PS194, Politics of Environmental Policy in the U.S.  
Fall 2012

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Professor Kent E. Portney

This course is designed to provide an introduction and focused look at the politics of environmental policy making in America. It discusses the role of governmental institutions, political parties, political processes and behavior, public policies, and the political history in environmental policy and policymaking in the United States. It is also concerned with how American social institutions, racial and ethnic equity, public opinion, political psychology, the mass media, and interest groups affect environmental policy. It assumes that you have no particular knowledge of the political system or of environmental problems.

In its role as an introductory course, one of the main missions of this course will be descriptive. In other words, we will spend much of our time trying to build a fairly detailed picture of how American political institutions have tried to deal with issues of environmental threats. To do this we will focus on a little historical background to policies and programs, and on what I call the "mechanics of public policy making." But, of course, we will from time to time go more deeply into some specific issues of environmental politics. For example, we will take a focused look at the operations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to see how science and technology interact with politics to influence the decisions that are rendered there. We will also take a critical look at the social and political values that underlie contemporary environmental problems and the policies that purport to deal with them.

In order to investigate these and other issues, we will be reading from a number of sources, including several books that you can and should purchase from the bookstore. These include:


Deborah Guber, *The Grassroots of a Green Revolution*, 2003. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (Referred to as Guber in the reading list) This book has recently gone out of print, so is not available for purchase. Special arrangements will be made to provide access to this, probably through the class Trunk website.

There will be two additional books to which we will periodically refer, neither of which will be available in the bookstore. They are available in Tisch Library. If you decide you would like to obtain one or both, feel free to place an order with Amazon.com or any other source.


Additional reading material is available on line (with links in the syllabus), or will be distributed in class from time to time. In addition to the usual in-class discussions, we will also take advantage of some other types of resources. For example, you will be asked to view a couple of videos, possibly hear from a couple of guest speakers, and collectively take part in two in-class policy debates. All of this is designed to try to make the experience of learning about environmental politics as fruitful and enjoyable as possible.

We will have a two-part mid-term exam, half in class on Thursday October 25 and half a take-home which will be given out in class on that day and will be due in class on Tuesday, October 30. The in-class portion of the exam will be multiple choice, and the take-home portion will be an essay.

We will also have a take-home final exam, which will be given out in class on Thursday, December 6, and will be due on Thursday, December 13, no later than 12:00 noon in the Political Science Department.
Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure that this exam is received, and it is always advisable for you to make a copy of all of your work before you turn it in. Class attendance is mandatory.

All written work will be graded on the basis of performance in three areas or categories of equal importance (usually a maximum of 33.3 points each): 1) Writing quality and organization of material; 2) factual accuracy and completeness; and 3) synthesis of ideas and creativity.

The final grade will be an average of the mid-term and final exams (each counting 45% toward the grade), and performance in the policy debates (which will count 10% of the grade), adjusted upward or downward based on overall class participation and attendance.

In general, extensions on assignments and incompletes at final grading time are not granted.

My office hours are 10:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Additional times will be set aside as needed. If these hours are not convenient, just let me know and we can make alternative arrangements. Due to other commitments, I will not generally be available on campus during Fridays. My e-mail address is: kent.portney@tufts.edu.

My office is located in Packard Hall, Room 206. I can be reached there by telephone at extension 73465 (617-627-3465 from off-campus).
# CLASS BY CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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| September 4| Introduction: The Semester's Topics and Activities  
No Reading to be done for today                                                                 |

**Foundations of Environmental Politics and Policies: Our Social, Economic, Political, and Ecological Values**

- **September 6**  
Environmental Policy and Politics: Public Policies and the Clash of Values in Society  
Read: Kraft, Chapter 1

- **September 11**  
The State of the Environment: The Magnitude of the Problem  
Read: Kraft, Chapter 2

- **September 13**  
Concepts of Sustainability: Sustainable Development, Environmental Sustainability, and Global Interdependence; the Three Epochs of Environmental Policy  
Read: Kraft, Chapter 8; Mazmanian, Chapter 1.

