POLS 401 / GEOG 496 Global Environmental Policy
Fall 2020
Online - Asynchronous
CRN 21243 / 24458

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Virtual Office Hours:
Zoom https://odu.zoom.us/j/4628969738
Monday: 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Tuesday: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
and by appointment

Catalog Description: This course analyzes the causes, severity, potential consequences, and proposed solutions regarding global ecological issues with special attention to the scientific debate and the political and policy process. It examines environmental policies of national governments, regional/international organizations, and global conferences.

Prerequisites: Six credits in political science.

Course Objectives:
1. To understand human / environmental interactions as governance issues.
2. To identify how the distribution of effects and responsibilities for environmental degradation shifts over time.
3. To explore the lenses used to create and evaluate environmental policy.
4. To conduct multi-level policy analysis of global environmental problems from development to remediation.
5. To communicate scientific and technological concepts to policymakers.

<div align="center">Evaluation:</div>

Exams – 30% (combined total course grade)
 Exams will each be available in Blackboard for one week. They are not proctored. You may download the exam and take as much time as needed during the week to complete it. The exam must be turned in to the appropriate assignment folder in blackboard. Exams are essay based. You will select one of three possible topics and address the required components in paragraph form. Usually between 2 and 5 double spaced pages is sufficient, but no specific length is required as long as you thoroughly respond to the prompt with relevant examples from the exam and additional research (sources other than the course material must be cited using a recognized format MLA/APA/Chicago). Exam are graded out of 50 points each.

 Mid-term Exam – 15% of total course grade (*Course Objective 2*)
  The mid-term focuses on environmental management. Points are distributed as follows:
   Opportunities – 10 points combined
    From the exam – 5 points
    External sources (at least 2)– 5 points
   Threats – 10 points combined
    From the exam – 5 points
    External sources (at least 2)– 5 points
   Responses – 10 points combined
    From the exam – 5 points
    External sources (at least 2)– 5 points
   Justification – 10 points combined

From the exam – 5 points
External sources (at least 2)– 5 points
Actors involved – 10 points combined
From the exam – 5 points
External sources (at least 2)– 5 points

Final Exam – 15% of total course grade (*Course Objective 4*)
The final focuses on changing roles in pollution and conservation policy. You will analyze how associated policies have changed over time.
Policy Timeline – 10 points
Initial Approach – 5 points
Evolution of Policy to Current Date – 5 points
Shifting Scientific Understandings of the Issue – 10 points
Interpretations – 5 points
Experiences – 5 points
Shifting Leadership on the Issue – 10 points
Actors Involved – 5 points
Populations Affected – 5 points
Remaining Gaps - 10 points
Policy – 5 points
Knowledge – 5 points
Potential Solutions – 10 points
To this issue – 5 points
From related environmental issues – 5 points

Policy Brief Project – 20% combined total course grade (*Course Objective 5*)
All project components are graded out of 50 points each and follow this format:
Environmental Issue Identification including supporting graphic– 10 points
Audience – 10 points
Target Population – 10 points
Policy Proposed – 10 points
Mechanics (Length and Citations) – 10 points
Paper headers should include a title and your name not any additional information about the instructor or course. Sources other than the course material must be cited using a recognized format MLA/APA/Chicago. Citations do not count toward page length.

Policy Proposal – 5% of total course grade
Select an environmental issue that concerns you and propose a policy solution. Explain why you selected that issue and policy approach. Include a graphic (picture / table / chart / model / map related to the issue – counts towards page length) in a 1 – 2 pages single spaced document. This should be completely your idea based on your existing understanding of the issue and policy options. The realities of the environmental and political processes will be discussed later in the course. Your grade will not be reduced if your current understanding is limited.

Policy Pitch – 5% of total course grade
> Revise your original policy proposal with your new understanding of pollution and conservation problems and environmental policy development. Record a 3-5 minute audio or video clip (via zoom, your cellphone, or another software program / device) in which you present the scientific and political reasoning for the policy you propose including the description or image of a supporting graphic you are developing to support the proposal.

Policy Brief – 10% of total course grade
> Expand upon your policy pitch and write a 1 - 2 page single spaced policy brief with the compelling original graphic you developed for the political actor that might support your proposal. Examples will be provided.

Discussion Board Activities – 50% combined total course grade (*Course Objectives 1 and 3*)
These activities will be completed in groups of 6-9 students. You will read one of the three topics available and post a 2-4 paragraph summary the first week of the module. The second week of the module you will make a 1-2 paragraph comment on two of your peer's posts, one for each of the topics you did not summarize. Five modules feature these activities. The summary and comment posts for every activity are graded out of 50 points each.

