

# Environmental Policy & Politics

[International & Political Affairs](#)  

[Nicole R. Foster Shoaf](#), PhD 

[Shoaf-N@mssu.edu](mailto:Shoaf-N@mssu.edu)

Webster 226A

Monday & Wednesday 1100 am – 1200 pm

Tuesday & Thursday 900 am – 930 am & 1100 am – 1230 pm

Friday By Appointment

## 1 COURSE DESCRIPTION

---

This course will cover domestic and international implications of environmental policy, as well as individual actions that impact the environment. We will consider what effective policy is, and how it can be applied to environmental concerns. Students will become fluent in the political, scientific, economic, and bureaucratic factors that influence environmental policy in the local area, the United States, and internationally.

- How do we balance economic & environmental goals?
- How is energy independence a national security & environmental objective?
- What can sustainable development do for us?
- How do we translate scientific knowledge into policy?
- What do we do?
- Fracking & Alternative Energy
- Climate Change & Economic Growth
- Biodiversity & Animal Habitats

## 2 COURSE OBJECTIVES

---

- Students will demonstrate written communication skills.
- Students will improve in their verbal communication skills by orally discussing issues raised by the assigned readings and by presenting the findings of their research.
- Students will analyze selected topics and issues in political science from a historical and contemporary perspective.

## 3 TEXTBOOKS

---

- The Environmental Case: Translating Values Into Policy, 3rd Edition, ISBN: [9781604266122](#)
- Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21st Century, 9th Edition, ISBN: [9781483352589](#)

## 4 ATTENDANCE POLICY

---

Attendance is required. Every student is extended 4 personal days (free absences), which accounts for 2 weeks of class. You are expected to arrive on time to class. Please do not arrive late or leave early, except under exceptional

circumstances. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive and disrespectful to your classmates and instructor. Arriving late or departing early will count as ½ absence.

## 5 COURSE COMMUNICATION

---

Important information will be circulated via Blackboard and the MSSU email system. Check your MSSU email account and Blackboard sites regularly. I recommend having your MSSU email sent to your phone and/or forwarded to an account you check frequently. The best way to contact me is via email.

## 6 PROCEDURES

---

The instructor will introduce topics for discussion and assign readings illustrating different aspects of the selected topic. Students are expected to take an active part in class discussion based upon their analysis and response to issues raised by the instructor and readings. Guest lecturers and audio/visual materials may be used as class enhancement and supplements.

## 7 EVALUATION

---

Students will be evaluated based upon their written work, class participation, exams, and discussion of assigned readings.

- A = 90-100 points
- B = 80-89 points
- C = 70-79 points
- D = 60-69 points
- F = Less than 60 points

## 8 LATE WORK POLICY

---

All assignments are expected to be submitted on time. If you find yourself struggling to meet a deadline, contact me immediately to discuss the possibility of an extension. In the absence of an extension, all late assignments will be subject to a late penalty of 10 percent. Please note that no late work will be accepted after April 30— plan accordingly.

On a related note, please know that if you begin to fall behind or feel overwhelmed by the course, the best course of action is to schedule an appointment to speak with me. Under most circumstances I can help you develop a plan to catch up or work past course roadblocks, but I can only help if you speak up.

## 9 CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

---

This course will count towards the Certificate in Public Administration, which is a great option for those interested in careers in public service, including state or local government. To complete this certificate program, you will also complete [Public Administration](#) (offered [online summer 2019](#)), State & Local Government, Internship, and 1 elective. Certificates are credentials that can be earned alongside a major or independently. Certificates are conferred upon completion of the requirements – which may be before or after you complete your major. For more information, see the instructor. Other certificate programs in the field include: [Gender Studies Certificate](#), [Certificate in Campaigns & Elections](#), [International Affairs and Diplomacy](#), and [Legal Studies](#).

## 10 ASSIGNMENTS

---

This is an advanced seminar in political science and you are expected to demonstrate an advanced understanding of the course material. Given the advanced nature of the course, I also expect that you are in the best position to determine how you can demonstrate your mastery. To this end, I am extending you the opportunity to choose some of your assignments this semester. Review the options below for the writing and public engagement assignments below.

### 10.1 CLASS PARTICIPATION (30 POINTS)

#### 10.1.1 Attendance

Your presence is appreciated, but not sufficient. You are expected to contribute to class conversations. You may do so by answering questions, asking questions, and/or offering comments on the assigned material.

#### 10.1.2 Discussion Leadership

You will have the opportunity to lead class discussions several times this semester. Each time you are assigned to lead a discussion you will be paired with 1-2 classmates and given a specific portion of the assigned readings to prepare. To earn full points, you will read your assigned material carefully and draft a ½ - 1 page summary and draft a list of questions to ask your classmates. This must be submitted to Blackboard by 1159 pm *the night before* you are scheduled to lead. The questions should be designed to spur conversation among members of the class – meaning that the questions should focus less on definitions and basic facts and emphasize larger themes, controversies, and the most interesting aspects of the readings. During the discussion you lead, your job will be to encourage a lively conversation about the assigned material.

It is awkward when you try to lead a class discussion when it becomes clear that few in the room have read the assigned material. Please do not put your classmates into this position. While you may read the materials you are responsible for more closely, you are expected to review all assigned materials. Not only will your preparation ensure we have interesting and engaging conversations and help your classmates as they try to lead a good discussion, but you will be prepared to do well on exams and quizzes.

#### 10.1.3 Quizzes

In order for us to have lively, productive conversations, it is imperative that each class participant arrive to class prepared to discuss the assigned material. To provide an incentive for you to prepare for class, we will complete a series of pop quizzes over the assigned material. Quizzes will not be announced in advance and cannot be made up if you are absent/late/leave early. The better prepared class participants are, the fewer quizzes we will have.

### 10.2 EXAMS (25 POINTS)

You will complete 3 exams this semester and all will be comprehensive. All assigned material is fair game for the exams. Exams will contain some combination of essays, short answer questions, and multiple choice. If you review the assigned readings carefully and stay on track with the course schedule, you should have no trouble with the exams. If you choose not to do the work on a week-to-week basis, you will find the exams challenging.

### 10.3 WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (30 POINTS)

You may **select 1** of the following writing exercises to complete this semester. A proposal describing your choice must be submitted (see schedule for due dates).

### 10.3.1 Option 1: Research Notes

Draft 3 short research notes. Research notes should be 2 pages in length (single spaced), plus a comprehensive works cited page. Each research note should include a minimum of 15 sources, including at least 5 peer-reviewed journal articles. You will write research notes on each of the following topics, with the specific subtopic selected in consultation with the instructor. Your proposal should include a specific research question.

Note 1: Biodiversity or Resource Management

Note 2: Climate Change or Energy Policy

Note 3: Writer's Choice

### 10.3.2 Option 2: Literature Review

Draft a single comprehensive literature review on a topic to be selected in consultation with the instructor. The literature review should be 6 pages in length (single spaced), plus a comprehensive works cited page. Literature reviews should include a minimum of 40 sources, including at least 15 peer-reviewed journal articles and 3 academic books. Your proposal must include a specific research question. You have the option to create this as an individual or with a partner.

### 10.3.3 Option 3: Comparative Academic Book Review

Do 2 comparative book reviews – one before spring break, one after. For each, you will read 3 academic books on a single topic and draft a comparative academic book review. Examples of academic book reviews will be posted on Blackboard. Book reviews should be 2 pages in length, single spaced.

### 10.3.4 Option 4: Survey Research Group

*This option is only available to students who have completed PSC 401/3xx Social Science Research Methods and have completed or are currently enrolled in PSC 4xx/3xx Social Science Statistics. These courses will help you develop the skills necessary to complete this project.*

Working in groups of 2-4 people, you may draft an original survey, develop a plan to run the survey, deploy the survey, and analyze the results. Original survey projects must be approved by the MSSU IRB. Alternatively, working in groups of 2-4 you may analyze data from the ANES or GSS to test hypotheses related to an approved research question. The paper should be 6 pages in length (single spaced) and should include a brief overview of the existing literature on the topic. Your proposal should include a specific research question, a list of survey questions you will use, and a draft of your informed consent letter (if doing an original survey).

## 10.4 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (15 POINTS)

Expertise is more valuable when it is shared and having the skills to share your knowledge with the public is a critical skill. You may **select 1** of the following projects to demonstrate your ability to share your expertise. You will submit a proposal where you explain your plan.

### 10.4.1 Option 1: Twitter Campaign

You have the option to run an interactive Twitter campaign related to this course throughout the semester. You must share the Twitter handle you are using with the class and include the #MSSU\_IPA and #EnvPolicy hashtags on all tweets for them to count. You must tweet a minimum of 3 days a week – tweets must be substantive (like sharing *and* commenting on a news article). Begin no later than 2/19 and end 5/02 (10 weeks, total 30 tweets).

#### 10.4.2 Option 2: Public Presentation

You may complete a public presentation of your writing assignment from this course. Presentations will be open to the public (although you should expect most of the audience members to be undergraduates), including but not limited to your classmates. Your score will be based upon your presentation performance and your ability to engage your audience. Presentations should be 7-10 minutes in length. In your proposal, identify your top 3 choices for presentation appointments

- Monday, April 15 @ 1000 am or noon
- Tuesday, April 16 @ 1215 pm
- Wednesday, April 17 @ 1000 am or noon
- Thursday, April 17 @ 1215 pm
- Monday, April 22 @ 1000 am or noon
- Wednesday, April 24 @ 1000 am or noon
- Monday, April 29 @ 1000 am or noon

#### 10.4.3 Option 3: 5-Minute Video

You may create a polished, 5-minute, YouTube/TED-style video discussing an environmental policy issue. The video should be informative, factually accurate, and engaging. Videos will be shared with the class for review and assessment. You have the option to create this video as an individual or with a partner.

#### 10.4.4 Option 4: Website Development

You have the option to create a polished website, educating the public on an environmental topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Websites can be developed for free using various sites, including [Weebly](#). Websites should include text, photos, and videos. Websites will be made available to the class for review and assessment. You have the option to create this video as an individual or with a partner.

## 11 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

---

Missouri Southern State University is committed to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Academic work is evaluated on the assumption that the work presented is the student's own, unless designated otherwise. Submitting work that is not one's own is unacceptable and is considered a serious violation of University policy. Cheating is a serious offense that invalidates the purpose of a university education. Any student who takes credit for the work of another person, offers or accepts assistance beyond that allowed by an instructor, or uses unauthorized sources for a test or assignment is cheating. Students must be conscious of their responsibilities as scholars, to learn to discern what is included in plagiarism as well as in other breaches of the Student Handbook and must know and practice the specifications for citations in scholarly work. When dealing with cases of academic dishonesty, the course instructor may choose to use the campus judicial system; this includes filing an incident report with the Dean of Students, who may act on the report by issuing a written warning or by recommending disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion. Penalties for academic dishonesty may include a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate.

## 12 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) STATEMENT

---

If you are an individual with a disability and require an accommodation for this class, please notify the instructor or the Disabilities Coordinator at the Student Success Center 417-659-3725.

## 13 NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

---

In accord with federal law and applicable Missouri statutes, the University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, ancestry, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other legally-protected class, in employment or in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the University, including, but not limited to, athletics, instruction, grading, the awarding of student financial aid, recruitment, admissions, and housing.

## 14 UNIVERSITY DATES & DEADLINES

---

- 23 January Last day to drop & receive a full tuition refund
- 6 February Last day to withdraw with partial tuition refund
- 5 April Last day to withdraw from a class with a “W”
- 29 April Last day to withdraw from all courses with “W”

## 15 TIME ON TASK

---

We will spend 150 minutes in class each week. You should expect to spend approximately 3 hours per week outside of the classroom working on this course, although this will vary by student and by week.

## 16 CLASS CANCELLATION / INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

---

If it is necessary to cancel class due to an emergency or inclement weather, information will be posted on Blackboard.

## 17 COURSE SCHEDULE

---

A complete course schedule is included at the end of this syllabus. Please note that the schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. “Flex” days are built into the schedule to allow us to catch up, if we fall behind, or spend time of topics not adequately covered by the regular schedule.

The bulk of our assigned materials will come directly from the two books assigned for this course. Materials not in the assigned books are noted on the course schedule. The items marked as (PDF) are available on Blackboard. There are news articles and reports – most are short. The two (Chapter PDF) items are full length chapters from updated versions of the books we are using. Items marked as (video) are videos embedded in Blackboard. Length varies, but most are relatively short. Finally, you will find a few items that are hyperlinked, and if you click these, they will take you directly to a specific web page.

Additional videos or news items may be added as the semester progresses. If this happens, new items will be sent via a Blackboard announcement. You are welcome and encouraged to share with the class any relevant videos, articles, or topics you run across.

Part I: Introduction to Environmental Policy	Introduction to Env Policy	1	01/15	<b>Introduction to the Course</b> Explained: The World's Water Crisis ( <a href="#">Netflix</a> ) The Future of Water (3 episodes) – Netflix, <i>optional</i> Water & Power: A California Heist – Netflix, <i>optional</i>
			01/17	<b>No Class - SPSA</b> Are we running out of clean water? - Balsher Singh Sidhu (Video) As Climate Warms, Algae Blooms In Drinking Water Supplies (PDF) - <b>skim</b> The most important science policy issue in every state (PDF) - <b>skim</b>
				01/22
		2	01/24	Kraft & Vig Chapter 3: Environmental Advocacy in the Obama Years Pollution: Crash Course Ecology #11 (Video) 9 questions about climate change you were too embarrassed to ask (PDF) - <b>skim</b> Report in Brief – Fourth National Climate Assessment (PDF or <a href="#">download</a> ) CC Report - Summary for Policymakers (PDF) - <b>skim</b>
			01/29	Layzer Chapter 1: A Policymaking Framework Climate change policy can be overwhelming (PDF) - <b>skim</b> <a href="#">State Climate Summaries</a> - <b>skim</b> <a href="#">Missouri Climate Center</a> - <b>skim</b>
		01/31		Flex Day - <b>Writing Proposals Due</b>
		4	02/05	Kraft & Vig Chapter 4: Presidential Power and Environmental Policy The Energy Department is Changing its Website to Reflect Trump's Climate Agenda (PDF) - <b>skim</b> Why is biodiversity so important? - Kim Preshoff (Video)
				02/07
			02/12	Kraft & Vig Chapter 6: Environmental Policy in the Courts Kraft & Vig Chapter 7: The Environmental Protection Agency From Kumbaya to Battleground: How'd the EPA get so political? (PDF) EPA excluded its own top science officials when it rewrote rules.....(PDF) - <b>skim</b> What would America be like without the EPA? (PDF) <b>Public Engagement Proposal Due</b>
	6	02/14	Kraft & Vig Chapter 2: Racing to the Top... The Evolving State Government Kraft & Vig Chapter 12: Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously: What Cities are Doing Governors could drive the next wave of climate change action (PDF) - <b>skim</b> For 10 years, a chemical not EPA approved was in their drinking water (PDF) - <b>skim</b> EPA quietly telling states they can pollute more (PDF) - <b>skim</b> The threat of invasive species - Jennifer Klos (Video)	
			02/19	The Science of Flint's Water Crisis (Video) <a href="#">'Man-Killing Jobs' and Environmental Racism</a> Layzer Chapter 4: Community Activism and Environmental Justice Layzer Chapter 16: Making Tradeoffs: Urban Sprawl....
		02/21	Flex Day - <b>Research Note 1 Due</b>	

**Exam 1 Due Sunday, February 24 @ 11:59 pm**

PSC 498: Environmental Policy & Politics ∞ Spring 2019 ∞ CRN 2390			
Part II: Green Economy	Green Economy	<p>02/26</p> <p>Environmental Econ: Crash Course Economics #22 (Video)</p> <p>Kraft &amp; Vig Chapter 10: Applying Market Principles to Environmental Policy</p> <p>Kraft &amp; Vig Chapter 14: Environment, Population, &amp; the Developing World</p>	
		<p>7</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 12: Trade Versus the Environment</p>	
		<p>02/28</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 14: Market-Based Solutions</p> <p>EPA weighs allowing oil companies to pump wastewater into rivers, streams (PDF) - <b>skim</b></p> <p>Kudlow calls for end to subsidies for electric cars, renewables (PDF) – <b>skim</b></p>	
		<p>03/05</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 5: Oil versus Wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 6: Federal Grazing Policy</p> <p>When wolves made a resurgence, her job was to make peace... (PDF) – <b>skim</b></p>	
	Resource Management	<p>8</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 7: Jobs versus the Environment: Saving the Northern Spotted Owl</p> <p>Bring Back the Northern White Rhino? (PDF)</p> <p>Republicans accelerate efforts to overhauls Endangered Species Act (PDF)</p>	
		<p>03/07</p> <p>Nearly 90 Elephants Found Dead Near Botswana Sanctuary, Killed By Poachers (PDF) - <b>skim</b></p> <p>Layzer Chapter 8: Playground or Paradise? Snowmobiles in Yellowstone</p> <p>Trump administration abruptly ends key law enforcement program at wildlife refuges (PDF)</p> <p><b>Research Note 2 Due</b></p>	
		Pollution	<p>03/12</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 2: The Nation Tackles Pollution</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 3: Love Canal: Hazardous Waste and the Politics of Fear</p> <p>We can breathe easier — literally — thanks to George H.W. Bush (PDF)</p> <p>Why the EPA won't get the lead out of our water (PDF)</p>
			<p>03/14</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 15: Ecosystem-Based Management in Chesapeake Bay</p> <p>A Plastic Ocean (2016) – Netflix - <i>Optional</i></p>
	Climate Change	<p>03/26</p> <p>Kraft &amp; Vig Chapter 13: Global Climate Change Governance: The Long Road to Paris</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 10: Climate Change</p> <p>Who drew it? Trump asks of dire climate report...(PDF)</p> <p>The New Politics of Climate Change (PDF)</p>	
		<p>10</p> <p>Layzer Chapter 17: Hurricane Katrina</p> <p><a href="#">Frontline: The Storm (Video)</a></p> <p>03/28</p> <p>Coastal development, sea rise sent Hurricane Irma storm surge to more homes (PDF)</p> <p><b>Book Review 1 Due - Literature Review Due - Survey Research Due - Research Note 3 Due</b></p>	
<p><b>Exam 2 Due Sunday, 03/31 @ 11:59 pm</b></p>			



PSC 498: Environmental Policy & Politics ∞ Spring 2019 ∞ CRN 2390		
<b>Energy Policy</b>	11	04/02 Flex Day
		04/04 MPSA
		How does fracking work? - Mia Nacamulli (Video)
		Layzer, Environmental Case, Fracking Wars (Chapter PDF)
		04/09 Can 100% renewable energy power the world? - Federico Rosei and Renzo Rosei (Video)
		Kraft & Vig Chapter 8: Energy Policy: Fracking, Renewables, & the Keystone XL Pipeline
	12	Layzer Chapter 11: Cape Wind
		Layzer, Environmental Case, Deepwater Horizon (Chapter PDF)
		04/11 A 14-year-long oil spill...verges on becoming one of the worst in U.S. history (PDF)
		Coast Guard orders cleanup of massive 14-year oil spill in Gulf of Mexico (PDF)
13	04/16 4/16-4/18: Flex Days - <b>Public Engagement Assignment Due</b>	
<b>Conclusion</b>		Kraft & Vig Chapter 15: China's Quest for a Green Economy
		04/23 Just Five Countries Control Most of the World's Remaining Wilderness (PDF)
		Kraft & Vig Chapter 11: Toward Sustainable Production...
	14	Kraft & Vig Chapter 9: Eating & the Environment: Ecological Impacts of Food
		04/25 From field to fork: the six stages of wasting food (PDF)
		Could California's ocean ranches solve a global food shortage... (PDF)
		Exploitation and Abuse at the Chicken Plant (PDF) - <i>optional</i>
		04/30 Flex Day - <b>Book Review 2 Due</b>
<b>15</b>		Kraft & Vig Chapter 16: Conclusion: Future Environmental Challenges and Solutions
		05/02 Layzer Chapter 13: Backlash
		Layzer Chapter 18: Conclusion: Politics, Values, and Environmental Policy Change
16	05/07	<b>Final Exam, Tuesday, May 7, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm</b>