

Syllabus - Fall 2004

ESP 220J — Environmental Policy: Pollution

Instructor:

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Meetings:

Mondays & Wednesdays - 4:10 to 5:25, 205 Bailey Hall

Office Hours:

Wednesdays: 10:00-12:00, Tuesdays: 1:00-4:00, or by appointment.

Course Overview:

This course is an intensive introduction to the field of environmental policy. You will be studying agenda setting, policy formulation and design, policy analysis, policy implementation, and policy evaluation. In this course, particular emphasis is given to air and water pollution and municipal solid waste.

The course focuses on the application of the rational policy process model for studying how environmental policy is formulated, developed, implemented, analyzed, and evaluated. A significant portion of the course focuses on policy design and policy solutions evaluation using science (risk assessment), economics (cost-benefit analysis), and ethics (normative analysis). Using the rational policy process model (see figure 1), you will identify and analyze an environmental pollution problem of your choosing, design a responsive environmental policy, identify and evaluate unintended consequences, and communicate this policy. One of the primary products of environmental policy is writing. Therefore, this course is writing intensive.

This course studies environmental policy from a Policy Science perspective, which is much broader than the Political Science approach. Thus, this course embraces the views of economics, sociology, science, and law in studying policy. Consequently, because of the multifaceted nature of environmental policy, this course will introduce topics that are studied more fully in advanced courses and other disciplines including micro and environmental economics, environmental risk assessment and management, environmental ethics, political science, environmental law, and the natural sciences.

The course format will be a mixture of lecture and discussion with emphasis on critical analysis of assigned readings, in class activities, and discussions of issues. Students are expected to come to each class fully prepared to participate actively in discussions.

Textbooks:

There is no assigned textbook for this class. There are, however, a number of assigned articles on electronic reserve. And, additional required readings, including case studies, will be provided or listed on Blackboard.

To access electronic reserve documents:

1. Go to the E-Reserve Website: <http://docutek.ursus.maine.edu>
2. Click on: ***Electronic Reserves and Course Materials***
3. Type in the **Course Number** in the “ERes Quick Search” field and click **Search**.
4. Enter the password for your course: **WAGESP220**; Click the **Accept** button.

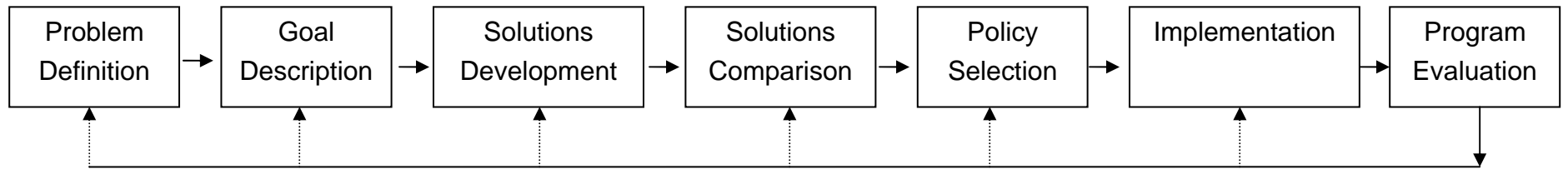
Note: Electronic reserve documents are listed by article title and (author).

To view and print electronic reserves from home, you will need one of the following:

Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher or Netscape 4.0 or higher

Because electronic reserves are in PDF format, you will also need the *Adobe Acrobat Reader* software. Go to <http://www.adobe.com> for **free** download.

Figure 1
The Rational Policy Process Model



Summary Course Outline:

Week	Class	Topic	*Readings	Assignments Due
1	Aug 30	INTRODUCTION TO POLICY SCIENCE		
	Sep 1	THE NEED FOR POLICY The Ultimate Sink	Tarr	
2	Sep 6	NO CLASS - LABOR DAY		
	Sep 8	AGENDA SETTING	Kingdon	
3	Sep 13	POLICY PROCESS MODEL		Policy Research Topic
	Sep 15	PROBLEM DEFINITION Agenda Setting Problem Modeling	Fiorino Rocheftort & Cobb	
4	Sep 20	GOAL DESCRIPTION "Good" Policy	Medical Waste Case Study	
	Sep 22	SOLUTIONS DEVELOPMENT Environmental Policy Tools	OTA I Bangor Airport Case Study	
5	Sep 27	Environmental Policy Tools	OTA II	Problem Analysis
	Sep 29	SOLUTIONS COMPARISON Unintended Consequences	TBA	
6	Oct 4	Risk Analysis	Wilson & Anderson Andrews Rosenbaum	
	Oct 6	Economic Analysis	Fiorino Freeman & Portney Freeman	
	Oct 11	NO CLASS - COLUMBUS DAY		