Summary – 25% of total course grade (5 @ 5% each)
> Explain applications to the module topics - 25 points
> Explain disconnect with any module topics that are not applicable - 25 points

Comments – 25% of total course grade (10 @ 2.5% each)
> How does your peer's topic differ from yours? - 25 points
> How is your topic applicable to your peer's? - 25 points

Course Policies:

Materials – No textbook is required for this course. Course modules including readings, video links, and will be released on Blackboard on Mondays at 8:00 am according to the Schedule in the syllabus.

Deadlines – All assignments are due to the appropriate blackboard folder on Sundays at 11:59 pm.

Late assignments – Late work will be penalized by 10% every week after the original deadline unless alternate arrangements are made with the instructor in advance. No work will be accepted after December 18, 2020.

Communication to the Instructor – Please contact me via email regarding any concerns with instructions, content, technology access, deadlines or applications. I receive email on my cell phone. The number listed in the syllabus is my cell phone. If you have a class related emergency, you may text or call that number. You are also welcomed to attend my virtual office hours via Zoom or set-up an individual Zoom meeting via email.

Communication to Students – I typically respond to emails within 24 hours. If you do not receive a response within that time, please email me again or try a different contact method. I typically respond to calls and texts within a few hours. Announcements will be sent through Blackboard weekly to remind

students about upcoming assignments. I hold office hours weekly and am available for appointments via Zoom. The times and link are listed on the front of the syllabus.

Student Expectations - This is a participatory class. Failure to participate in class weekly will result in poor performance on assignments. This course is not just a lecture, but an opportunity for you to explore and apply the concepts learned during the first half of the class in a way that adds depth relevant to your professional and personal interests. You are expected to review all module materials and complete activities on-time.

Additional Resources –
   Online Success - https://online.odu.edu/online-experience/how-succeed-odu-online-student
   Blackboard Tips - https://www.odu.edu/facultystaff/teaching/tools/elearning-blackboard
   Technical Support - https://www.odu.edu/its
   Research and Citation Resources - https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html

Schedule (subject to change):

Module (Dates)	Topics	Assignments (Due Date)
Course Introduction (8/31 – 9/6)	Instructor and Course Introduction Videos and Syllabus	Policy Proposal (9/6)
Environmental Management (9/7 - 9/20)	Environmental Development, Environmental Justice, and Environmental Security	Discussion Board Summary (9/13) and Comments (9/20)
Environmental Policy Actors (9/21 – 10/4)	International, Regional, State, Business, Nonprofit, and Social Movement	Discussion Board Summary (9/27) and Comments (10/4)
Policy Perspectives (10/5 – 10/18)	Political Theory, Policy Approaches, Temporal / Spatial / Demographic Considerations	Discussion Board Summary (10/11) and Comments (10/18)
Mid-Semester Assessment (10/19 – 10/25)	Environmental Management Analysis	Mid-Term Exam (10/25)
Pollution Policies (10/26 – 11/8)	Chemicals, Waste, Contamination, and Climate Change	Discussion Board Summary (11/1) and Comments (11/8)
Conservation Policies (11/9 – 11/22)	Forests, Marine, Species, and Degradation	Discussion Board Summary (11/15) and Comments (11/22)
Changes in Environmental Politics (11/23 – 12/6)	Events, Leaders, Issues, and Gaps	Policy Pitch (11/29) and Policy Brief (12/6)
Course Summary and Career Paths (12/7 – 12/13)	Summary Video, Complimentary Careers in Public, Private, and Third Sectors, and Personal Applications	Final Exam (12/13)

University Policies:

Dropping the class -- Your participation in this course indicates your acceptance of this teaching focus, requirements, and policies. Please review the syllabus and the course requirements as soon as possible. If you believe that the nature of this course does not meet your interests, needs or expectations, if you are not prepared for the amount of work involved or if you anticipate the class meetings, assignment deadlines, or

abiding by the course policies will constitute an unacceptable hardship for you, you should drop the course by the drop/add deadline.

Regular Course Withdrawal -- Withdrawal from classes occurs after the deadline to drop classes has passed. After the first 11 calendar days of the semester and through the end of the 10th week of a regular (Fall/Spring) semester, a student may withdraw from any course with a grade of "W" assigned. Please refer to www.odu.edu/registrar and click on the link to "Calendars" for the dates to withdraw from classes in non-semester-long classes. A grade of W will be assigned during this period.
Students who withdraw through the end of the tenth week are encouraged to contact their instructor, advisor, Student Success Coach (for online students), and financial aid counselor to discuss the implications of withdrawing. Course withdrawal may adversely impact satisfactory academic progress for financial aid purposes and may limit the student's ability to continue receiving financial aid.

