

## **COURSE INFORMATION:**

### **United States Environmental Policy**

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Spring 2015, [Click here to enter text.](#), [Click here to enter text.](#)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Instructor: Daniel J. Van Abs, PhD, PP/AICP, Associate Research Professor, Dept of Human Ecology

Office Location: Cook Office Building, 55 Dudley Road, Room 205

Office Hours: Spring 2015 Semester: TBD

Phone: 848-932-9243 (email contact preferred)

Email: [vanabs@sebs.rutgers.edu](mailto:vanabs@sebs.rutgers.edu)

## **COURSE MATERIALS:**

There is no textbook for this course. All materials are provided through the Sakai course site.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

To further develop student capacity to evaluate environmental policy issues, including: how policy issues rise to national action; the science and scientific controversies; major actors in U.S. environmental policy creation and their roles; the relationship between environmental policies and the context in which they operate; how budgets and public administration affect environmental policies; and how environmental policy issues reflect or do not reflect regional or factional differences. Given the enormous variety of environmental issues active at any one time, this course will focus on four high-profile issues as examples for learning about environmental policy development.

Lecture time will also be focused on agency roles and organization, financing and environmental standards. Students will discuss critical issues raised by the lectures, assignment development, and small group exercises. By the end of the class, students should have the ability to apply techniques of policy analysis to other environmental issues, including those for which they personally lack detailed knowledge. These skills are critical for anyone interested in broad-based environmental policy work, where professionals learn the details of the issues as you become involved with them. For those who will ultimately focus on a single environmental field, this course will help students understand how others may affect policy development in your field.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Students will:

- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and summarize environmental science issues that contribute to environmental policy conflicts
- Write a complete briefing memorandum on an environmental policy issue in a style appropriate for a professional setting
- Practice the application of a policy evaluation method to multiple environmental issues
- Discuss in small group exercises the policy implications of environmental issues from multiple viewpoints and interests
- Demonstrate an understanding of critical readings in environmental policy issues

## **ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES & ASSESSMENT:**

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Class participation is critical to the learning process. In addition, there will be interactive assignments, readings, and the development of a briefing paper on a major environmental issue (other than those listed above) in a style appropriate to be presented to a Member of Congress. Student briefing papers will be submitted in draft for review, and then in final written form and presented to the class.

Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

25%	Involvement in recitation section discussions. Attendance (lecture & recitation)
20%	Series of short assignments on issue analysis and readings
15%	Issue & Science paper
5%	Draft Briefing paper
25%	Final Briefing paper
10%	Briefing paper presentation

### **OTHER INFORMATION:**

Students will be responsible for adhering to the academic integrity policies found at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>.

It is important that students have the tools to succeed in this course. Please see the instructor \*as soon as possible\* with any difficulties or questions regarding the course materials. In addition, the Office of Student Affairs is available at <http://studentaffairs.rutgers.edu> for any other needs or concerns.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

See attached.

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