

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY - POLS 4209

Fall 2002

Dr. Caress

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course provides a detailed survey of the process of governmental environmental policy-making. It is divided into four separate but related sections. Initially, the first section of this course examines the historical development of the American environmental movement. This includes an analysis of the public policy-making process that produces environmental programs. This analysis identifies and examines the roles played by major participants in the process including interest groups, the media, government agencies, and elected officials. The second section will focus on the role played by government institutions in the creation and implementation of policy in several areas of environmental concern. In the third section we will examine various policies including: air and water quality; toxic waste disposal; land and growth management; energy; biodiversity; and food and medication safety. This section will also include a class research project that uses data on the ramifications of an actual environmental problem impacting Georgia today. The details of the project will be discussed in class. The final class meetings will discuss multi-national efforts to solve environmental problems. This will include a study of several significant treaties and agreements that have recently been implemented. This will be followed by a conclusion that pulls together all of the disparate elements in the course into a comprehensive overview.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Each student will demonstrate an understanding of the American governmental policy process and how it relates to the adoption and implementation of environmental programs. Moreover, students will develop an understanding of how these policies and programs affect American and global society.

TEXTBOOKS:

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS - Switzer and Bryner (required)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY - Sussman, Daynes, and West (required)

ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be three exams in this class. Two midterms and a final. In addition there will be a mandatory class research project. The details of the research project will be discussed in class. The midterms will be each worth 25% of the total grade. The final will be worth 30% and the research project will be worth 15%. The remaining 5% will be based on class participation.

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Week 1. Switzer Chap 1, & Sussman Cap.1

Week 2. Switzer 2

Week 3. Sussman Chap.4

Week 4. Switzer 3 & Sussman Chap. 3

Week 5. Sussman Chap.3

1st Midterm - Sept. 24

Week 6. Sussman Chap. 5

Week 7. Sussman Chap. 6 & 7

Week 8. Sussman Chap. 8 S

Week 9. Sussman Chap. 2 & 9

Week 10. Sussman Chap. 9

2nd Midterm October 29

Week 11. Switzer Chap. 8

Week 12. Class Project Handouts

Week 13. Switzer Chap. 4 & 7

Week 14. Switzer Chap. 5 & 9

Class project Due - November 26

Week 15 Switzer Chap.6 & 12.

Final Exam December 10th