

08/04/2017

PUBP 3315: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Fall, 2017

Room: Bunger-Henry 380

Mon. & Wend. 9:30-10:45 am

Instructor: Alice Favero, PhD

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Office hours: Mon. & Wend. 11:00 am - 2:30 pm and by appointment

Office: DM Smith 318

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

The course will focus on what constitutes an effective and efficient environmental policy.

First, it starts analyzing the evolution of the environmental policy and actors in the environmental arena at the international and US level. Then, it discusses why environmental policies are needed and cost and benefit analysis. After that, the course will describe environmental policy instruments for addressing environmental issues at the local, regional, and global levels using real-world examples. Finally, it defines global and domestic environmental issues (climate change, local air pollution, transportation, water pollution and waste) and possible policy responses. A final section is dedicated to the topic of sustainable development.

The goal of this course is to provide training in environmental policies to describe how economic, political, and social relationships develop, persist, and change. By the end of the course, students will have the ability to critically analyze environmental policies in the real world presenting and discussing some of the most important environmental policies in act and proposed.

Serve Learn Sustain:

This course is part of Georgia Tech's Serve-Learn-Sustain (SLS) initiative, which provides students with opportunities to combine their academic and career interests with their desire to make worthwhile contributions to the world and build sustainable communities where people and nature thrive, in Georgia, the United States, and around the globe. More information about SLS can be found at www.serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu. Visit the website to sign up for the [SLS Email List](#), view the full list of [affiliated courses and projects](#), and find links to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Course Materials:

To facilitate discussion, all reading assignments must be read before the day of discussion. Selected readings as assigned. Additional course material is posted on T-square.

Textbook:

- Tietenberg, Tom and Lynne Lewis. 2009. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and Policy (6th Edition). Addison-Wesley Publishing (hereafter referred to as textbook).

Other books:

- Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2017. Environmental Politics and Policy, Tenth Edition, SAGE Publications.
- Keohane Nathaniel O. and Sheila M. Olmstead. 2007. Markets and the Environment. Island Press.
- Chasek, Pamela; Downie, David Leonard; and Welsh Brown, Janet, 2010. Global Environmental Politics, 5th Edition" (2010). (hereafter referred to as CDB) [e-book].
- Norman J Vig and Michael E Kraft 2012. Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century 8th Edition.

Course Assessment and Grades:

The following weights will be given to each of the course requirements in the determination of final grades.

Grade allocation:

Environmental Policy News (2x5pts)	15
Quiz/Group Activities	15
Class Participation	5
Homework/Short Assignment (5x4pts)	20
Midterm	20
Final	25
Total	100

Grading:

A: 100-90%; B: 89-75%; C: 74-55%; D: <54%

Environmental Policy news presentation:

Starting on September 7, students will be assigned to make two five-minute oral presentations on a particular news relevant to a recent environmental policy at the local, state, regional, national, or international level. The news articles must be from one of the source below:

1. BBC Science and Environment: http://www.bbc.com/news/science_and_environment
2. Belfer Center - Harvard: http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/topic/37/environment_and_climate_change.html
3. Brookings institute <http://www.brookings.edu/>
4. C2ES: <http://www.c2es.org/newsroom>
5. Climate Central: <http://www.climatecentral.org/>
6. Columbia- Earth Institute <http://www.earth.columbia.edu/>
7. Dot Earth: <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/>
8. Environment 360 Yale: <http://e360.yale.edu/>
9. EPA: <http://www2.epa.gov/newsroom>
10. European Environment Agency: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/media>
11. International Energy Agency: <https://www.iea.org/newsroomandevents/news/>
12. Nicholas Institute: <https://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/news>
13. NYT: <http://www.nytimes.com/>
14. Resource for the future: <http://www.rff.org/news/Pages/default.aspx>
15. Robert Stavins: <http://www.robertstavinsblog.org/>

16. The Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/>
17. UNFCCC: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/>
18. White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/energy>
19. World resource institute: <http://www.wri.org/about/news/all>

Quality of the topic and source (25%)	Quality of the presentation (25%)	Class participation (25%)	Related to lecture/ class discussion (25%)	Total 5 pts each presentation
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Quiz and Group Activities:

There will be unannounced in-class individual quiz or group activities with questions based on the readings.

Class Participation:

You are expected to participate in class discussion and you will be evaluated on your comments, questions, and arguments. More than two absences will be noticed, and is likely to affect my judgment about your respect for the course when I am choosing between a low-A and a high-B. During class you cannot use your cell phone.

