

Department: Political Science

Course Number: Political Science 6621

Course Name: Interdisciplinary Seminar (most recently, Global Environmental Politics)

Objectives

1. To offer graduate students exposure to the study of environmental politics. The main portion of the course explores the major theories and themes of environmental politics and their empirical applications. Special sessions are devoted to exploring the application of these issues/themes within “the field”—looking at both the US and a variety of other countries (developed and developing) within the wider world.

Outcomes

1. Survey theoretical perspectives and apply them to environmental events within the US and the world. This includes the political elements, but also economic, historic and social issues.
2. Examine how scholars around the globe view environmental politics and create theories concerning these issues.
3. Understand the development of the field of Environmental Politics both with the US and globally.

Assignments that demonstrate accomplishment of this outcome:

1. Weekly commentaries: Commentaries explore a theme, issue, problem or question that arises from the readings, and does not simply summarize the readings.
 2. Each student makes one seminar presentation on the readings for a given week. Presentations analyze the readings, rather than simply summarizing them.
 3. Exams: a mid-semester exam and final exam are administered in class. They simulate comprehensive exam questions.
2. Develop critical thinking, effective speaking and writing skills, foster a global understanding of environmental politics and policy.

Outcomes

1. Understand the development of the field of Environmental Politics by examining how theories developed and changed.
2. Students can communicate effectively.

Assignments that demonstrate accomplishment of this outcome:

1. Written commentaries to give students practice at concise writing, and to provide feedback on their writing.
2. Each student makes one seminar presentation on the readings for a given week. Presentations help students with public speaking.
3. Mid-semester and Final exams consist of “comprehensive exam style questions.” Students get practice responding to comprehensive exam style questions, and gain more experience with the craft of writing.