

University of Rochester

PSC243
Professor Rothenberg

Environmental Politics
Fall 2011

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 lrrot@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:

Ronald Coase. (1960) "The Problem of Social Cost," *Journal of Law & Economics*.

Garrett Hardin. (1968) "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*.

Thomas A. Lambert. (2006) "The Case against Smoking Bans," *Regulation*.

Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 1.

Rothenberg, Ch. 2.

II. Policy Determinants and Solutions (9/15-9/20)

Readings:

Rothenberg, Ch. 1

Elizabeth Bromberg and David Schlosberg. (2008). "U.S. Environmentalism in Comparative Perspective," *Environmental Politics*.

Cary Coglianese and Laurie K. Allen. (2004). "Does Consensus Make Common Sense," *Environment*.

Richard Morgenstern and Winston Harrington. (2004). "Economic Incentives versus Command and Control: What's the Best Approach for Solving Environmental Problems?" *Resources*.

James N. Sanchirico and Richard G. Newell . (2003). "Catching Market Efficiencies: Quota-Based Fisheries Management," *Resources*.

Michael Sandel, (1997). "It's Immoral to Buy the Right to Pollute," *New York Times*.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 9.

Nicholas X. Muller, and Robert Mendolsohn. (2010). "Weighing the Value of a Ton of Pollution," *Regulation*.

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

Readings:

Dorothy Lynn Guber. (2001). "Voting Preferences and the Environment in the American Electorate," *Society and Natural Resources*.

Elizabeth Bomberg and Betsy Super. (2009). "The 2008 U.S. Presidential Election: Obama and the Environment," *Environmental Politics*.

Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 2.

Rothenberg, Ch. 3.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 1.

Christopher P. Borick and Barry G. Rabe. (2010). "A Reason to Believe: Examining the Factors that Determine Individual Views on Global Warming," *Social Science Quarterly*.

NOTE: NO CLASS ON 9/29

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

Readings:

Cary Coglianese and Gary Marchant. (2004). "The EPA's Risky Reasoning," *Regulation*.

Ted Gayer and Robert Hahn. (2005). "The Political Economy of Mercury Regulation," *Regulation*

Rothenberg, Chs. 7-8.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 7.

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

Readings:

Matthew Potoski and Aseem Prakash. (2004). "The Regulation Dilemma: Cooperation and Conflict in Environmental Governance," *Public Administration Review*.

Peter May. (2005). "Regulation and Compliance Motivations: Examining Different Approaches," *Public Administration Review*.

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:

Matthew Grossman. (2006). “Environmental Advocacy in Washington,”
Environmental Politics.

Thomas Lyon and John Maxwell. (2008). “Corporate Social Responsibility and
the Environment,” *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*.

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:

Barry Rabe. (2007). “Can Congress Govern the Climate,” NYU Working Paper.

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:

Richard J. Lazarus. (2004). "Judging Environmental Law," *Tulane Law Review*.

Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 5.

Rothenberg, 88-101.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 6.

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

Readings:

Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 4.

Rothenberg, 95-101.

Vig and Kraft, Chs. 8, 14.

U.S. GAO. (2011). "Environmental Protection Agency: Major Management Challenges."

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

Readings:

Wallace Oates. (2002). "The Arsenic Rule: A Case for Decentralized Standard Setting?" *Resources*.

Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 7.

Rothenberg, Ch. 6.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 2.

David Vogel, Michael Toffel, Diahanna Post, and Nazli Z. Uludere Aragon. (2010). "Environmental Federalism in the European Union and the United States." Harvard Business School Working Paper.

"W" STUDENTS DRAFT DUE 11/17

XII. *The U.S. in the Larger World: Is International Cooperation Possible?* (11/17 – 11/29)

NO CLASS 11/22

Readings:

Vig and Kraft, Chs. 12.

James R. Kahn. (2005). *The Economic Approach to Environmental and Natural Resources*, Ch. 7.

Lawrence S. Rothenberg. (2009). “The Political Economy of Global Climate Change.”

Scott Barrett. (2008). “Climate Treaties and the Imperative of Enforcement,” *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*.

Dallas Burtraw, Richard Sweeney, and Margaret Walls. (2008). “Crafting a Fair and Equitable Climate Policy: A Closer Look at the Options,” *Resources*.

Kopp, Raymond. (2010). “The Shape of International Agreements: Political Economy Analysis of the Copenhagen Accord,” *Resources for the Future Issue Brief*.

Stavins, Robert N., and Robert C. Stowe. 2010. “What Hath Copenhagen Wrought? A Preliminary Assessment,” *Environment*.

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

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

Reading:

Guert Van de Kerk and Arthur R. Manuel. (2008). "A Comprehensive Index for a Sustainable Society: The SSI—the Sustainable Society Index." *Ecological Economics*.

Kenneth Arrow, *et al.* (2007). "Consumption, Investment, and Future Well-Being: Reply to Daly *et al.*" *Conservation Biology*.

Herman Daly, *et al.* (2007). "Are We Consuming Too Much—For What?" *Conservation Biology*.

Klyza and Sousa, Ch. 8.

Rothenberg, Ch. 9.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 16.