Week	Class	Topic	*Readings	Assignments Due
7	Oct 13	Normative Analysis	Paehlke Ringquist Glickman	
8	Oct 18	MID-TERM EXAM		
	Oct 20	POLICY SELECTION Defining Good Policy	TBA	
9	Oct 25	IMPLEMENTATION Backward Mapping Principle-Agent Theory	Howlett & Ramesh Elmore Weimer & Vining	Solution Analysis – Draft
	Oct 27	POLICY EVALUATION	Ringquist Weiss	
10	Nov 1	Federalism	Lester	
	Nov 3	Air Pollution	Rosenbaum	
11	Nov 8	Air Pollution	TBA	
	Nov 10	Water Pollution	Rosenbaum	
12	Nov 15	Water Pollution	TBA	
	Nov 17	Solid Waste	EPA	
13	Nov 22	Solid Waste	TBA	Complete Policy Research Project
	Nov 24	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING		
14	Nov 29	TBD		
	Dec 1	Policy Communication		Presentations
15	Dec 6	Policy Communication		Presentations
	Dec 8	Course Conclusion		Policy Memo
	Dec ?	Final Exam	All	

*Scheduled readings are to be completed before class.

Assigned Readings (please read in sequential order):

1. Joel A. Tarr, *The Search for the Ultimate Sink: Urban Air, Land, and Water Pollution in Historical Perspective* (Akron, OH: University of Akron Press, 1996) pp. 1-35.
2. John Kingdon (A summary abstract of Kingdon's Policy Process Framework, from *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*)

3. Daniel J. Fiorino, *Making Environmental Policy* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1995) pp. 134-166.
4. David A. Rochefort and Roger W. Cobb, *The Politics of Problem Identification: Shaping the Policy Agenda* (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 1994), pp. 1-9, 15-27.
5. Office of Technology Assessment, *Environmental Policy Tools: A User's Guide*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995) pp. 52-57.
6. Office of Technology Assessment, *Environmental Policy Tools: A User's Guide*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995) pp. 1-45.
7. James Wilson and J. W. Anderson, "What the Science Says: How to Use it and Abuse it to Make Health and Environmental Policy," in *The RFF Reader in Environmental and Resource Management*, Wallace E. Oates, ed (Washington, DC: Resources for the Future, 1999) pp. 3-6.
8. Richard N. L. Andrews, "Risk-Based Decisionmaking," in *Environmental Policy, Fourth Edition*, Eds. Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2000), pp. 210-229.
9. Walter A. Rosenbaum, *Environmental Politics and Policy, third edition* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1995) pp. 166-181, 183-188.
10. Daniel J. Fiorino, *Making Environmental Policy* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1995) pp. 116-133.
11. Myrick Freeman III, "Economics, Incentives, and Environmental Regulation," in *Environmental Policy, Fourth Edition*, Eds. Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2000), pp. 190-199.
12. A. Myrick Freeman III and Paul R. Portney, "Economics Clarifies Choices about Managing Risk," , in *The RFF Reader in Environmental and Resource Management*, Wallace E. Oates, ed (Washington, DC: Resources for the Future, 1999) pp. 15-20.
13. Robert C. Paehlke, "Environmental Values and Public Policy," in *Environmental Policy, Fourth Edition*, Eds. Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2000), pp. 77-94.
14. Evan J. Ringquist, "Environmental Justice: Normative Concerns and Empirical Evidence," in *Environmental Policy, Fourth Edition*, Eds. Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2000), pp. 232-253.
15. Theodore S. Glickman, "Measuring Environmental Equity with Geographical Information Systems," in *The RFF Reader in Environmental and Resource Management*, Wallace E. Oates, ed. (Washington, DC: Resources for the Future, 1999) pp. 192-203.

