Course Purpose: This course provides an explicitly political perspective on issues concerning the environment—however there is a fair amount of economic reasoning and some discussion of underlying scientific issues as well. The result should be a substantive understanding of environmental politics specifically and public policy generally. The course is principally intended for committed, upper-level, undergraduate students.

Patience Required: I hope that students will be patient if some of the material covered is remedial (i.e., they know it) as this class routinely attracts a diverse set of participants. Some may know nothing of political science or economics, while others may be ignorant of relevant scientific issues. It is my job to make things understandable for everyone.

Office Hours: Formal office hours are on Tuesday from 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. in Harkness 108. I will be available at most other times. My phone is x34903 and my e-mail is lrot@mail.rochester.edu; feel free to use either as a means of contact.

Requirements and Grading: Students will be graded on a midterm exam (25 percent), a research project, which includes a 15-20 page paper and a presentation (35 percent), and a final exam (40 percent).

Readings: The following books are in the bookstore:

Christopher Klyza and David Sousa. American Environmental Policy, 1990-2006

Lawrence S. Rothenberg. Environmental Choices: Policy Responses to Green Demands

Norman Vig and Michael Kraft. Environmental Choices: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century

Other additional reading materials will be available through links on the syllabus and the library. All readings are required and should be read before class to enhance the value of both the lectures and the discussion. Please note that dates are subject to change and that it is possible that I may have to miss a meeting given travel.

Notes will not be put on the web but certain materials for the course will be available.
Course Structure: Note that dates are tentative—particularly because this is a seminar where students are encouraged to participate, it is possible that some topics will take more or less time. Also, there is the possibility that I might need to miss a class, although I try not to do so.

I. PUBLIC POLICY

I. Introduction and Grounds for Political Intervention (9/6-9/13)

Readings:


   Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 1.

   Rothenberg, Ch. 2.
II. Policy Determinants and Solutions (9/15-9/20)

Readings:

Rothenberg, Ch. 1


Vig and Kraft, Ch. 9.


III. Past and Present Demand for Environmental Protection (9/22-9/27)

Readings:


Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 2.

Rothenberg, Ch. 3.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 1.

IV. Contemporary Environmental Politics and Policy (10/4-10/6)

Readings:


Rothenberg, Chs. 7-8.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 7.

V. Enforcement: Adversarial or Consensual? (10/11)

Readings:


Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 6.

Rothenberg, Ch. 5.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 8.
PART II. INSTITUTIONAL ACTORS

VI. Mobilization of Interests (10/13 – 10/18)

Readings:


Rothenberg, pgs., 62-79.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 3.

ONE PARAGRAPH ON PAPER TOPIC DUE 10/18
MIDTERM 10/20

VII. Congress and Distributive Politics (10/25)

Readings:


Klyza and Sousa. Ch. 3.

Rothenberg, pp. 79-88.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 5.

VIII. The President and the General Interest (10/27 – 11/1)

Readings:

Rothenberg, pp. 84-88.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 4.

Readings on Obama’s environmental policy [tba]
IX. *The Courts as Arbitrator* (11/3 - 11/8)

Readings:

- Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 5.
- Vig and Kraft, Ch. 6.

X. *The Agencies and the Interaction of Institutions* (11/10)

Readings:

- Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 4.
- Vig and Kraft, Chs. 8, 14.

XI. *States and Localities-The Sins and Virtues of Federalism* (11/15)

Readings:

- Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 7.
- Rothenberg, Ch. 6.
- Vig and Kraft, Ch. 2.

“W” STUDENTS DRAFT DUE 11/17

NO CLASS 11/22

Readings:

Vig and Kraft, Chs. 12.


XIII. Student Presentations (12/1, 12/6, 12/8, and Makeup class [tbd])

XIV. Conclusions: Is the System Sustainable? (12/12) PAPERS DUE

Reading:


Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 8.

Rothenberg, Ch. 9.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 16.