Late Couse Withdrawal Request --Withdrawal from a course after the 10th week of a regular session (or its equivalent in a non-semester course) is usually not permitted. However, in the event of an illness or other severe hardship beyond the student's control (please note that such illness must be severe), the student should submit, no later than the last day of classes, a written petition for permission to withdraw (Request for Exception -- Permission to Withdraw After Midterm) to the instructor and the chair of the department offering the course. The Request for Exception must be submitted by the last day of classes for a term.
The Instructor and Chair will evaluate the petition request. If permission is granted by both, the student will be withdrawn with a grade of "W" when the form is presented to the Office of the University Registrar. If permission is not granted by both, the student will not be allowed to withdraw from the course. Any appeal of decisions should be brought to the Dean of the college offering the course.

Grade Scale --

A 93-100	A- 90-92.9	B+ 87-89.9	B 83-86.9	B- 80-82.9	C+ 77-79.9
C 73-76.9	C- 70-72.9	D+ 67-69.9	D 63-66.9	D- 60-62.9	F 59.9 and under

Honor Code -- The Old Dominion University Honor Code is in effect at all times in this class. Your name on an exam, paper, or assignment constitutes your acceptance of the Honor Code: "I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of dishonesty or deception such as lying, cheating, and plagiarism, which are honor violations. I am further aware that as a member of the academic community it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violators of the Honor System. I will report to an Honor Council hearing as summoned."

Plagiarism -- "A student will have committed plagiarism if he or she reproduces someone else's work without acknowledging the source; or if a source is cited which the student has not cited or used. Examples of plagiarism include: submitting a research paper obtained from a commercial research service, the Internet, or from another student as if it were original work; making simple changes to borrow material while leaving the organization, content, or phraseology intact; or copying material from a source, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks. Plagiarism also occurs in a group project if one or more members of the group does none of the group's work and participates in none of the group's activities but attempts to take credit for the work of the group." Plagiarism is not tolerated in this class.

Students with Special Needs -- In compliance with PL94-142 and federal legislation affirming the rights of disabled individuals, provisions will be made for students with special needs on an individual basis. The student must be identified as "special needs" by the university and provide a letter from the Office of

Educational Accessibility (OEA). Any accommodations will be based upon written guidelines from the OEA. All students are expected to fulfill all course requirements.

Sexual Harassment -- Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcomed and unsolicited conduct of a sexual nature, physical or verbal, by a member of the opposite sex or the same sex. Sexual harassment in any situation is prohibited. It is the policy of Old Dominion University to provide students and employees with an environment for learning and working which is free of sexual harassment whether by members of the same sex or opposite sex, which is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Title VII of the 1963 Civil Rights Act. (For more information: http://www.odu.edu/ao/polnproc/pdfs/6320.pdf)

Anti-Discrimination -- ODU is committed to promoting an education environment that is free from harassment and discrimination based on one's race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, pregnancy, political affiliation, marital status, and genetic information. Discrimination or harassment of any form is immediate grounds for expulsion from the course and will be reported to the University for follow-up action.

Email -- Students are required to use valid Old Dominion University email accounts to send official information and notices and are held responsible for accessing electronic mail to obtain official University communications. Students should use their secure ODU email account to communicate with professors.

Dropping the class -- Your participation in this course indicates your acceptance of this teaching focus, requirements, and policies. Please review the syllabus and the course requirements as soon as possible. If you believe that the nature of this course does not meet your interests, needs or expectations, if you are not prepared for the amount of work involved or if you anticipate the class meetings, assignment deadlines, or abiding by the course policies will constitute an unacceptable hardship for you, you should drop the course by the drop/add deadline.

Student Opinion Surveys -- Student Opinion Surveys are submitted online. Each course has a separate survey. The instructor does not see your responses until after final grades are submitted. No identifying information is ever available to the instructor. Your comments and ratings are used to improve the course for future semesters. You will be notified by email when you should evaluate this course. The link to the Course Evaluation System (under Current Students / Academics) is available at the university homepage: www.odu.edu. You will need your UIN and password. Please take time to evaluate this course when asked to do so. All evaluations are anonymous.

Final Grades -- Instructors are not permitted to give out grades via telephone or email. In order to find out what grade you earned in this course, you must go to LeoOnline at the university home page www.leoonline.edu. You will need your UIN and password.

Career Management Center -- The Career Management Center offers a Career Advantage Program, which provides opportunities to gain work experience related to your major through internships, cooperative education or practical experience outside the classroom. The College of Arts and Letters has career coaches to assist in this process by providing help with resumes, cover letters, job search strategies, and interviewing skills. You may stop by the office BAL 1006 (tel. 757-683-4388) or email cmc@odu.edu for more information. Their website is http://www.odu.edu/ao/cmc/index.php.