Homework/Short Assignments:

Homework will be assigned and then discussed in class. The evaluation will include both the quality of the assignment and the quality of external references and sources (peer-reviewed articles, reports, website etc.).

Please note that late assignments will be penalized 5% per day late, without prior permission from the instructor.

Exams:

The midterm and final exams will be closed book and will include a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exams will be delivered in class on the dates listed in this syllabus. The final exam is cumulative and covers material in the textbook and readings.

Changes in the Syllabus:

The instructor periodically updates the syllabus and course content throughout the semester. Required readings beyond the textbooks, as well as supplementary readings, will be made available on T-square. Revisions, if any, will be announced in class and posted online with at least one week advance notice. Always check E-mail/T-Square for updates in assignments up to 24 hours before the next class.

Honor Code:

Compliance with the Georgia Tech Honor Code will be strictly enforced in the class. The text of the honor code can be found at: <http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/page.php?acadcode.htm>

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism, fundamentally, is representing someone else's work as one's own. Reproducing (even a small piece of) someone else's text exactly, or restating someone's original ideas without attribution is strictly prohibited. It is always appropriate to **cite the source** or to use a quotation with proper attribution. It is also **important to actively credit any charts**, graphs or other graphics (pictures, etc.) if they are not original, including when they have been slightly modified from the original.

Students with disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. Please register through the ADAPTS Office.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The schedule provided below is subject to change. For any revisions on this schedule, the instructor will give class participants notification of the changes one or two weeks in advance.

Date	Topic
21-Aug	Course introduction and overview
Part I - Evolution of Environmental policy and actors	
23 Aug	The evolution of environmental policy - international <i>pp.1-15; 30-36 (CDB)</i>
28 Aug	Actors in the Environmental Arena - international <i>Chapter 2 (CDB); Roger A. Pielke Jr (2002)</i> <i>Sign up: Env Policy News</i>
30 Aug	Federal institutions and policy change <i>Goulder and Stavins 2011; Revesz and Stavins 2004 (pp. 56-62); Laskowski-et-al-2005</i>
Part II – Why Environmental Policy?	
6 Sep	Valuing the environment <i>Chapter 3: pp 34-53 (textbook); Costanza et al. 1999; Revesz and Stavins 2004 (pp. 4-24)</i>
11 Sep	Valuing environmental policy <i>Chapter 3: pp 53-59 (textbook); Atkinson and Mourato (2008)</i>

First Environmental Policy news

- 13 Sep Valuing environmental policy: methods
Atkinson and Mourato (2008)
Assignment #1
- 18 Sep Why environmental policy?
Chapter 4 (textbook); Hardin 1968; Keohane and Olmstead 2007
- 20 Sep What is the efficient level of environmental quality?
tbc

Part III - Policy Instruments

- 25 Sep Introduction to environmental policy instruments
Chapter 14 (textbook)/Goulder and Parry 2008
- 27 Sep Market based instruments
Revesz and Stavins 2004 (pp. 31-42); Kerr et al. 2002
Assignment #2
- 2 Oct Command and control and other instruments
Harrington and Mongestern 2004

4 Oct Midterm

Part IV - Environmental Issues and policy solutions

- 11 Oct Local and regional air pollution
Chapter 15 (textbook)
- 16 Oct Command and control for local air pollution: the Clean Air Act
Hanemann et al. 2010
- 18 Oct Market-based policy for local air pollution: the SO₂ cap-and-trade program
tbc
- 23 Oct Climate Change and Science
SRM WG1 IPCC 2014; Campbell and Kai 2014
- 25 Oct History of international climate change policies
tbc
- 30 Oct Market-based policy for climate change mitigation: examples around the world

Newell et al. 2014; SRM WGIII IPCC 2014
Assignment #3

- 1 Nov Transportation and CAFE standards
Chapter 17 (textbook)
- 6 Nov Energy and the Renewable Energy Certificate
Chapter 7 (textbook); Energy Transformation - REEP
- 8 Nov Renewable resources and property rights
tbc
- 13 Nov Waste management
Chapter 19 (textbook)
Assignment #4
- 15 Nov Water pollution and the Clean Water Act
Chapter 18 (textbook), tbc

Part V - Sustainable Development

- 20 Nov Sustainable Development
Heal 2012; Solow 1991
- 27 Nov Sustainable Development (2)
Deacon and Norman 2006; Pasten and Figueroa 2012
Assignment #5
- 29 Nov Sustainable Development (3)
Dasgupta et al. 2002; Ambec et al. 2013;
- 4 Dec Discussion and conclusion
- 7-14 Dec Final**