George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate: ___X__ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit: EVPP and PUAD  Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: EVPP/PUAD  Course Number: 758

Full Course Title: Environmental Politics

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Environmental Politics

Credit hours: 3  Program of Record:

Repeatable for Credit?  ___ D=Yes, not within same term  Up to hours ___ T=Yes, within the same term  Up to hours 
___ X__ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  ___ X__ Lecture (LEC)  ___ Lab (LAB)  ___ Recitation (RCT)
___ Studio (STU)  ___ Internship (INT)  ___ Independent Study (IND)  ___ X__ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format 3:3:0 Course Level: GF(500-600)  ____ GA(700+)  ____ X__

Maximum Enrollment: 20  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: Fall’04

Prerequisites or corequisites: None

Catalog Description (35 words or less) Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses:
The evolution and current state of environmental policymaking. History, strengths, and weaknesses of key US environmental laws and central international environmental agreements. Introduction to analytic approaches, including cost-benefit and risk analysis. Discussion of economic incentives and normative considerations.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:
Last term offered:          Previous Course Abbreviation:          Previous number:

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by: ________________________________ email: __________________

Department/Program: ________________________________ Date: ________________

College Committee: ________________________________ Date: ________________

Graduate Council Representative: ________________________________ Date: ________________
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
Course Coordination Form

Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Head of Unit’s Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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Graduate Council approval: ___________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: ___________________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: ___________________________ Date: __________
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY

Assignments
Three required textbooks
Four policy memos
One research paper
Oral presentation
Midterm and final exams

Introduction
This course provides an introduction to the complex world of environmental politics and policymaking. We will focus primarily on efforts in the United States from the 1970s to the present to improve and protect the quality of the nation’s air, water, and land. We will also consider international issues with important environmental implications that have become prominent on the environmental policy agenda during recent decades—particularly biodiversity loss, stratospheric ozone depletion, global climate change, and economic globalization. During the course, we will examine the histories of various statutory and regulatory responses to national and international environmental problems, assess outcomes, and review specific case studies that illustrate recurring themes in environmental politics and policymaking. Classes will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and other participatory activities.

By the end of the course, students will be familiar with
- the histories and strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Superfund, and Endangered Species Act—and of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the entity primarily responsible for administering these statutes;
- the important players in U.S. environmental politics and policymaking;
- the scientific controversies related to estimating the environmental impacts of global climate change and economic globalization, the policy options available for addressing these impacts, and the political struggles surrounding both the estimates of potential damage and the proposed policy responses;
- the essential tools of environmental policy analysis, including the assessment of trade-offs, benefits, costs, cost-effectiveness, political feasibility, equity, and justice.

Grading
Class attendance and participation: 10%
Policy memos: 25%
Research paper and presentation: 25%
Midterm exam: 15%
Final exam: 25%

Books
The main reading assignments will come from the following required books:


Other readings from a variety of sources will be required or recommended. Where possible, I will post links to these supplementary readings on the class webpage.

Comments about the Main Assignments
One of the important course requirements is a research paper of approximately 3500 words. The final version of the paper is due on April 29, the last regular class session. The paper can address any issue of interest relevant to environmental policymaking. Students should make an appointment to see me and have a topic approved during the week after the midterm (at the latest). Students who want to have a chance to make revisions based on my feedback before submitting the final version should hand in a draft no later than
April 15, two weeks before the final paper is due. I will get comments back within a week, leaving a week for revisions. (Handing in a draft is recommended but not required.) In class as we go through the first half of the semester, I’ll highlight possible paper topics as they come up in readings or discussions. Some time around the midterm, I’ll also make available a guide-sheet with a more detailed description of the kind of paper I’m looking for, with recommendations for form and content.

Towards the end of the semester each student will give a brief oral presentation on the results of the research for the paper. The presentation will include background information, findings, and policy recommendations. In the early weeks of the second half of the course, I’ll make available presentation guidelines with more details about this assignment.

Four policy memos are also required on topics related to the environmental issues we are discussing at the time. I will provide memo-writing guidelines before the first memo is due.

The midterm and final exams will have both short-answer and essay questions. Questions will be based on readings, lectures, and class discussions.

Important Notes about Course Policies
1. I will rely on gmu email addresses for communicating with students.
2. Please contact me right away if personal circumstances arise that may interfere with class participation or completion of assignments.
3. Written work should be original, properly referenced, and handed in on time.
4. Please read and follow the University Honor Code posted on the Web at: http://mason.gmu.edu/7Emontecin/plagiarism.htm.

Course Outline
This schedule is tentative; I’ll announce changes as we go along. Readings from the main texts are indicated with the lead author’s last name followed by the numbers of the required chapters. I’ll give you information about additional readings as they come due.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates Due</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tue 1/21</td>
<td>Introduction; framework for environmental policy; optimists vs. pessimists</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tue 1/28</td>
<td>Vig 1, 3, 12; Reading #1 Sustainability; environment and development; local and global problems</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tue 2/4*</td>
<td>Fiorino 1-2; Portney 2; Vig 8 Environment on the agenda; birth of the EPA; major laws; players and politics; key terms</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tue 2/11</td>
<td>Fiorino 3; Portney 4; Vig 6 Clean Air Act; cap-and-trade schemes; economic efficiency; environmental justice, tragedy of the commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tue 2/18**</td>
<td>Portney 3; Vig 9; Reading #2; Memo #1</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tue 2/25</td>
<td>Portney 6; Vig 7 Clean Water Act; federalism; point vs non-point; role of the courts; how clean is clean?</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tue 3/4</td>
<td>Reading #3 Memo #2 CWA continued; midterm review</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Tue 3/11</td>
<td>No class Spring Break</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Tue 3/18</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tue 3/25</td>
<td>Fiorino 4; Portney 7, Paper topic Toxic substances; TSCA, RCRA, and Superfund; precautionary principle; risk; regulation; cost-benefit analysis; GMOs</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Tue 4/1</td>
<td>Fiorino 5-6; Vig 10 Memo #3</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Tue 4/8</td>
<td>Portney 5; Vig 13, 15; Reading #4; Memo #4 Global issues: ozone, climate change; biodiversity; trade; intergenerational justice; uncertainty; international politics</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Tue 4/15</td>
<td>Vig 14, 16; Reading #6</td>
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<td><strong>Draft paper</strong> (optional)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Tue 4/22</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tue 4/29</td>
<td>Final paper</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Tue 5/13</td>
<td>Final exam, 7:30-10:15</td>
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* Last day to add, and last day to drop without tuition liability, is 2/4. ** Last day to drop is 2/21.