February 16, February 23, March 23**]

Op-Ed on Local Environmental Issue: 10% [**February 4**]

Policy Memo 1: 15% [**March 1**]

[**Note: topic due February 11, draft due February 18**]

Policy Memo 2: 15% [**March 29**]

Mock Congressional Hearing Participation and Reaction Paper 25% [**presentations on April 20 & 22; Reaction Paper due May 4**]

Class Participation: 5%

A Note on Late Assignments

If you have a very good reason for not being able to turn in an assignment on time, it will be considered, if you speak to me beforehand. Otherwise, your grade will be adjusted downward a grade for each day late.

Course Outline

I. Introduction and Overview

January 14: Introduction and Overview

January 19: Evolution of American Environmental Thought (Class not meeting)

January 21: History and Context of U.S. Environmental Policy

II. Command Approach to Environmental Policy

January 26: Federal Command and Control Regimes: Clean Air Act

January 28: Case Discussion: The Nation Tackles Pollution

February 2: Implementation of Federal Environmental Policy: Superfund

February 4: Case Discussion: Hazardous Waste and the Politics of Fear

III. Let's Take a Step Back: What About the Poor and Non-Human?

February 9: The Endangered Species Act

February 11: Case Discussion: Saving the Northern Spotted Owl

February 16: The Origins of Environmental Justice

February 18: Case Discussion: Community Activism and Environmental Justice

IV. Alternative Approaches to Environmental Policy

February 23: Guest Lecture: Market Based Approaches

February 25: Case Discussion: Ecosystem-Based Solutions: Restoring the Florida Everglades

March 2/4: Students present memos in class

March 9/11: Spring Break

March 16: Regulatory Reform: Self-Regulation and Certification

March 18: Guest Lecture: Role of Business in Addressing Environmental Problems

March 23: Collaborative Problem Solving

March 25: Case Discussion: Climate Change: The Challenges of International Policymaking

March 30/April 1: Students present memos in class

V. Policies to Address Climate Change

April 6: Guest Lecture: Climate Change Policies

April 8: Introduction to Mock Hearing Exercise
April 13/15: Meet in groups to discuss mock hearings
April 20: Mock Hearing Day 1
April 22: Mock Hearing Day 2
April 27: Course Wrap Up

Detailed Course Schedule

Thursday January 14: Introductory Meeting

Class Logistics, Case Discussions, Op-Eds and Policy Memos

Tuesday January 19: Evolution of American Environmental Thought

Muir, John (1916). "Hetch Hetchy Valley" in Sources: Notable Selections in Environmental Studies, 2nd ed, Theodore D Goldfarb, editor (2000). [e-reserve]

Pinchot, Gifford. (1910) Principles of Conservation in Sources: Notable Selections in Environmental Studies, 2nd ed, Theodore D Goldfarb, editor (2000). [e-reserve]

How has the Muir/Pinchot debate changed today? If Muir and Pinchot had their debate today, who do you think Congress would side with and why?

Post Response to Readings on Discussion Board

Thursday January 21: History and Context of U.S. Environmental Policy

Rosenbaum, Walter A. (2007). "After Earth Day: American Environmentalism in Transformation" and "Making Policy: The Process", Chapters 1 and 2, pages 1-64 in [Rosenbaum]

"Introduction" Chapter 1, pages 1-25, in Layzer.

Tuesday January 26: Federal Command and Control Regimes: Clean Air Act

Rosenbaum, Walter A. (2007). "Command and Control in Action: Air and Water Pollution Regulation", Chapter 6, pages 174-216 in [Rosenbaum]

Case discussion questions due

Thursday January 28: Case Discussion: The Nation Tackles Pollution

"The Nation Tackles Pollution: The Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air and Water Acts". Chapter 2, pages 26-53 in Layzer.

Tuesday February 2: Implementation of Federal Environmental Policy: Superfund

Rosenbaum, Walter A. (2007). "A Regulatory Thicket: Toxic and Hazardous Substances". Chapter 7, pages 217-252 in [Rosenbaum]

Case discussion questions due

Thursday February 4: Case Discussion: Hazardous Waste and the Politics of Fear

“Love Canal: Hazardous Waste and the Politics of Fear”. Chapter 3, pages 52-74 in Layzer.

Op-ed on local environmental issue due Feb 4

Tuesday February 9: The Endangered Species Act

Congressional Research Service. 2009. “The Endangered Species Act in the 111th Congress: Conflicting Values and Difficult Choices”. http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40185_20090225.pdf

Case discussion questions due

Thursday February 11: Case Discussion: Saving the Northern Spotted Owl

“Jobs vs. the Environment: Saving the Northern Spotted Owl”. Chapter 8, pages 191-222 in Layzer

Memo 1 topic due

Tuesday February 16: The History and Origins of Environmental Justice

Ringquist, E.J. (2003). "Environmental Justice: Normative Concerns, Empirical Evidence, and Government Action" Chapter 11, pages 249-274 in Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21st Century, CQ Press (e-reserves)

Case discussion questions due

Thursday February 18: Case Discussion: The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

“Community Activism and Environmental Justice: The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative”, Chapter 5, pages 105-129 in Layzer

Memo 1 draft due

Tuesday February 23: Market Based Policies: Guest Lecture

Rosenbaum, Walter A. (2007). “More Choice: The Battle over Regulatory Economics”, Chapter 5, pages 143-173 in [Rosenbaum]

Case discussion questions due

Thursday February 25: Case Discussion: Ecosystem-based solutions: Restoring the Florida Everglades

Layzer, Judith A. (2002). “Ecosystem-Based Solutions: Restoring the Florida Everglades”. Chapter 15, pages 404-435 in Layzer.

Policy Memo 1 due March 1

Tuesday/ Thursday March 2/4: Students present memos in class

March 9/11: Spring Break

Tuesday March 16: Regulatory Reform: Self-Regulation and Certification

Eisner, Marc A. (2004). "Corporate Environmentalism, Regulatory Reform and Industry Self-Regulation: Toward Genuine Regulatory Reinvention in the United States, Governance, 17(2), pp. 145-167. [e-reserves]

Thursday March 18: Role of Business in Addressing Environmental Problems: Guest Lecture

Tuesday March 23: Collaborative Problem Solving

Gallagher, D.R. and J.W. Gallagher. (2007). "Stakeholder Relationship Management: A Strategic Resource for Sustainability", Finance Marketing and Production [e-reserves]

Case discussion questions due

Thursday March 25: Case Discussion: Climate Change & Challenges of International Policymaking

Climate Change: The Challenges of International Policymaking, Chapter 11, page 278-312, Layzer

Policy Memo 2 due March 29

Tuesday/Thursday March 30/April 1: Students present memos in class

Tuesday April 6: Climate Change Policies: Guest Lecture

Thursday April 8: Introduction to Mock Hearing Exercise

Tuesday/Thursday April 13/15: Meet in groups to discuss mock hearings

Tuesday/Thursday April 20/22: Mock Hearing Day 1 & 2
Tuesday April 27: Last class, Course Wrap Up

Mock hearing reaction paper due May 4