

Eastern Illinois University
Revised Course Proposal
PLS 4763, Environmental Politics & Policy

CGS Agenda Item: 17-51
Effective Spring 18

Banner/Catalog Information (Coversheet)

1. ☐ New Course or ☒ Revision of Existing Course
2. Course prefix and number: PLS 4763
3. Short title: Environ Pol
4. Long title: Environmental Politics & Policy
5. Hours per week: 3 Class 0 Lab 3 Credit
6. Terms: ☐ Fall ☒ Spring (even-numbered years) ☒ Summer ☐ On demand
7. Initial term: ☐ Fall ☒ Spring ☐ Summer Year: 2018
8. **Catalog course description:** The study of environmental, energy, and sustainability issues from the perspective of public policy and political science research, including policy models, alternative tools, case studies, and the role of political institutions, actors, organizations, and citizens.
9. **Course attributes:**

General education component: _____

☐ Cultural diversity ☐ Honors ☐ Writing centered ☐ Writing intensive ☐ Writing active
10. **Instructional delivery**
Type of Course:

☒ Lecture ☐ Lab ☐ Lecture/lab combined ☐ Independent study/research

☐ Internship ☐ Performance ☐ Practicum/clinical ☐ Other, specify: _____
Mode(s) of Delivery:

☒ Face to Face ☒ Online ☐ Study Abroad

☐ Hybrid, specify approximate amount of on-line and face-to-face instruction _____
11. Course(s) to be deleted from the catalog once this course is approved. PLS 3763
12. **Equivalent course(s):** None
 - a. Are students allowed to take equivalent course(s) for credit? ☐ Yes ☒ No
13. **Prerequisite(s):** None
 - a. Can prerequisite be taken concurrently? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - b. Minimum grade required for the prerequisite course(s)?
 - c. Use Banner coding to enforce prerequisite course(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

d. Who may waive prerequisite(s)?

☐ No one ☐ Chair ☐ Instructor ☐ Advisor ☐ Other (specify)

14. Co-requisite(s): _____

15. Enrollment restrictions

a. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may take the course: Open to undergraduate and graduate students.

b. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may not take the course: Students who previously completed PLS 3763 may not enroll in PLS 4763.

16. Repeat status: ☒ May not be repeated ☐ May be repeated once with credit

17. Enter the limit, if any, on hours which may be applied to a major or minor: 3____

18. Grading methods: ☒ Standard ☐ CR/NC ☐ Audit ☐ ABC/NC

19. Special grading provisions:

☐ Grade for course will not count in a student's grade point average.

☐ Grade for course will not count in hours toward graduation.

☐ Grade for course will be removed from GPA if student already has credit for or is registered in:

☐ Credit hours for course will be removed from student's hours toward graduation if student already has credit for or is registered in: _____

20. Additional costs to students:

Supplemental Materials or Software _____ none _____

Course Fee ☒ No ☐ Yes, Explain if yes _____

21. Community college transfer:

☐ A community college course may be judged equivalent.

☒ A community college may not be judged equivalent.

Note: Upper division credit (3000+) will not be granted for a community college course, even if the content is judged to be equivalent.

Rationale, Justifications, and Assurances (Part I)

1. ☒ Course is required for the major(s) of BIO/Environmental Biology Option

☐ Course is required for the minor(s) of Environmental Studies Minor

☐ Course is required for the certificate program(s) of _____

☒ Course is used as an elective in the Political Science major, PLS/International Studies Option, PLS/Civic & Nonprofit Leadership Option, Civic & Nonprofit Leadership minor, PLS minor, and the Environmental Sustainability Minor

2. Rationale for proposal: This course revision serves three primary purposes:

- 1) By moving the course to the 4700+ level, it can be offered to both undergraduate and graduate students. The PLS department needs to expand graduate course offerings to satisfy growing demand. This course would be a good fit for graduate students interested in developing specific policy analysis skills in environmental policy and related fields.
- 2) The PLS department currently participates in the MS in Sustainable Energy through the course PLS 5843/Proseminar in Public Policy Research & Analysis. We are unable to offer enough seats in this class to satisfy demand. Additionally, since PLS 5843 is a broad policy course, it does not fulfill the content needs as well as PLS 4763 would, with a much stronger focus on the environment, energy, and sustainability.
- 3) By offering the course in the summer online, we can offer more seats to satisfy undergraduate and graduate demands. Currently, we offer about 35 seats in PLS 3763 every other year. With this change, we can offer 25 face-to-face seats every other spring, and 25 online seats every summer.

3. Justifications for (answer N/A if not applicable)

Similarity to other courses: While other departments teach about environmental policy, they do so from the perspective of their respective fields (e.g. Sociology, Economics, etc.). This course will focus on how Political Scientists study environmental policy and politics. All departments involved in the Environmental Studies minor were notified about this change, and supported it.

Prerequisites: NA

Co-requisites: NA

Enrollment restrictions: NA

Writing active, intensive, centered: NA

4. General education assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)

General education component: NA

Curriculum: NA

Instruction: NA

Assessment: NA

5. Online/Hybrid delivery justification & assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)

Online or hybrid delivery justification: The online version of this course will allow added scheduling flexibility for both undergraduate and graduate students in a wide variety of programs.

Instruction: The course will be delivered primarily via the LMS at EIU (currently D2L), although email and other online technologies may be used occasionally. Online sections will be taught by faculty who completed training for on-line course development and pedagogy. The primary difference between the online course and the face-to-face course will be the conduit for discussion, with a discussion board instead of a classroom. The faculty and students can facilitate a rich discussion in either learning environment. The technology will be used to support student achievement by allowing them to interact with one another and the instructor at times which are convenient for them. All online instructors must complete OCDi training or the equivalent before teaching the course.

