

PLS 3763, Environmental Politics & Policy
MWF 9-9:50 am, Coleman 2210

Spring 2009

Dr. Melinda Mueller, Professor, Political Science
Phone: 581-3022 (office); 345-4240 (home, before 9 pm)
Office hours: MWF 10-10:50 am, T 8:30-10:30 am and by appointment

Office: Coleman 2010
e-mail: mamueller@eiu.edu

Course goals and learning objectives: In this course, we will analyze how the U.S. and other countries make environmental policy. We will begin by evaluating the different ways that people view the environment and environmentalism. From there, we will explore how these views manifest themselves in political behavior and government institutions—with a focus on U.S. policy-making. In addition, we will consider the tools and approaches used to make environmental policy, focusing on how the reality of politics can conflict with ideal policy-making. Throughout the course, we will explore major environmental issues and problems, including climate change, international trade, air and water pollution, and population policy. Your grade in this class will reflect your ability to:

- Identify and analyze the concepts, theories, and frameworks used to understand the politics of environmental policy,
- Understand and apply research tools and resources used in this field of Political Science, and
- Develop critical thinking and writing skills.

This course fulfills the American Policies and Institutions elective for Political Science majors, and fulfills elective requirements for PLS majors with a Public Administration concentration and PLS minors. The course is also required for Biological Sciences majors with the Environmental Biology option, and the Environmental Studies minor.

Requirements: Two textbooks are required: Carter's *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, and Policy*, (2007, 2nd ed.) and Miller's *Environmental Politics: Stakeholders, Interests and Policymaking* (2009, 2nd ed.). Additional readings will be required from various websites and e-reserves, as noted in the syllabus. You must keep up with current news on environmental policy.

Grades: Your grade will be based on the following:

- One midterm exam, worth 80 points
- One final exam, worth 120 points
 - For both exams, you will build your own study guides through class notes, your texts, reading quizzes, and other class activities. An essay portion of the final exam will be a take-home.
- 30 reading quizzes, worth 3 points each
 - There will be 34 quizzes. The four additional quizzes allow for absences or poor performances.
 - Quizzes will follow one of these formats: three multiple choice questions, a short definition/explanation, or a short critique of a reading or film.
- Research Project, worth 160 points:
 - Proposal, 20 points
 - Progress Report, 40 points
 - Final paper, 100 points
- Grading scale:
 - 405-450 points/A 360-404/B 315-359/C 270-314/D 0-269/F

Disabilities: Students with disabilities who require special accommodations should contact me as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Disabilities Services at 581-6583.

Student Assistance: If you are struggling with courses or with college in general, please seek help. Come talk to me, or contact the Academic Success Center (581-6696) for academic problems, and the Counseling Center (581-3413) for personal problems.

Late Policy & Absences:

- Except for University approved absences, any research project assignment turned in on the day that it is due, but after class has ended, will lose five percent. Thereafter, you will lose an additional 10 percent each day.
- Do not submit assignments via email. Plan ahead in terms of paper, flash drives, ink cartridges, and computer labs.
- If you will miss the in-class exam or cannot turn in a research project assignment due to a University-approved absence, contact me immediately to schedule a make-up. If you will miss more than three quizzes due to an approved absence, meet with me to work out an alternative assignment.
- If you miss an assignment or exam due to an academic or athletic commitment, bring your note from your professor, advisor, or coach, and turn in research project assignments or take exams/quizzes early.
- Questions? See me—I'm happy to discuss these policies.

Academic Honesty: Become familiar with Eastern's Student Conduct Code. Academic violations of this code include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, collusion, misrepresentation or falsification of data.
- Theft or the unauthorized possession of examinations; alteration, theft, or destruction of the academic work of others.
- Submitting work previously presented in another course unless specifically permitted by the instructor.
- Conduct which disrupts the academic environment; disruption in classes.
- Complicity with others in violations of this standard.

Instructors are obligated to report all instances of academic dishonesty. The University's recommended penalty for any academic dishonesty is at minimum, an F in the course. If you have any questions, please see me or the Judicial Affairs Office.

Classroom Courtesy:

- Please turn off all electronic devices before class begins. I prefer that you not use laptops in class, but may make exceptions on a case by case basis.
- Bring your textbook, notebook, pen/pencil, syllabus, and any other assigned readings with you to class.
- Quizzes are held during the first five minutes of class. If you arrive late, you will miss the quiz and will not be able to make it up.
- Announcements are made during the first five minutes of class—missing them can be very detrimental to your class progress. It is your responsibility to be in class on time.
- During exams, use the restroom before the exam begins; no one may leave the classroom and return to the exam.
- Class discussion will not be a political talk show where people with differing political views insult one another. The goal here is to respectfully learn from one another, even when we disagree

Course Outline: Readings and assignments listed for each day are due that day. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class. Students should also check their EIU email accounts on a regular basis for announcements.

January 12 Introductions

- Review syllabus, discuss research projects

Conceptualizing the Environment and Environmental Policy

January 14 Where does environmental policy originate?

- Read Carter, Chapter 1
- Quiz 1

January 16 A Historical Overview of Environmental Policy in the U.S.

- Read Miller, Chapter 1
- Quiz 2

January 21 Environmental Philosophy: Anthropocentric v. Ecocentric Views

- Read Carter, Chapter 2, pp. 13-32
- Quiz 3

January 23 Green Political Thought: Ecologism

- Read Carter, Chapter 3, pp. 42-66
- Quiz 4

January 26 Green Political Thought: How Does Ecologism Fit With Other Political Ideologies?

