

**Syllabus GVPT 419B Advanced Topics in Environmental Policy Analysis**  
**Fall Semester 2014**  
**Classroom SQH 1117**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:15 PM**

**Instructor: Isabella Alcañiz**

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**Office: TYD3104A Department of Government and Politics (GVPT), University of Maryland**

**Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00 AM-12:00 PM and by appointment**

**Course Description:**

Students in this course will learn a series of critical tools and methods used to analyze environmental policy. It is an advanced course; students already must have comprehensive knowledge in environmental policy and must have taken GVPT 273 (which is a prerequisite of this course). This class should be of interest to students who are either considering a career or graduate studies in the field. Because the objective of the course is to understand various analytical tools used in environmental analysis, classes mostly will consist of applying these methods to actual cases. This course will resemble a graduate seminar, where students come to class having carefully read the assigned readings for the week before hand. Students are expected to be active participants in class discussion.

**Teaching Assistant (TA):**

We are lucky to have **Carla Beth Abdo** as course TA. A graduate student from the GVPT Department, Carla's own research is in gender, identity, and political participation in the Middle East. If you share similar interests, I encourage you to take advantage of her expertise. Information regarding her office hours follows.

Email: cabdo@umd.edu

Office Hours: 12-2PM Mondays and Wednesdays

Office: Tydings 5109

**Course Readings:**

We will use a variety of sources for our class readings, including research articles published in peer-reviewed journals, environmental policy reports by national and international organizations, and book chapters. All readings are available to you on Canvas in the weekly module (or folder) when they are due. Also, we will read a few chapters from textbooks on environmental policy: The Environmental Policy Paradox (Zachary A. Smith), Environmental Politics and Policy (Walter A. Rosenbaum), and The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy (Judith A. Layzer). These chapters can be found on Canvas as well. Finally, I will frequently post additional short readings, such as newspaper articles or any other class handout. Please make sure you check regularly the weekly modules for them.

**Course Evaluation** is based on the following:

**Participation (5% of final grade)**

To do well in participation you must come to class well prepared and ready to comment on the readings: pose questions, share your own take of the readings, help further and deepen discussion

with your classmates. If for any reason participating in class gives you concern, please come see me at the beginning of the semester and I will gladly help you with this.

**Special Note on Attendance:** As class participation is so important, it goes without saying that attendance is critical. You cannot get any credit for participation if you are not in the classroom. Regularly, I will check attendance at the beginning of class but please note that I will not count you present if you are late.

**One Short Policy Memo (15% of final grade)**

In this assignment, students are asked to choose one method to be applied to a given case study from the set of policy tools covered so far. The short memo will test students understanding of the criteria in choosing a method of analysis from the menu of appropriate policy tools. This first memo is due in class on Thursday, October 2nd. Students must bring to class a hard copy to turn in. The short policy memo should be two (2) pages long. Instructions will be posted on Canvas one week before the assignment is due.

**Two In-Class Exam (25% each)**

There will be two exams (one midway through the semester, the other at the end) where students will be tested on their knowledge of key concepts and policy tools. Exam dates are Thursday, October 23<sup>th</sup> and December TBA (the University official final examination schedule becomes available mid-semester on Testudo). We will have a review session on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> for the first one. To make good use of the review session, make sure you bring questions to class.

**One Final Policy Memo with Power Point Presentation (30% of final grade: 20% final memo, 10% class presentation)**

This final assignment gives students the opportunity to carry out in-depth research on an environmental policy of their choosing. Students will research one such environmental issue using one of the methods acquired over the semester and produce a five-page policy memo that meets professional standards. While this final written assignment is due in class on Thursday, December 11, students must present a detailed “progress report” at the end of the semester. That is, each student will give a five (5) minute power point presentation (which will be graded) of her or his work during the last 2 ½ weeks of class. I will provide specific guidelines for this assignment mid-semester, including the order of presentations.

Please note: For all policy memo assignments you will need to make sure you quote and cite properly all your sources and list all your bibliography in a separate page. The paper must follow proper citation rules. Please use the guidelines of the American Political Science Association when citing your bibliography. You can find them at: <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPSA.html> You are expected to do some outside research (beyond textbooks and assigned readings). Please only use reputable sources such as environmental policy journals or news sources like the NYT or the BBC- unfortunately, no Wikipedia allowed.

**Academic Honesty:**

Please read carefully the following statements from the UMD Teaching Policies and Guidelines: “The student-administered University Honor Code and Honor Pledge prohibits students from

cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents and forging signatures. On every examination, paper or other academic exercise not specifically exempted by the instructor, students must write by hand and sign the following pledge, “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment.” Compliance with the code is administered by the Student Honor Council, which strives to promote a community of trust on the College Park campus. Allegations of academic dishonesty should be reported directly to the Honor Council (4-8450) by any member of the campus community. For additional information, consult the Office of Student Conduct ([studentconduct.umd.edu](http://studentconduct.umd.edu)).”

