

## Politics of Environmental Issues

11:374:279, Spring 2016

Instructor	Department at Rutgers	Contact*	Office Hours
Ethan Schoolman (Professor)	Human Ecology	ethan.schoolman@rutgers.edu	Mondays 1-3 and by appt. in Cook Office Bldg. (COB), Rm. 208
Angela Oberg (TA), Recitations 1,2,3 (Thursdays)	Public Policy	angela.oberg@rutgers.edu	Thursdays between recitations in Hickman; by appt. in COB 213
Maria Espinoza (TA), Recitations 4,5,6 (Mondays)	Sociology	mespinoza@sociology.rutgers.edu	Mondays between recitations in Hickman; by appt. in COB 225

**\*Please put “PEI” in the subject line of all course-related emails!!!**

### Course Description

When does open space become a park—and when does it become a power plant or a landfill? Why are most cities in the Northeast cut off from their waterfronts by highways? How do states decide how much pollution is too much? Why do 49 U.S. senators doubt that humans are contributing to climate change—when the first federal report on global warming was written during the Carter administration?

To answer questions like these, we have to understand *the politics of environmental issues*. In this course, we will think of *politics* as being composed of two elements: the *values* that cause people to define problems in a particular way and aim for particular goals, and the *political process* that determines how values are expressed in public policy. Exploring debates over different environmental issues, from how to manage pollution to what to do with public land, we will look for insight into the ways in which social forces, as much as natural forces, shape the natural environment in deep and profound ways.

### Rutgers Learning Goals

For SAS students, this course meets the core requirements of [21C] and [SCL]. For SEBS transfer students entering Spring 2016, it also meets [GOVT].

- [21C] 21<sup>st</sup> Century (a): Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person’s experiences of and perspectives on the world.
- [SCL] Social Analysis (m): Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.

For details about the SAS Core, see: <http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/requirements>

## Assignments and Grading

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percent of Final Grade</b>	<b>See this handout for more information... (on Sakai)</b>
Recitation grade	25	Recitation Syllabus
Paper	30	Paper Assignment
Quiz on U.S. government	Pass/Fail (retake until pass)	(see below)
Exam 1	20	Reading Guides
Exam 2	25	Reading Guides

<b>Course Grade*</b>	<b>Minimum Points (out of 100)</b>
A	90
B+	85
B	80
C+	75
C	70
D	60
F	<60

\*For totals within 1 point of a higher grade, we will raise the course grade if the student improved on Exam 2.

**Recitation.** Student recitation grades will be based on class participation and performance on periodic in-class writing exercises and quizzes. These exercises are all meant to prepare you for the exams, so there is nothing “gotcha” about them. If you do the readings every week and participate in class, you will be well prepared.

**Paper.** There will be one paper (4-5 pages), due in Lecture 22 on April 11. Please see the Paper Assignment handout for more information (posted on Sakai by Friday, Jan. 22).

**Quiz.** Students must correctly answer at least 8 of 10 multiple choice questions about government structures. Students who fail must take makeup quizzes until they pass.

**Exams.** There will be two exams, consisting of definition questions and short answer questions asking you to apply concepts from lectures and readings. Exam 2 covers material presented after Exam 1. Exam raw scores will be adjusted upward if overall student scores are low.

**Reading Guides.** Every Friday by 6 pm, I will post a Reading Guide on Sakai. Reading Guides will have questions about the following week’s readings; for example, on Friday, Jan. 22, I will post a Reading Guide for Lectures 2 and 3. These questions will help you to read critically and to identify key concepts. Your recitation instructors will use the Reading Guides as the basis for in-class exercises. Our promise to you: If you can comfortably and competently write answers to all of the Reading Guide questions, you will have the skills you need to do well on the exams.

## Course Policies

**Academic Integrity.** DO YOUR OWN WORK! The point of college is to learn to do things yourself. This includes developing the skills to *judge* sources that you use and to use them properly. If you cheat or plagiarize, you will be investigated through the Rutgers Academic Integrity process and may fail the class.

**Late Papers.** We do not give extra credit assignments or accept revised papers or exams for re-grading. Instead, have us read drafts of your work before it is due. Late assignments lose the equivalent of half a letter grade for each calendar day late (e.g., from a B to a C+).

**Illness or Emergencies.** *If you will miss a deadline or exam due to illness or emergency, notify us on or before the due date.* Send your recitation instructor and Dr. Schoolman an email (with “PEI” in the subject line) AND report your absence to: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>.

**Disabilities.** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. Please visit this webpage if you have not registered already: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the ODS Registration form: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

**Learning Environment.** Some of the topics we discuss may provoke debate. We ask that everyone treat each other with respect.

**Finally... I can't enforce this rule, but for everyone's benefit,  
please consider TURNING YOUR PHONE OR TABLET OFF  
during lecture or recitation. You won't believe the difference it  
makes... for you and for everyone around you.**

Get Started!

Purchase the **Coursepack**. It's available from University Publishing Solutions. Three ways to get it: 1) Order it at [Upublishing.com](http://Upublishing.com) (search by course name or instructor name) and have it shipped; 2) Order it from [Upublishing.com](http://Upublishing.com) and pick it up in person at 302 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick; 3) Buy a copy at the downtown New Brunswick Barnes and Noble (it may not be available until the first full week of class).

