

ENVP U6241: Earth Systems and Environmental Politics, Policy, and Management

Instructor Information

[Sara F. Tjossem](#)

Office: 1316 IAB (International Affairs Building, also known as SIPA)

Office hours: Before and after class Wed., and by appt. If you would like an appt. outside those times, please email me with a suggestion of a few times that work for you, and I'll check against my calendar.

Teaching Assistant Information:

[Cecilia Coates](#)

Office hours: Tuesday 6-8 pm, and by appointment (Lehman Library)

Course Overview

Environmental policy has changed significantly in the past four decades in the face of increasingly complex challenges of sustaining life on earth. Many proposed solutions to environmental problems rely on collective action and government policies and regulations that attempt to address the inherent market failures and externalities of natural resource degradation. The processes to establish these policies and institutions are far from simple, and are under constant reassessment. This course is designed to guide students interested in policy and management towards an understanding of how environmental policies are devised, implemented, and evaluated. This knowledge is critical for environmental professionals because seemingly great solutions to environmental problems mean little without the attendant political and institutional will and capacity to implement, evaluate and modify them. Throughout the summer we will highlight how values, policy processes, the choice of policy tools and administrative factors shape policy outcomes. The three main sections of the course cover:

1. The nature of environmental problems today and how society and policymakers view them. We examine the scale of problems, the interrelationships among ecological and human systems and how social values and technical challenges shape what we view as "problems".
2. The different types of environmental policy tools (such as regulation of markets, information disclosure, public-private partnerships, community-based management) to address the issues.
3. The key management issues and challenges to implement different environmental policies. What are some mechanisms for effective stakeholder communication, enforcement, policy adaptation and performance evaluation?

Method of Instruction

Lecture and class discussion

Course Requirements

See Syllabus tab for greater detail and Assignment tab for full descriptions

- Participation in class discussions, discussion posts on readings, team debate (15%)
- Resource exercise (15%)
- 2 short writing assignments (20% each)
- Final paper (30%)

I will assess a late penalty for assignments turned in after deadlines unless cleared with me in advance. Post your assignments to the appropriate assignment folder within the "Assignments" section. ALWAYS post Word docs, not pdfs.

Readings

Individual articles (see below) should be read **before** the class in which they are listed (no textbook for class).

Required readings

Articles available through:

1. The syllabus (readings linked) and also in "Files" link on left
2. Columbia library electronic reserves, accessible through Library Reserves tab on left, and
3. the web

A selection of relevant books (not required)

- Rosenbaum, Walter A. Environmental politics and policy. 9th ed. Washington, D.C.: Sage/CQ Press, 2011.
- Durant, R. F., Fiorino, D.J., & O'Leary, R. (Eds.). Environmental governance reconsidered: Challenges, choices, and opportunities. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004.
- Chasek, Pamela, David Downie and J.W. Brown. Global Environmental Politics, 6th Ed. Westview Press, 2013/14.
- CQ researcher. Global environmental issues. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010.
- Cohen, Steven. Understanding Environmental Policy. Columbia University Press, 2006.
- Cole, D. H. Pollution and property: Comparing ownership institutions for environmental protection. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- McNeill, J.R. An environmental history of the 20th century world. New York: WW Norton, 2002.
- O'Leary, R., et al. Managing for the environment. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999.
- Vig, N.J., Kraft, M.E. (Eds.). Environmental policy: New directions for the twenty-first century, Fifth ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2003.

I may alter reading assignments to adjust the pace of the class or to meet student interests.

Maintain Academic Integrity

You must cite all ideas, data, or facts that are not common knowledge, even if you paraphrase or summarize the ideas. If you choose to quote a source directly, the information must be in quotation marks with the appropriate author, date, and page number referenced.

"SIPA does not tolerate cheating and/or plagiarism in any form. Those students who violate the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct will be subject to the Dean's Disciplinary Procedures." See the [Code of Academic & Professional Conduct](#)

Familiarize yourself with the proper methods of citation and attribution. The [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site. at Purdue University provides some useful and engaging resources.

Violations of the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct should be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Grading Policy

My grading criteria and the weight for each assignment for the final grade are described on each assignment. I grade on a 100 point scale. The grade equivalent for the scale is:

above 90 some sort of A

above 80 some sort of B

above 70 some sort of C

Please note that SIPA's faculty has agreed upon a grading policy for any class with more than 30 students, with the aim of having a B+ average for the class (3.2-3.4 GPA on a 4 point scale). This means that faculty may grade on a curve to achieve this average.