

**Environmental Policy** ES/PS 357-001C Fall 2021  
UW-Oshkosh Environmental Studies Program / Political Science Department  
Scheduled Meeting Time: TTh 1130-1, Clow Class L102

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Filipiak

Office: Room 3446 Sage and online

Office hours: MW 1100-1220, TTh 305-425, and by appointment. Please feel welcome to talk with me. Please let me know in advance when you would like to talk, so we can make sure we set things up properly.

Email: [filipiaj@uwosh.edu](mailto:filipiaj@uwosh.edu) (Best way to contact me. Please include class title and your topic in the subject line of email.)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** “This course examines the process in which environmental policy is made. The course will introduce students to interdisciplinary approaches used to analyze environmental problems. The role of political actors, scientific experts and the citizenry in identifying problems and developing solutions is considered. Emphasis is also placed on the use of scientific information and values in the decision-making process. Topics to be covered include major US and international legislation protecting air and water quality, climate change, natural resource extraction, agricultural production, and land management.” Prerequisite: Political Science 105 or Environmental Studies 261 or consent of instructor.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** We will review a variety of substantive environmental public policy issues and consider current government policies that address those issues. In order to do that intelligently we begin with an overview of the political and economic theories that underlie policy formation, adoption, and implementation. We will identify major institutional and political actors that shape U.S. domestic policies, and explore the interplay between politics, economics, and the underlying values of policy decisions designed by government to serve the wants and needs of citizens. We will also discuss the criteria for evaluating the performance of both the processes and the outcomes of public policies. Our course will include an analysis of the challenges that are part of the emerging politics of global environmentalism.

**COURSE READINGS:** The following text is required of all students:

Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2019. *Environmental Politics & Policy, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1544325040

Extensive readings from journals or book chapters will be made available to students through Canvas. It is important that students read the material throughout the semester as the grading structure places emphasis on participation and interaction.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The learning objectives for this class are divided into three categories: knowledge, analysis and communication. Students will be pushed to advance themselves in all three categories over the next 14 weeks.

Knowledge: “Any fool can know. The point is to understand.” – Albert Einstein

1. Describe and understand the political process, and how institutions create policies.
2. Understand the role of scientists in the policy process, and how information is politicized.
3. Understand the specifics of policies enacted by governments with some degree of depth.

Analysis: “The number of those who undergo the fatigue of judging for themselves is very small indeed.” – Richard Brinsley Sheridan

4. Identify and analyze environmental problems and identify potential solutions.
5. Identify and analyze the trade-offs related to government action/inaction.

Communication: “The art of writing is the art of discovering what you believe.” – Gustave Flaubert

6. Effectively communicate, both orally and in writing, high-quality arguments that support your beliefs, being careful to ensure that they can withstand outside scrutiny.
7. Engage in difficult, yet respectful, conversations with those who either share or do not share your beliefs.

## DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990:  
<https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/resources/consumer-information/>

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### Grading Scale:

	A	100-93	A-	92.9-90	
B+	89.9-87	B	86.9-83	B-	82.9-80
C+	79.9-77	C	76.9-73	C-	72.9-70
D+	69.6-67	D	66.9-63	D-	62.9-60

If your average is below 60, you will fail the course. (Grades will eventually be available on Canvas.)

On your exams and papers, you will be expected to *mix analysis and evidence*. I will ask you to identify the key themes, the points of greatest significance, and to carefully focus on the specific

question I asked (not other issues). Then add details that support your answer, demonstrating your awareness of relevant course material.

### **Grading Breakdown:**

Essays	41%	13%, 10%, and 18%, respectively
Group presentation on one state's policy*	15%	
Participation	19%	
Final Policy Proposal Essay	25%	

\*If the logistics of doing this project with a group prove too difficult due to the pandemic, I may change the format to make this an individual project.

[For more information on assignments, see "Policy Assignments Overview" document]

Attendance: It is important that you attend class. In class, I present and explain important material – I expect your papers and other work to reflect your engagement with this material. This course will only be successful with full student engagement and participation.

As a college student, you are an adult who is now responsible for yourself. It is up to you to decide if you are not able to attend class on a particular day – but if you miss too many classes, your grade will suffer because of it. If you miss more than three classes, your participation grade will drop significantly: and you should talk to me about your attendance problems. If you miss class, it is your responsibility, not mine, to make sure you discover what material, assignments, etc., were discussed while you were absent.

*If you miss more than six classes, you will lose one full course grade for each absence beyond the sixth. (The only exceptions are absences related to participation in university events, or emergencies.) If you miss more than eight classes, you automatically fail the course.*

Assignments. A penalty of 5% (one half letter grade) will be assessed for late submissions, increasing to 10% after 24 hours. From that point on, there will be no further penalties for a month. (If you need an extension, you need to ask me *before* the due date.) If you turn in assignments late, you will receive them back late as well.

*After one month, papers and exams will NOT be accepted and you will receive ZERO points for the assignment. (Or, if an assignment is not turned in by the final date on which I will be grading the course, it will no longer be accepted.) It is the student's responsibility to contact me about making up an assignment; and to make sure I receive any paper turned at times other than the class hour it is due.*

Academic misconduct I want to see your work, ideas written in your voice. The course is designed for you to learn and engage ideas. Don't worry if you are nervous about your writing skills – it is better to build your own writing skills than to show me someone else's ideas. Keep in mind that instructors are experienced in spotting lazy copying of material. If you want to build on someone else's ideas, that's OK – be sure to quote and cite them. But show me that you understand their argument and are using it to develop your own. Plagiarism can be grounds for failing the course. Don't take that risk.

I follow University policies in cases of academic misconduct. According to the UW system rules, “academic misconduct” includes, but is not limited to, “*submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work, when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another.*” If you have further questions please see the UW System rules, Chapter 14. In cases of academic misconduct the instructor recommends the penalty.

Expectations for Academic Honesty: A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your teacher directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here:

<https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

Behavior in class: While in the classroom, and particularly when participating in discussions, students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature fashion. This means treating the instructor and other students with respect so that an environment that is conducive to learning is created. Participation grades can be lowered if students violate such policies – for instance, behaving rudely.

Students will be expected to follow official policies of UW Oshkosh developed to address the pandemic. Those policies may change over time, as they during the past two school years, to deal with changing developments. These policies will be considered official course policies. Please contact me if you have any questions about policies related to COVID-19, including your concerns about your health.

Emergency situations and Accommodations: It is the University's policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Accessibility Center and receive an Accommodation Recommendation form to receive accommodations. The Accessibility Center is located in Dempsey Hall 125.

Accommodations will be handled on an individual basis, but be aware that some evidence will be required. Student athletes, students with disabilities, or students with other situations that might make meeting deadlines or attendance difficult should set up appointments and arrangements with appropriate university officials to develop accommodations – and then let me know, preferably during the first two weeks of class.

Veterans Statement: Veteran, active duty, reserve, or national guard students with military-affiliated special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, disabilities, VA appointments, etc.) should communicate these with as much notice as possible. I will work with you and / or put you in contact with the Veterans Resource Center at (920) 424-1804 or [veterans@uwosh.edu](mailto:veterans@uwosh.edu) or other University staff who are trained to assist you.

Reminder for Political Science Majors: Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. Political Science 245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. if you have questions, please see me or any faculty member after class.

Grievance Statement: The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at [kruegerj@uwosh.edu](mailto:kruegerj@uwosh.edu). Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

Projected key course dates:

Week 3	first essay due
Week 6	second essay due
Week 8	group project due
Week 9	pitches for analytic essay begin
Week 12	third essay due
Week 15	final proposal essay due

[For more info, see Schedule]