Log onto <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>:

- Find course handouts, readings, and other materials under “Resources”
- The “Lessons” tab also contains readings, as well as lecture slides, organized by class number. Lecture slides will be posted before class—but not much before.

PART 1: WHY STUDY POLITICS?

Class	Date	Topic	Materials & Assignments
1	Jan. 20	Learning goals for the course	<u>Course Documents</u> (Sakai) Syllabus
2	Jan. 25	Values drive politics	<u>Readings</u> Layzer, <i>The Environmental Case</i> , pp. 1-5: “Introduction” & “The Clash of Values” (CP pp. 18-20 ) Leopold, <i>A Sand County Almanac</i> : “Land Health and the A-B Cleavage” & “The Outlook” (S)  <u>Course Documents</u> (Sakai) Paper Assignment Study Guide for Exam 1
3	Jan. 27	Politics moves the state... but rarely in a straight line	<u>Readings</u> Locke, “Of the Ends of Political Society and Government,” (S) Kraft, “The Role of Government and Politics” (S)... BRING copy to lecture! Petersen, “Congress and Charismatic Megafauna,” pp. 467-473: “Protecting Species Before the Endangered Species Act” (S)
4	Feb. 1	When politics fails... bad things happen	<u>Readings</u> Layzer, <i>The Environmental Case</i> , pp. 5-9: “How Activists Define Problems and Characterize Their Solutions” (CP pp. 18-22) Guber, “Rethinking Environmentalism” (S) Rizzo, “NJ Guts Lead Abatement Programs” (CP)
5	Feb. 3	Academic Integrity	<u>Readings</u> Rutgers Academic Policy (S) Rutgers Anti-harassment Brochure (S)  <b><u>Due in Lecture</u></b> <b>Paper Proposals</b>

	Feb. 4	Library Orientation (Time TBD)	The Chang Science Library has set aside time on Feb. 4 and Feb. 5 to orient members of this class to the library. You are strongly encouraged to attend one of these sessions, or to schedule your own orientation with a librarian!!
	Feb. 5	Library Orientation (Time TBD)	See above.
6	Feb. 8	Trust is earned: How to use evidence and avoid bias	<p><u>Readings</u>  Dessler, "Science, politics, and science in politics" (CP)  Fahrenheit, "Reining in the rumor about EPA 'drones'" (CP)</p> <p><u>Course Documents</u> (Sakai)  Steps for Finding Newspaper Articles  APA Style Guide FAQs and Tutorial</p>

PART 2: U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: PLAYERS, RULES, AND STRATEGY

Class	Date	Topic	Materials
7	Feb. 10	King, Queen, and Castle: The three branches of government	<p><u>Readings</u>  Layzer, <i>The Environmental Case</i>, pp. 9-13: "Major Actors in Environmental Policymaking: Govt. Decision Makers" (CP 22-24)  NJ League of Women Voters 2014, pp. 15-16 (<i>fed. govt.</i>), 26-28 (<i>state govt.</i>), 52-53 (<i>local govt.</i>) (S)  Sheppard, "Don't Like the New Climate Rules? Thank Congress" (S)</p>
8	Feb. 15	Knights: Insiders work the halls of government	<p><u>Readings</u>  Abramoff, "How to Get Your Perk into a Bill" (CP)  Anderson, "U.S. Will Provide Millions More in Storm Aid for New York" (S)  Rich, "The Lawyer Who Became DuPont's Worst Nightmare" (S)</p>

9	Feb. 17	Bishops: Outsiders wield big influence	<u>Readings</u> Layzer, <i>The Environmental Case</i> , pp. 13-18: “Actors Outside of Government” & “The Environmental Policymaking Process” (CP pp. 24-27) Dunlap and McCright, “Organized Climate Change Denial” (S)
10	Feb. 22	Pawns: A brief tour of political psychology	<u>Readings</u> Yale Project on Climate Change, “Global Warming’s Six Americas 2009: An Audience Segmentation Analysis,” pp. 1-12 (S) McCright and Dunlap, “The Polarization of U.S. Public Opinion on Climate Change” (S)
11	Feb. 24	Playing the game: Strategies and tactics	<u>Readings</u> Kaufman, “Enviros. Get Down to Earth” (S) Burnheim, “Power-Trading and the Environment” (CP) Shellenberger, “Death of Environmentalism,” pp. 29-31: “Getting Back on the Offensive” (S)  Please also review Layzer, <i>The Environmental Case</i> , pp. 16-18 (CP)  <b><u>Due in Lecture</u></b> <b>Revised Paper Proposals (if requested)</b>
12	Feb. 29	Not politics as usual! How art catalyzes social change	<u>Guest Lecture</u> Dan Swern, <i>Producing Director of coLab Arts, a New Brunswick-based arts organization</i>
13	Mar. 2	EXAM 1	<b><u>In Class</u></b> <b>Take Exam 1</b>

