

Department: Political Science

Course Number: Political Science 4455

Course Name: Environmental Politics and Policy

Objectives

1. Give students a thematic overview of how policy systems have defined and addressed environmental issues. Including: What are Environmental politics? Is there an ecological crisis in the US or the world? And, what is being done politically to deal with environmental issues?

Outcomes

1. Survey theoretical perspectives and apply them to environmental events within the US and the world.
2. Understand connections among important political and economic events and changes to US and global environmental politics and policy.
3. Understand the chief problems, actors, and structures of politics concerning environmental issues within the US and the world.

Assignments that demonstrate accomplishment of this outcome:

1. Correct answers to multiple choice and matching questions, and short answer questions on exams. Answers require organized paragraphs, logical thought processes, and application of concepts to given scenarios.
2. In class quizzes over reading material, and in class assignments/activity for simulation/game playing/ etc to understand how governments function: look at “scorecard.com” and assess the environmental conditions for their home counties; find examples of environmental justice/injustice.
3. Short response papers throughout the semester, reacting to topics covered in class.

2. Develop critical thinking, effective speaking and writing skills, foster a global understanding of environmental politics and policy.

Outcomes

1. Understand connections among important political and economic events and changes to US and global environmental politics and policy.
2. Students can communicate effectively.

Assignments that demonstrate accomplishment of this outcome:

1. Correct answers to multiple choice and matching questions, and short answer questions on exams. Answers require organized paragraphs, logical thought processes, and application of concepts to given scenarios.
2. Final project: Students complete an application for an EPA grant to help improve environmental issues within Pocatello or on the ISU campus. The grant application consists of an analysis of the problem, the economic and political issues it must address, and the student’s suggested ‘project’ that will help solve the issue. Organization, grammar, and proper citation/bibliography count.
3. Student presentations: each student presents their proposal to a team of “EPA experts” (and the class).