

Natural Resource Policy (NRES 323): Fall 2011

Professor Karina Schoengold

1 Introduction

This course is designed for undergraduate students in a variety of majors, including natural resources, natural resource and environmental economics, and environmental studies. Students from other disciplines who have an interest in environmental and natural resource policy are also encouraged to take this course.

2 Availability

If you have questions about anything related to the course material, I strongly encourage you to make use of my office hours. If you are not available during my office hours, you are welcome to set up another meeting time. With any email communication, include 'NRES 323' in the subject. Make sure that you sign your name to the email, as many accounts have unrecognizable user names. I regularly use Blackboard to send announcements over email, so make sure that the email address for your Blackboard account is one that you check regularly. I also use Blackboard to post readings, announcements about class, and information about assignments, so make sure that you check the course Blackboard site regularly.

Contact Information:

Professor: Karina Schoengold
307A Filley Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00 - 3:00 PM (or by appointment)
Email: kschoengold2@unl.edu
Teaching Assistant: Shelby Buettner

3 Textbooks and Recommended Readings

The required textbook for the course is the following:

- *Environmental Policy: New directions for the twenty-first century* Edited by Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft, Seventh Edition (2010), CQ Press

Throughout the semester I will post additional readings on Blackboard. In lectures I will guide you as to which of the texts are required reading, and which are optional.

4 Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to make students familiar with the needs for public policy, the process by which public policy is developed, and an understanding of how to analyze and implement public policy. This course satisfies ACE student learning objective 6: *Use knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to understand and evaluate human behavior.* During the

semester, you will learn to evaluate the need for environmental policy, recognize the stakeholders involved in the policy process, identify alternative policies, and objectively evaluate those alternatives. Students will learn a six-step policy analysis process that is an extremely effective method to bring each component of the analysis together in an unbiased and objective framework.

5 Semester Outline

The following is a general outline of topics that we will be covering in this course. We may need to shift the schedule, but I will provide ample warning for any changes. I have tried to list the readings that will be required for each topic. Some of the readings are from the book and others will be posted on Blackboard. The required readings may change during the semester, and Blackboard will be updated as needed.

Week	Topic	Readings
Week 1 (8/23)	Introduction	V&K Chapter 1
Weeks 1 & 2 (8/25 - 9/1)	The need for policy	Hardin, Ostrom (posted)
Week 3 (9/6 - 9/8)	Stakeholders	V&K Chapters 4-6
Week 4 (9/13)	Environmental federalism & Unofficial stakeholders	V&K Chapter 2
Week 4 (9/15)	Policy tools	V&K Chapter 9
Week 5 (9/20 - 9/22)	Six-step policy process	Sawicki (posted)
Week 6 (9/27)	Policy impact analysis	
Week 6 (9/29)	NEPA	Caldwell (posted)
Week 7 & 8 (10/4 - 10/11)	Water	Glennon (posted)
Week 8 (10/13)	Midterm Exam	
Week 9 (10/18)	Fall Break	
Weeks 9 & 10 (10/20 - 10/27)	Agri-environmental policies	Hurt (posted)
Week 11 (11/1 - 11/3)	Wildlife and ESA	Field (posted)
Week 12 (11/9 - 11/10)	Resource management & international development	V&K Chapters 13-14
Week 13 & 14 (11/15 - 11/22)	Climate change	V&K Chapter 12
Week 14 (11/24)	Thanksgiving holiday	
Weeks 15 & 16 (11/30 - 12/9)	Group presentations	

6 Resources

Written and oral communication are important components of this course. Written assignments are expected to be free of grammatical and spelling mistakes. Proofreading is essential, because these mistakes will affect your grade. I encourage you to make use of a new website:

<http://snr.unl.edu/resources/writing/index-writing.asp>. The website was designed to help students in the natural resource majors improve the quality of their writing. Another excellent source of information on writing is available on the Purdue University website:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

The University of Nebraska Writing Center can be very helpful in improving your written assignments. They can provide you with meaningful support as you write for this class as well as for every course in which you enroll. Trained peer consultants are available to talk with you as you plan, draft, and revise your writing. Please check the Writing Center website at

<http://www.unl.edu/writing> for locations, hours, and information about scheduling appointments.

7 Dates for Exams and Assignments

The following is a list of expected due dates for class assignments. Electronic versions of some assignments are required. If a due date for any assignment changes, it will be announced in class and on the Announcements section of the course Blackboard page. Assignments submitted via email should be either Microsoft Word or Acrobat PDF documents.