**This course has a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. All potential violations will be forwarded to the Student Honor Council.**

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students who anticipate problems with fulfilling course requirements because of the way they see, hear, read, or get around campus should advise me within the first two weeks of class. Special arrangements will be made in cooperation with staff at the Disability Support Services (301-314-7651 or 301-314-7693 or [Dissup@umd.edu](mailto:Dissup@umd.edu))

**Week 1** September 2 and 4

*Go over syllabus and class expectations* (Tuesday)

*Defining the Policy Problem* (Thursday)

“The Problem of Policy Problems” (pp. 1-44) by B. Guy Peters and Hoornbeck (online version in Canvas, not 2005 published article)

“How a nested framework illuminates the challenges of comparative environmental analysis” by Eleanor K. Bors and Susan Solomon in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, May 7, 2013, vol. 110, no. 19, pp. 7531–7532

**Week 2** September 9 and 11

*Public Opinion and Environmental Regulation*

Chapters 2 and 3 (pp.8-58) by Zachary A. Smith, The Environmental Policy Paradox, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013

**Week 3** September 16 and 18

*Data and Measures Assessment*

“The United States and Climate Diplomacy: The Emerging Politics of Global Environmentalism” (pp. 363-394) by Walter A. Rosenbaum, Environmental Politics and Policy, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2011

“Mine Safety: Report on Coal Mine Dust Exposure” (pp. 1-24) by the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), August 17, 2012

**Week 4** September 23 and 25

*Cost-Benefit Analysis*

“More Choice: The Battle over Regulatory Economics” (pp. 162-191) by Walter A.

Rosenbaum, Environmental Politics and Policy, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2011

Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Environment: Introduction (pp.3-25) by Nick Hanley and Clive L. Spash, 1993

**Week 5** September 30 and October 2

***Short Policy Memo Assignment Due on Thursday October 2nd***

*Risk Assessment*

“Common Policy Challenges: Risk Assessment and Environmental Justice” (pp. 128-161) by Walter A. Rosenbaum, Environmental Politics and Policy, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2011

“Hydraulic Fracturing Threats to Species with Restricted Geographic Ranges in the Eastern United States” (pp. 1-12) by Jennifer L. Gillen and Erik Kiviat in Environmental Reviews and Case Studies, 2012

**Week 6** October 7 and 9

*Environmental Politics and Conflict (Guest Lecture by Carla B. Abdo)*

“State Rules: Oil Companies and Armed Conflict in Sudan”, by Luke Patey. The Danish Institute for International Studies, July 2007, pp.1-19

“Oil and Violence in Sudan”, by Jason Switzer. International Institute for Sustainable Development & IUCN-World Conservation Union Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, 2002, pp.1-19

Ch. 5 “Managing Water Conflict and Cooperation” Aaron Wolf et al. The World Watch Institute, 2005, pp.80-99

“The Geography of Water Conflict and Cooperation: Internal Pressures and International Manifestations.” Meredith Giordano et al. The Geographical Journal 168 (4), Water Wars? Geographical Perspectives, Dec., 2002, pp. 293-312

**Week 7** October 14 and 16

*Environmental and Social Impact Assessments*

“Cape Wind: If Not Here, Where? If Not Now, When?” (pp. 308-347) by Judith A. Layzer in The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy, Third Edition, 2012

“Dams and Development Project: Social Impact Assessment of Affected People-Final Report” (pp. I-XXVIII and 1-28) by the United Nations Environmental Program, 2007

**Week 8** October 21 and 23

*Midterm Review on Tuesday 21st*

***In-Class Exam on Thursday 23rd***

**Week 9** October 28 and 30

*Documentary on Water Security*

**Week 10** November 4 and 6

*Social Network Analysis in Natural Resource Management*

“Some Basic Structural Characteristics of Networks” (pp. 29-43) by Christina Prell in Social Networks and Natural Resource Management: Uncovering the Social Fabric of Environmental Governance, edited by Orjan Bodin and Christina Prell. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

“Social Network Models for Natural Resource Use and Extraction” (pp. 180-205) by Ken A. Frank in Social Networks and Natural Resource Management: Uncovering the Social Fabric of Environmental Governance, edited by Orjan Bodin and Christina Prell. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

**Week 11** November 11 and 13

*Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in Environmental Policy*

“Ecosystem-Based Management in the Chesapeake Bay” (pp. 447-487) by Judith A. Layzer in The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy, Third Edition, 2012.

“The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Monitoring and Evaluation Policy” by the GEF Evaluation Office, November 2010.

**Week 12** November 18 and 20

*Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)*

“Paying for Avoided Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon: from Cost Assessment to Scheme Design” (pp. 496-511) by J. Borner and S. Wunder in International Forestry Review 10 (3), 2008.

The United Nations Environmental Program 5<sup>th</sup> Global Environmental Outlook Report. June 2012.

**Week 13** November 25 (No class on the 27 –Thanksgiving)

*Power Point Presentations of Final Memos (Progress Report)*

**Week 14** December 2 and 4

*Power Point Presentations of Final Memos (Progress Report)*

**Week 15** December 9 and 11

*Power Point Presentations of Final Memos (Progress Report)*

**Final Memo Due in Class**

**Final Exam (@ SQH 1117) Date will be assigned mid-semester by Testudo**