- Read Carter, Chapter 3, pp. 66-80
- Quiz 5

January 28 Research Day

- Come to class with your research topic prepared, as well as a preliminary bibliography. We will discuss how to write your proposal.

Political Activism & Environmental Policy

January 30 Activism in the U.S.

- Read Miller, Chapter 5.
- Review the website of one environmental or anti-environmental organization.
- Review the website of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at www.ejrc.cau.edu
- Quiz 6

February 2 Activism from a Comparative Perspective

- Read Carter, Chapter 6, pp. 143-154
- Quiz 7

February 4 New Developments in Activism

- Read Carter, Chapter 6, pp. 155-169
- Read Miller, Chapter 7
- Quiz 8

February 6 Green Parties: Why Did They Develop?

- Read Carter, Chapter 4, pp. 87-99
- Quiz 9

February 9 Green Parties: Cases & Comparisons

- Read Carter, Chapter 4, pp. 99-113
- Be ready to compare the Green Party of the United States with the Greens/Green Party USA, as well as with one European green party of your choice
- Paper proposal due.

February 11 Environmental Activism in Established Parties: The Anti-Party Party

- Read Carter, Chapter 5, pp. 116-127
- Quiz 10

February 16 Environmental Activism in Established Parties: Cases & Comparisons

- Read Carter, Chapter 5, pp. 127-141
- Look up the current environmental policy platforms of the Democratic & Republican parties
- Quiz 11

February 18 The Media

- Read Miller, Chapter 9
- Be sure to watch a major nightly news cast before class, and keep track of how much environmental news there was—number of minutes, type of coverage, etc.
- Quiz 12

February 20 An Inconvenient Truth

February 23 An Inconvenient Truth, continued

February 25 Film analysis & review

- Be prepared to discuss how this film shapes public discourse & policy-making, and whether you detect any bias. Also, be prepared to discuss the role pop culture and consumerism play in shaping environmental policy.
- Quiz 13

February 27 Business

- Read Miller, Chapter 6
- Quiz 14

March 2 Scientists as Policy Makers

- Read Miller, Chapter 9
- All you Biology majors in the class: beyond voting, are you politically active? Be prepared to share why or why not.
- Quiz 15

March 4 Midterm Exam

Institutions & Actors in Policy-Making

March 6 The U.S. Congress

- Read Miller, Chapter 2
- Using THOMAS, be prepared to discuss proposed environmental legislation in 2009.
- Quiz 16

March 9 The U.S. Presidency

- Handout on Obama's environmental policy proposals (will be distributed in previous class)—read them and be prepared to critique them.
- Quiz 17

March 11 The EPA

- Read Miller, Chapter 3
- Quiz 18

March 13 The U.S. Court System

- Read Miller, Chapter 10
- Using www.oyez.org, search cases for the term “environmental” and read one of the recent case summaries of an environmental court case.
- Quiz 19

March 23 State & Local Governments

- Read Miller, Chapter 4
- Review your community’s environmental scorecard at www.scorecard.org
- Quiz 20

March 25 International Governance: Treaties

- Read Carter, Chapter 9, pp. 243-256
- Review the website of the UN Environmental Programme
- Quiz 21

March 27 International Governance: Regimes

- Read Carter, Chapter 9, pp. 256-269
- Frontline-World/China: Green Dreams—A (Not So) Model Village
- Progress Reports Due

Tools & Norms in Policy-Making

March 30 Environmental Public Policy Problems

- Read Carter, Chapter 7, pp. 174-182
- Quiz 22

April 1 The Policy Process for Environmental Policy

- Read Carter, Chapter 7, pp. 182-205
- Quiz 23

April 3 Understanding Sustainable Development

- Read Carter, Chapter 8, pp. 208-227
- Quiz 24

April 6 Ecological Modernization

- Read Carter, Chapter 8, pp. 227-238
- Frontline-World./ India: Design Like You Give a Damn
- Quiz 25

April 8 Policy Tools: Regulation

- Read Carter, Chapter 12, pp. 323-326
- Quiz 26

April 10 Policy Tools: Voluntary Actions

- Read Carter, Chapter 12, pp. 329-332
- Bill Moyers Journal/Changing the Way We Eat (Part II)
- Quiz 27

April 13 Policy Tools: Using the Market

- Read Carter, Chapter 12, pp. 332-341
- Quiz 28

April 15 The Case of Climate Change

- Read Carter, Chapter 12, pp. 341-352
- Quiz 29

April 17 The Case of Free Trade: WTO

- Read Carter, Chapter 10, pp. 272-281
- Final Research Paper Due
- Take home portion of the final exam will be distributed.

April 20 The Case of Free Trade: NAFTA and beyond

- Read Carter, Chapter 10, pp. 281-288
- Frontline-World/Mexico: Tortillanomics, Food or Fuel?
- Quiz 30

April 22 The Case of Toxic & Hazardous Substances

- Read Layzer, "Love Canal: Hazardous Waste and the Politics of Fear," on e-reserves.
- Quiz 31

April 24 The Case of Overpopulation

- Read Tobin, "Environment, Population, and the Developing World," on e-reserves.
- Quiz 32

April 27 The Case of Energy Policy

- Read Smith, "Energy," on e-reserves
- Quiz 33

April 29 Conclusions

- Read Miller, Chapter 11 and Carter, Chapter 13
- Quiz 34

May 1 Catch up and review for exam

May 5 Final exam, 8-10 am