

Political Science 294. Politics of the Environment

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Hours: MW1:30-3:00

In this course, we will examine environmental politics and policy. We will pay particular attention to the political forces that cause environmental policy and theories that are useful in explaining environmental policy making. That is, this is a course about the politics of environmental policy making; it is not a course on environmental policy.

The course requirements are: (1) a short paper (3-5 pages)—due roughly in the middle of the quarter (no later than May 22)—which may be (a) an examination of a policy case using the ideas developed in Ostrom's *Governing the Commons*, or (b) a comparison of cost-benefit analysis and the precautionary principle (i.e., Sunstein vs. Whiteside); (2) a term paper, which may be: (a) a critical review and synthesis of the literature, (b) a full-length research proposal or dissertation prospectus, or (c) an original research paper; (3) class participation. The research design paper will each be worth 20% of the grade; the term paper will be worth 60%; participation will be worth 20%. You are expected to come to class having completed all the assigned readings for that meeting.

All of the required reading should be on JSTOR (<http://eres.library.ucsb.edu/>) or on reserve at the library. In addition, the books are available at the UCSB Bookstore. The required books are:

Required Texts:

Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones, *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*
S. Robert Lichter and Stanley Rothman, *Environmental Cancer—A Political Disease?*
Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger, *Break Through*
Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*
Eric Smith, *Energy, the Environment, and Public Opinion*
Cass Sunstein, *Risk and Reason*
Spencer Weart, *The Discovery of Global Warming*
Kerry Whiteside, *Precautionary Politics*

Web Pages:

Prof. Smith <http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/smith/>
PS 175 <http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/smith/courses/ps175.html>
Dave Robertson (U. of Missouri-St. Louis), Environmental Politics and Policy: a Bibliography for Teaching and Research: <http://www.umsl.edu/~robertsondb/248/sy248bib.html>

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

April 3. Introduction

April 10. Science vs. Politics

- Spencer Weart, *The Discovery of Global Warming* (2003)
Chris Mooney, *The Republican War on Science*, chap 1-2
- * Juliet Carlisle, Leeanna Smith, Eric Smith, and Jessica Timpany, "The Public's Trust in Scientific Claims and Policy Advocates During Energy Crises." Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, September 2, 2007.
 - * Wildavsky
 - * Bjørn Lomborg, *The Skeptical Environmentalist*
 - * Paul Ehrlich and Anne Ehrlich, *The Betrayal of Science and Reason*
 - * Seth Shulman, *Undermining Science*
 - * Greg Easterbrook, *A Moment on Earth*
 - * Jay Lehr, ed., *Rational Readings on Environmental Concerns*

April 17. Public Opinion about Environmental Issues

- Judith Layzer, *The Environmental Case*, chap 1
Eric Smith, *Energy, the Environment, and Public Opinion* (2002)
- * Deborah Guber, *The Grassroots of a Green Revolution* (2003)
 - * Davis and Wurth, "Voting preferences and the environment in the American electorate: the discussion extended."
 - * Christopher Bosso, *Environment, Inc. From Grassroots to Beltway*. (2005)

April 24. Risk Perception and NIMBYs

- S. Robert Lichter and Stanley Rothman, *Environmental Cancer—A Political Disease?*
Eric Plutzer et al., "Ideology and Elites' Perceptions of the Safety of New Technologies." *American Journal of Political Science*, 42 (1998): 190-209.
Paul Slovic, Baruch Fischhoff, and Sara Lichtenstein, "Rating the Risks," *Environment*, 21 (April 1979): 14-20, 36-39.
Kraft, Michael E., and Bruce B. Clary (1991). "Citizen Participation and the NIMBY Syndrome: Public Response to Radioactive Waste Disposal." *Western Political Quarterly*, 44 (1991): 299-328.
- * Eric Smith and Marisela Marquez, "The Other Side of the NIMBY Syndrome." *Society & Natural Resources*, 13 (2000): 273-80.

May 1. Agenda Setting

- Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones, *Agendas and Instability in American Politics* (1993)
Stefaan Walgrave and Peter Van Aelst, "The Contingency of the Mass Media's Political Agenda Setting Power." *Journal of Communication* 56 (2006): 88-109.
- * John Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* (1984)

- * Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones, *The Politics of Attention* (2005)
- * Bryan Jones, Tracy Sulkin, & Heather Larsen. "Policy Punctuations in American Political Institutions. *American Political Science Review*, 97 (2003): 151-169.
- * Shanto Iyengar and Donald Kinder, *News That Matters*
- * Peter John (2003). Is there life after policy streams, advocacy coalitions, and punctuations: Using evolutionary theory to explain policy change? *Policy Studies Journal*, 31, 481-498.

May 8. Common-Pool Resource Problems

- Garrett Hardin, "Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162 (13 December 1968): 1243-48.
 Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*
 * Elinor Ostrom, *Understanding Institutional Diversity* (2005)

May 15. Comparative Risk Analysis

- Cass Sunstein, *Risk and Reason*
 Norman Vig & Michael Kraft, *Environmental Policy*, chaps 10-11
 * Mary O'Brien, *Making Better Environmental Decisions*
 * K. S. Shrader-Frechette, *Risk and Rationality*

May 22. The Precautionary Principle

- Kerry Whiteside, *Precautionary Politics* (2006)
 * Joel Tickner, ed., *Environmental Science and the Precautionary Principle*
 * Nancy Myers and Carolyn Raffensperger, *Precautionary Tools for Reshaping Environmental Policy*

May 29. Environmental Justice

- Robert Bullard, "Environmental Justice in the 21st Century." In Robert Bullard, ed., *The Quest for Environmental Justice*
 Manuel Pastor, Jr., et al., "Environmental Inequity in Metropolitan Los Angeles." In Robert Bullard, ed., *The Quest for Environmental Justice*
 * David Schlosberg, *Defining Environmental Justice*
 * Edwardo Rhodes, *Environmental Justice in America: A New Paradigm*

June 5. Sustainability and the Future

- Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger, *Break Through*
 * Daniel Fiorino, *The New Environmental Regulation* (2005)

- * Recommended additional reading