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:  ____ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit: Environmental Science and Policy   Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: EVPP/PUAD   Course Number: 642

Full Course Title: Environmental Policy

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Credit hours: 3   Program of Record: Environmental Science and Policy

Repeatable for Credit?

D=Yes, not within same term   Up to hours
T=Yes, within the same term   Up to hours
X=Cannot be repeated for credit

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

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

Maximum Enrollment: 20   For NEW courses, first term to be offered:
Prerequisites or corequisites: None

Catalog Description (35 words or less)   Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.:
This course provides an in-depth examination of environmental policymaking. Examines efforts in the US from 1970 to the present to mitigate pollution of the nation's air, land, and water. Addresses issues of global concern, including biodiversity loss, ozone depletion, and climate change.

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:  

**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: ____________
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Assignments
Three required textbooks
Three policy memos
One research paper, with a related oral presentation
Final exam

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, and global climate change. 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 human and environmental impacts of global biodiversity loss, ozone depletion, and climate change, 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 participation: 10%
Policy memos: 45%
Research paper and presentation: 25%
Final exam: 20%

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 at the last 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 by the seventh week of the course (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 well-prepared draft no later than 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 before midpoint of the course, I’ll post on the Website guidelines 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 post on the Website presentation guidelines with more details about this assignment.

Three policy memos are also required on topics related to the environmental issues we are discussing at the time. A fourth memo is optional. (Students who hand in the fourth memo will have the option of getting extra credit or replacing a grade from one of the earlier memos.) I will post memo-writing guidelines on the Website before the first memo is due.

The final exam will be take-home. Questions will be based on readings, lectures, and class discussions. We will discuss the form and content of the final exam in the last couple of class sessions.

Important Notes about Course Policies

1) I will rely on “…@gmu.edu” email addresses for communicating with students (for setup, see http://www.gmu.edu/email/memo/index.htm).  
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 and Department Honor Codes, on the Web at:  
   http://mason.gmu.edu/%7Emontecin/plagiarism.htm  
   http://www.gmu.edu/departments/pia/r-links/pia-honor-code.htm
Sample 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 information about additional readings as they come due.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wed 1/21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction; framework for environmental policy; optimists vs. pessimists</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wed 1/28</td>
<td>Vig 1, 3, 12; Reading #1</td>
<td>Sustainability; environment and development; local and global problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wed 2/4</td>
<td>Fiorino 1-2; Portney 2; Vig 8</td>
<td>Environment on the agenda; birth of the EPA; major laws; players and politics; key terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wed 2/11</td>
<td>Fiorino 3; Portney 4; Vig 6</td>
<td>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>Wed 2/18</td>
<td>Portney 3; Vig 9; Reading #2; <strong>Memo #1</strong></td>
<td>Clean Water Act; federalism; point vs non-point; role of the courts; how clean is clean?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wed 2/25</td>
<td>Portney 6; Vig 7</td>
<td>CWA continued, mid-course review</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Wed 3/3</td>
<td>Reading #3; Memo #2</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Wed 3/10</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Wed 3/17</td>
<td>Fiorino 4; Portney 7; <strong>Paper topic</strong></td>
<td>Toxic substances; TSCA, RCRA, and Superfund; precautionary principle; risk; regulation; cost-benefit analysis</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Wed 3/24</td>
<td>Fiorino 5-6; Vig 10; <strong>Memo #3</strong></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Wed 3/31</td>
<td>Portney 5; Vig 13, 15</td>
<td>Global issues: biodiversity; ozone, climate change; trade; intergenerational justice; wicked problems and uncertainty; international environmental politics</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Wed 4/7</td>
<td>Vig 14, 16; Reading #4; <strong>Memo #4</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Wed 4/14</td>
<td>Draft paper (optional)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Wed 4/21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Wed 4/28</td>
<td>Final paper; Final exam posted</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Wed 5/5</td>
<td>Final exam due 10:15 pm</td>
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