Course Title: Introduction to Environmental Policy

Course Number: ENVB N0351.001.2012.

Instructor: Caleb McClennen, PhD. Director, Marine Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY and Adjunct: cm2947@columbia.edu

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

1st Class – “Introduction and Foundations”

Lecture Reading:

Chapters 4 and 5, Pp. 43 – 76

Discussion Reading:


2nd Class – “Modern Environmental Movement 1960 -1990”

Lecture Reading:

Discussion Reading: Market Approaches vs. Command and Control


3rd Class – “Environmental Gridlock 1990 - today”

Lecture Reading:


Ch. 1 &8 pp1 – 17, 287-309


Columbia E-Reader link

Discussion Reading:


4th Class – “International Environmental Policy”

Lecture Reading:

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


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:


Columbia E-Reader link