### PART 3: U.S. POLICY APPROACHES

Class	Date	Topic	Materials
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14	Mar. 7	Emphasizing extraction: Mining	<u>Readings</u> Princen, “The Ethical,” pp. 98-100: “The Current Fossil Fuel Ethic” (S) Fox, “Mountaintop Removal in West Virginia,” pp. 168-175: “West Virginia Coal Mining,” “Political Power of the Coal Companies,” & “West Virginia’s Weak Regime” (S) Macmillan, “Uranium Mines Dot Navajo Land” (S)
15	Mar. 9	Emphasizing extraction: Agriculture	<u>Readings</u> Auge, “Spoiled System: Eating Healthier Comes with a Price for Families” (CP)  <i>To Watch in Class</i> Video: “King Corn” (excerpts)
	Mar. 14	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
	Mar. 16	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
16	Mar. 21	Balancing extraction: “Leave it in the ground”	<u>Readings</u> Bozzi, “Appalachia Coal: The Campaign to End Mountaintop Removal Mining,” pp. 153-166: “Kentuckians for the Commonwealth” to end of article (S) Warrick, “As Solar Power Saps Earnings, Utilities Hit Back” (S)
17	Mar. 23	Balancing extraction: Sustainable farming	<u>Readings</u> Lyson, “Civic Agriculture and Community Agriculture Development” (S) Thompson, “Enchanting Ethical Consumerism,” pp. 275-292 (S)
18	Mar. 28	The politics of food: A farmer’s perspective	<u>Guest Lecture</u> <i>Sherry Dudas, Manager of Honeybrook Farm</i>

19	Mar. 30	Approaches to conservation: Habitats & ecosystems vs. single-species & animal rights	<p><u>Readings</u>  Bauer, “Crab Conundrum: The Unintended Consequences of a Moratorium” (S)  Perry, “Improving Interactions between Animals Rights Groups and Conservation Biologists” (CP)</p> <p><u>Guest Lecture</u>  <i>Dan Clark, doctoral candidate in the Department of Ecology, Evolution &amp; Natural Resources at Rutgers</i></p>
20	Apr. 4	From conservation to preservation	<p><u>Readings</u>  Pinchot, “Congressional Testimony on Proposed Hetch Hetchy Dam” (S)  Muir, “Dam Hetch Hetchy!” (S)  Barringer 2007, “Public Lands Surge in Off-Road Stirs Dust and Debate” (S)  National Atlas, “U.S. Fed. Public Lands Map” (S)</p>
21	Apr. 6	Controlling biological threats to health	<p><u>Readings</u>  Garrett, “Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health” (CP)</p> <p><u>Guest Lecture</u>  <i>Maria Espinoza, doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at Rutgers</i></p>
22	Apr. 11	Health threats we create: Changes in perception	<p><u>To Watch in Class</u>  <i>Video: “Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring”</i></p> <p><b><u>Due in Lecture Papers</u></b></p>
23	Apr. 13	Health threats we create: From perception to policy	<p><u>Readings</u>  Mazmanian, “The Three Epochs of the Environmental Movement,” pp. 7-12: “Focus on Environmental Epochs” (S)  Schapiro, “Exposed: The Toxic Chemistry of Everyday Products,” Chapter 1 (CP)  Haydon, “Chevron to Pay \$231,875 fine for air pollution violations, leaks at plant in Perth Amboy” (CP)</p>



PART 4: INTERNATIONAL AND NON-STATE FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

24	Apr. 18	International governance	<p><u>Readings</u>            Plummer, “Past Climate Treaties Failed. So the Paris Deal Will Try Something Radically Different” (S)            Urbina, “A Renegade Trawler, Hunted for 10,000 Miles by Vigilantes” (S)</p>
25	Apr. 20	Multilateral aid and its complications	<p><u>Readings</u>            Bearak, “New Bangladesh Disaster: Wells that Pump Poison (S)            Van Green, Bangladesh’s Deadly Wells” (S)</p> <p><u>Guest Lecture</u>  <i>Angela Oberg, doctoral candidate in the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers</i></p>
26	Apr. 25	Governance beyond laws and treaties	<p><u>Readings</u>            Shabecoff, “Environmentalists and the Economy (CP)            ECRA, Ethical Consumer Markets Report 2013 (S)            Szasz, <i>Shopping Our Way to Safety</i>, pp. TBD (S)</p>

PART 5: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

27	Apr. 27	Environmental justice	<p><u>Readings</u>            Maathai, “Trees for Democracy” (S)            Hay, “Understanding Flint’s Water Crisis” @ <a href="http://magazine.good.is/articles/flint-water-crisis-how-it-happened-and-what-we-can-do-to-prevent-it-from-happening-again">http://magazine.good.is/articles/flint-water-crisis-how-it-happened-and-what-we-can-do-to-prevent-it-from-happening-again</a> (S)</p>
28	May 2	To local or not to local?	<p><u>Readings</u>            Shuman, “Locally Owned Business” (S)            Allen, “Realizing Justice in Local Food Systems,” pp. 296-302: “Great Expectations” and “Spaces for Justice” to the end of the “Geography” subsection (S)</p>

**Date and location for Exam 2 will be announced in class.**