[http://www.springerlink.com/content/w476ppj724p32r20/fulltext.pdf](http://www.springerlink.com/content/w476ppj724p32r20/fulltext.pdf)

[http://www.springerlink.com/content/tuv6tl3h570134j2/fulltext.pdf](http://www.springerlink.com/content/tuv6tl3h570134j2/fulltext.pdf)

**The Political Landscape of Environmental Protection and Management**

- **September 18**  
Grassroots Politics of the Environment and Liberal Democracy  
Read: Guber, whole book.
Read: Jon Krosnick, “Majority of Americans Continue to Believe that Global Warming is Real,” found online at http://woods.stanford.edu/research/majority-believe-global-warming.html

September 20
Interest Groups in the American Political System
Re-Read: Kraft, Chapter 4
Read: Either Berry, whole book or Shaiko, whole book

September 25
The Role of the Private Sector in Environmental Policymaking
Read: Kraft and Kamieniecki, whole book

Regulatory and Administrative Issues in Environmental Protection

September 27
Environmental Policy Making: The Policy Processes
Read: Kraft, Chapter 3

October 2
Environmental Policy Making and the Role of Government in Protecting the Environment
View "An Act of Congress" Video available on our Trunk web site
Read: Kraft, Chapters 4 and 5;
Re-read: Kraft and Kamieniecki, Chapter 6

October 4
The Environmental Protection Agency, the Regulatory Processes, and Their Alternatives
View "The Regulators" available on our Trunk web site
Re-Read: Kraft, Chapter 5; Kraft and Kamieniecki, Chapter 7;
Read: Mazmanian, Chapter 3.

Getting Down to Earth: Environmental Policies in the U.S.

October 11
Climate Change Mitigation Policies and Clean Air
Re-Read: Kraft, Chapter 5;
Re-read: Kraft and Kamieniecki, Chapters 4 and 5;
Read: Mazmanian, Chapters 4 and 8.

Public Policies for Environmental Protection. Harriet Bulkeley and Michele Betsill, Cities and Climate Change, Chapter 3. These two readings provided in class.
Lisa Heinzerling and Frank Ackerman, “Pricing the Priceless: Cost-Benefit Analysis of Environmental Protection” Available online at

October 16 Alternatives to Air Pollution Regulation I: Cap and Trade Proposals and Policies
Read: HR 2454: American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 at:
http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454

Also read: Robert Stavins, A U.S. Cap and Trade System to Address Global Climate Change, found online at:

October 18 Alternatives to Air Pollution Regulation II: Carbon Taxation
Read: Gilbert Metcalf, A Proposal for a U.S. Carbon Tax Swap, found online at:
http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/papers/2007/10carbontax_metcalf/10_carbontax_metcalf.pdf

October 23 Climate Change and the Advent of Climate Adaptation Policies
Read: William Easterling, Brian Hurd, and Joel Smith, Coping with Global Climate Change: The Role of Adaptation in the U.S. found online at:
http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Adaptation.pdf

Read: California Climate Adaptation Strategy, found online at:

October 25 Midterm Exam Today

October 30 Energy and Natural Resources Policies
Read: Kraft, Chapter 6
Re-read: Kraft and Kamieniecki, Chapter 2
Take-home portion of midterm due today

November 1 Water Pollution Policies
Re-Read: Kraft, Chapter 5
Read Mazmanian, Chapters 5, 10, and 11.

November 6 Regulating Toxics and Toxic Wastes
Read: Kent E. Portney, “Public Policies Toward Contaminating the Soil: Regulating Hazardous Wastes and Toxic Substances,” Chapter 5 in Kent E. Portney, Controversial Issues in Environmental Policy. Reading provided in class.

November 8 Regulating and Managing Solid Wastes
Read: New York City Department of Sanitation, Recycling and Waste Prevention Reports. Found online at:

State and Local Government and the Environment

November 13 State and Local Policies
Re-Read: Kraft and Kamieniecki, Chapters 10 and 11

November 15 Siting Waste Treatment Facilities: The NIMBY Syndrome and the Dilemma of Local Democracy

November 20 and November 27 Environmental Justice, Eco-Racism, and the Environmental Justice Movement
Read: Robert D. Bullard, Paul Mohai, Robin Saha, and Beverly Wright, Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty, found online at:
Also Read: Luke Cole and Sheila Foster, Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement, found online at
http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=R6rj8XMSjx4C&oi=fnd&pg=PP13&dq=the+environmental+justice+movement&ots=iSOWr4NY-Q&sig=0fv7flql_2-1-xL-p8dppkqhko4#v=onepage&q=&f=false


November 29
How Do We Know If Our Policies Work? Future Policies?
Approaches to Evaluating Environmental Policies
Read: Kraft, Chapters 7 and 8

Can Our Political Systems Cope with the Environmental Problem?

December 4
The Governance Challenges: Tragedy of the Commons, Scientific Uncertainty, Resource and Land Conflicts, and the Mismatch between Political Jurisdictions and Ecosystems
Read: Garrett Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons, found online at: http://dieoff.org/page95.htm

Re-Read: Kraft, Chapters 1 and 8

December 6
Semester Summary. No additional readings

Take-home final exam will be given out in class, and is DUE ON PAPER OR VIA EMAIL ATTACHMENT ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 13, NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON IN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.

December 13 (Thursday)
Final exam is due by 12:00 noon.