7.1 Individual Assignments

The midterm will be given at one time. If you need to miss the midterm exam due to a serious illness, family emergency, or essential academic opportunity, the points will be moved to the final exam. Documentation of the reason is required. Exams missed for other reasons will earn a zero. The final will be given at one time *only* (either at the scheduled time or another time that is agreed on by the entire class).

There will be a total of 6 short assignments required in the course. These are due by class time on the due date and I expect that you will come to class ready to discuss the questions. *No late assignments will be accepted.* Each assignment will be worth 15 points, and I expect that answers should be about 1-2 pages. You should try to be concise, but write enough that your point is clear and articulated well. Most of these assignments will require electronic submission via Blackboard. These assignments are graded both on content and writing quality. Mistakes in your spelling and grammar will affect your grade.

7.2 Group Assignments

An important part of the course is the required group work. The major group project for the semester is an analysis of a specific policy (e.g., ban on off-shore drilling, Conservation Reserve Program, renewable portfolio standards, vehicle fuel efficiency standards, closure of a commercial fishery). The groups will be assigned by Professor Schoengold, and will choose a topic based on the interests of each student. Groups must provide their topic choice to Professor Schoengold by September 20. The two primary assignments for the project are a group paper and a group presentation. There are several deadlines during the semester for different parts of the group paper. In addition, each student will be responsible for a peer review of another group's paper. The final paper should incorporate comments from the peer reviews. Groups will also present the information from their report to the class in a 15-20 minute presentation at the end of the semester.

For group assignments, only one copy needs to be turned in for the group. The paper draft and the final paper must be sent electronically. I will try to put groups together based on interests, and I expect every group member to participate. Individual grades will depend primarily on the quality of the assignment but may be adjusted based on peer evaluations of group members.

7.3 Assignment due dates

Due date	Individual	Group
September 6 (T)	Assignment 1	
September 20 (T)	Assignment 2	Topic
October 4 (T)		Paper introduction
October 6 (R)	Assignment 3	
October 13 (R)	Midterm exam	
October 27 (R)	Assignment 4	
November 3 (R)		Full paper draft
November 10 (R)	Assignment 5	
November 15 (T)	Peer paper review	
November 22 (T)	Assignment 6	
December 1 (R)		Final paper
November 29 - December 8		Presentations
Scheduled time	Final Exam	

7.4 Grading

The letter grades will be as follows: A=92-100, B=84-91, C=76-83, D=66-75, F=0-65. Plus and minus grades will be distributed in these ranges. If appropriate, the range may be adjusted down at the end of the semester.

The points for the course will be distributed as follows, although additional pop quizzes may be added at any time and the total number of points will adjust accordingly:

Assignment	Possible Points
Discussion Question Assignments (6 total - 15 points each)	90
Midterm	75
Final Exam	100
Paper introduction	10
Draft of group report	25
Final group report	50
Group presentation	50
Peer paper review	25
Total Possible Points	425

7.5 Courtesy

As a courtesy to me and your fellow students, please be on time for class. If you arrive late, please come in quietly and settle quickly. If you need to leave early, let me know ahead of time and leave the room quietly. Turn off all cell phones and laptops during lecture. If you need to use your laptop as a support during lecture, please let me know.

8 University of Nebraska Policies (the fine print)

8.1 Cheating/plagiarism

Cheating or plagiarism is not something that I regard lightly, and neither does the University of Nebraska. UNL's policy on Academic Dishonesty states that a student may receive a sanction as severe as removal from a course with a failing grade for any type of Academic Dishonesty. My policy is: at the first detection of cheating or plagiarism, you will receive a zero on the assignment in question. If a second case occurs, you will be removed from the course with a failing grade. Based on the case, I may also recommend additional sanctions. Remember that plagiarism goes beyond copying someone else's work "word-for-word". It includes using ideas without proper citation. It is essential, therefore, that you acknowledge the ideas of other scientists (including your classmates) in all of your written work and reports. For a complete description of the University's policy, please see either <http://www.unl.edu/sja/Student-Record-Policy.pdf> or <http://www.unl.edu/sja/codeofconduct.html>.

8.2 UNL's Fifteenth Week Policy

Projects, papers, and speeches scheduled for completion during the last week (15th week) of classes must have been assigned in writing by the end of the eighth week. This stipulation refers to the project and its scope, but not the topic. Moreover, ALL requirements, except for the final exam, must be completed *no later than Wednesday of the fifteenth week*. However, if the instructor has assigned a project, paper, or speech by the eighth week to replace the final, then the project, paper, or speech may be completed any time in the 15th week or finals. The exception to this is a class meeting one day a week on a Thursday or Friday for which all policies/requirements are shifted to either a Thursday or Friday, respectively. For the details of this policy, see http://www.unl.edu/regrec/exams/dead_week.shtml.