Integrity: The integrity of student work will be assured through repeated writing assignments. Given that students often have signature writing styles or voices, having someone else submit a single assignment will be evident to the instructor. In addition, all assignments are checked through on-line mechanisms for plagiarism.

Interaction: Instructor-student and student-student interaction will be promoted through a variety of means, including (but not limited to) the LMS discussion board, email, feedback on individual assignments, peer review, and online chats. Faculty are also available to meet students via phone conversation or on campus for a face-to-face meeting.

Model Syllabus (Part II)

Please include the following information:

1. Course number and title

PLS 4763/Environmental Politics & Policy

2. Catalog description

The study of environmental, energy, and sustainability issues from the perspective of public policy and political science research, including policy models, alternative tools, case studies, and the role of political institutions, actors, organizations, and citizens

3. Learning objectives.

- a. Identify, interpret, critique and apply relevant scholarly sources, information, and data about environmental problems, politics, and policy. (CT2, CT3, CT4, QR3 and Graduate Goals 1 and 2)
- b. Understand, analyze, synthesize, and apply Political Science methods and models used to analyze environmental policy. (CT4, CT5, CT6, WR2, WR5, WR6 and Graduate Goals 1 and 2)
- c. Identify and evaluate the roles that government institutions, organizations, and citizens play in creating environmental policy, considering diverse socio-economic, cultural, and ideological preferences. (WR2, WR5, WR6, RC1 and Graduate Goals 1 and 2)
- d. Present ideas, research, and analysis using effective critical thinking and communication skills. (WR1, WR2, WR3, WR4, WR6, SL3, SL4 and Graduate Goal 3 and 4)
- e. Identify professional and civic leadership opportunities related to environmental policy, policy research, and policy advocacy. (RC3, RC4 and Graduate Goals 1)

4. Course materials.

Readings will come from a standard Environmental Politics & Policy text, such as Vig & Kraft's *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21st Century*, Vaughn's *Environmental Politics: Domestic & Global Dimensions* and/or Layzer's *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy*. Additionally, we will read scholarly journal articles, primarily from sources such as *Policy Studies Journal*, *Policy Studies*, *Policy Studies Review*, *Environmental Policy & Governance*, *Environmental & Energy Law & Policy Journal*, *Environmental Communication*, and related journals. Finally, we will read selected journalism on current environmental issues.

5. Weekly outline of content.

Week 1: Introduction, historical development

Week 2: Political actors & institutions: federal and global governance

Week 3: Political actors & institutions: state and local governance

Week 4: Political behavior: political socialization, activism, voting behavior

Week 5: Interest groups, NGOs, and media

Week 6: Policy processes and models: advocacy coalitions, punctuated equilibrium model

Week 7: Policy processes and models continued, and midterm exam

Weeks 8-9: Policy approaches: traditional regulation, market tools, voluntary policy, etc.

Week 10: Case study/climate change

Week 11: Case study/sustainability

Week 12: Case study/hazardous waste

Week 13: Case study/ecosystem & species protection

Week 14: Case study/environmental justice & development

Week 15: Paper presentations

Finals: Final exam

6. Assignments and evaluation, including weights for final course grade.

- Readings journal, 25%: Students will maintain a readings journal on D2L each week, responding to prompts based on the assigned readings and other course materials.
- Class participation, 15%: Face-to-face and online students will fully engage in a variety of class discussions.
- Exams, 20% graduate students/30% undergraduates: Graduate students will complete a midterm exam; undergraduates will complete midterm and final exams.
- Research paper, 40% graduate students/30% undergraduates: Graduate students will write a 15-20-page research paper focusing on the political aspects of an environmental policy problem. Undergraduates will write a 10-12 page paper. All students will turn in a proposal and draft before the final paper is due. Students will present their papers during the last week of class. For the online class, students will upload their presentations.

7. Grading scale

A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F 0-59%

8. Correlation of learning objectives to assignments and evaluation.

	Readings Journal (25%)	Class Participation (15%)	Exams (20% graduates/30% undergraduates)	Research Paper (40% graduates/30% undergraduates)
3a/Identify, interpret, critique and apply relevant scholarly sources, information, and data about environmental problems, politics, and policy. (CT2, CT3, CT4, QR3, Grad1, and Grad2)	x	x	x	x
3b/Understand, analyze, synthesize, and apply Political Science methods and models used to analyze environmental policy. (CT4, CT5, CT6, WR2, WR5, WR6, Grad1, and Grad2)	x	x	x	x
3c/Identify and evaluate the roles that government	x	x	x	x

institutions, organizations, and citizens play in creating environmental policy, considering diverse socio-economic, cultural, and ideological preferences. (WR2, WR5, WR6, RC1, Grad1 and Grad2)				
3d/Present ideas, research, and analysis using effective critical thinking and communication skills. (WR1, WR2, WR3, WR4, WR6, SL3, SL4, Grad3, and Grad4)	x	x	x	x
3e/Identify professional and civic leadership opportunities related to environmental policy, policy research, and policy advocacy. (RC3, RC4, and Grad1)	x	x		

Date approved by the department or school: August 1, 2017

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: September 8, 2017

Date approved by the Honors Council (*if this is an honors course*):

Date approved by CAA: September 21, 2017 CGS: