

**Course Title:** Introduction to Environmental Policy

**Course Number:** ENVB N0351.001.2012.

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**Teaching Assistant:** Peter Light: prl2110@columbia.edu

**Overview:** This course is an introduction to currently relevant domestic and international environmental policy. Topics include the scientific fundamentals for existing environmental regimes, environmental economics, the environmental law itself and some discussion of application. It explores policy responses to significant local and global environmental problems, such as biodiversity loss, fisheries, clean air and water, and climate change. The central purpose will be to build literacy and analytical capacity for the existing portfolio of environmental regimes, both domestic and international. A practical analytical perspective will be utilized to consider a wide range of economic, social and political actors, including governments of industrial and developing countries, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, and the private sector.

**4 sessions:** Mondays, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, (6:10 - 8:40PM)

**Course Assignment:** 5-7 page paper due February 17th

1. Pick a specific environmental issue and trace history, current state and future state of environmental regime.(Water Quality, Air Quality, Forestry, Fisheries, Waste, Etc.)
2. Include the following sections:
  - Issue overview
  - Foundations (pre-1960)
  - Modern Environmental Policy(1960-1990s)
  - Current State(1990s – today)
  - International Regimes
  - Discussion and Conclusion : Future Directions
3. 5-7 pages due Friday, February 17th

### **1<sup>st</sup> Class – “Introduction and Foundations”**

#### **Lecture Reading:**

Chapters 4 and 5, Pp. 43 – 76

Kline, Benjamin . 2011. *First along the river: a brief history of the U.S. environmental movement*, 4th Edition. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Maryland.

#### **Discussion Reading:**

Richardson, Elmo R. “The Struggle for the Valley: California's Hetch Hetchy Controversy, 1905-1913” *California Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 38, No. 3 (Sep., 1959), pp. 249-258.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Class – “Modern Environmental Movement 1960 -1990”**

#### **Lecture Reading:**

Kraft, Michael E. (2000) US Environmental Politics and Policy from the 1960s–1990s. *Journal of Policy History*. Volume 12. Issue 1. pp 43-71

### **Discussion Reading: Market Approaches vs. Command and Control**

Hahn, RW and Stavins, RN (1991) "Incentive-based environmental regulation: A new era from an old idea." *Ecology Law Quarterly*. 18, 1

**3<sup>rd</sup> Class** – "Environmental Gridlock 1990 - today"

#### **Lecture Reading:**

Graham, Otis E. Jr. (2000) Introduction: A long Way from Earth Day. *Journal of Policy History*. Volume 12. Issue 1: pp 1 - 16

Ch. 1 & 8 pp1 – 17, 287-309

Klyza, Christopher McGrory and Sousa, David J. 2008. *American Environmental Policy, 1990-2006 : Beyond Gridlock*. MIT Press. Cambridge, MA, USA

[Columbia E-Reader link](#)

#### **Discussion Reading:**

Pielke, Jr., Roger A. (2004) "When scientists politicize science: making sense of controversy over The Skeptical Environmentalist" *Environmental Science & Policy* 7: 405–417

**4<sup>th</sup> Class** – "International Environmental Policy"

#### **Lecture Reading:**

Chapters 1 and Chapter 3, 4, and 5.(pp1 – 51, and pp 117-269)

Chasek, Pamela S. Downie, David L. 2009. *Global Environmental Politics* (5th Edition). Westview Press, Boulder, CO, USA

[Columbia E-Reader link](#)

#### **Discussion Reading:**

Pelletier, Nathan (2010) "Of laws and limits: An ecological economic perspective on redressing the failure of contemporary global environmental governance"

#### **Complementary Course Readings:**

Kennedy, Donald 2006. "Science Magazine's State of the Planet 2006-2007." *Science Magazine - AAAS* . Island Press.

[Columbia E-Reader link](#)

Andres, Richard N.L. (2006) *Managing the Environment, Managing Ourselves: A History of American Environmental Policy, Second Edition*. Yale University Press