16. Michael Howlett and M. Ramesh, *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems* (Toronto, Oxford University Press, 1995) pp. 153-156.
17. Richard F. Elmore, "Backward Mapping: Implementation Research and Policy Decisions," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 94, No. 4 (Winter 1979-1980), pp. 601-612.
18. David L. Weimer and Aidan R. Vining, *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice, third edition* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999) pp. 396-402.
19. Evan J. Ringquist, "Evaluating Environmental Policy Outcomes," in *Environmental Politics and Policy: Theories and Evidence, Second Edition*, James P. Lester, ed. (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1995) pp. 303-324.
20. Carol H. Weiss, "Evaluation Research in the Political Context," in *Handbook of Evaluation Research*, E. L. Struening and M. Guttentag, Eds. (Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications, 1975) pp. 31-45.
21. James P. Lester, "Federalism and State Environmental Policy," in *Environmental Politics and Policy: Theories and Evidence, Second Edition*, James P. Lester, ed. (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1995) pp. 39-58.
22. Walter A. Rosenbaum, *Environmental Politics and Policy, third edition* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1995) pp. 191-214.
23. Walter A. Rosenbaum, *Environmental Politics and Policy, third edition* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1995) pp. 214-229.
24. EPA, *Municipal Solid Waste in The United States: 2000 Facts and Figures Executive Summary*, 2002, 18 pp.

Course Requirements:

SCHEDULE AND GRADING:

Assignment	Points	Due Date
Attendance	15	-
Quizzes (optional)	TBD	TBD
Policy Research Topic	10	Sept. 13
Problem Analysis	30	Oct. 8
Mid-term Exam	25	Oct. 15
Solution Analysis – Draft	25	Nov. 5
Complete Policy Research	35	Dec. 3

Assignment	Points	Due Date
Project		
Policy Communication	15	Dec. 10
Presentation	10	Dec. 10
Final Exam	35	TBA
TOTAL	200	

Explanation of Assignments:

1. Attendance

Attendance is taken right at 4:10. If you are not present at 4:10, you lose one-half point. If you do not attend the entire session, you lose a full point.

2. Policy Research Topic

You must submit a one-page written memorandum addressed to me proposing a policy topic you wish to research. The memorandum must contain three paragraphs: (1) a short description of the topic, (2) a brief discussion as to why you want to research the topic, and (3) a bibliography composed of peer-reviewed journal articles, newspapers, and government Internet sites.

3. Policy Research Project: Problem Analysis

Based on the approved policy topic, each student will develop and write the Problem Analysis step in the rational model of environmental policymaking.

The Problem Analysis must have the following sections (headings):

Title

- I. The Problem
 - II. Problem Statement
 - a. *Empirical Evidence of the Problem
 - b. Model of the Problem
 - III. Policy Goals and Constraints
- Literature Cited

*The Problem Analysis must be supported by available empirical evidence based on literature research (i.e., do NOT rely on the Internet) and one interview with a field expert.

4. Literature Cited Policy Research Project: Solution Analysis-Draft

Based on comments received on the Problem Analysis, this assignment is to develop and write the Solution Analysis step in the rational model of environmental policymaking. The draft Solution Analysis must have the following sections (headings):

Title

- IV. Proposed Solutions
 - a. Proposed Solutions
 - b. Identification of Unintended Consequences
 - c. Policy Design Measures to Ameliorate Negative Unintended Consequences
- V. *Solution Evaluation Criteria
- VI. Solution Comparison
- VII. Policy Recommendation
- Literature Cited

*The Solution Analysis must be supported by available empirical evidence based on literature research (i.e., do NOT rely on the Internet) and one interview with a field expert.

5. Policy Research Project: Final

Based on comments received on the Solution Analysis-draft and additional research, this assignment is a final version of the Solution Analysis. The final version will combine the Problem Analysis and Solution Analysis into one document and combine the literature-cited section at the end.

6. Mid-Term Exam

A mid-term exam of key concepts and terms related to lectures, discussions, and readings.

7. Policy Communication

Based on your Policy Research Project, you can communicate your policy either through a memorandum or a poster abstract.

Memorandum: Memorandums are used to communicate salient information regarding a policy and are often used in the government. For this option, a two-page memorandum must be written to the director of the Maine Department of the Environment communicating the problem, recommending a policy action, and identifying unintended consequences.

Poster Abstract: In academic research, an abstract is a summary of the project, methodology, results, and observations. The abstract should not exceed 200 words. The abstract is intended for presenting a poster at USM's annual "Thinking Matters" student research symposium held in the spring and thus, you must follow their specified format, which is available on USM's website.

8. Presentation

Each student will present orally, using Power Point or equivalent, their policy research project. The presentation will have the following sections: Problem Recognition, Policy Goals, Solution Analysis, Policy Recommendation, Unintended Consequences, and Lessons Learned(s). Each presentation will be a maximum of 7 minutes.

9. Final Exam

There will be a comprehensive final exam covering key concepts and terms related to the lectures, discussions, and readings.