

PLSI 157

Environmental Politics

Fall 2005

Instructor: Kenneth N. Hansen, Ph.D.

Class Days/Time: Tues-Thurs, 8:00-9:15 am

Room: Social Science 105

Office: McKee Fisk 218

Office Hours: MWF 2-4 pm, T/Th 7:30-8 am, and by appointment

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Course Description:

Examines theory, concepts, and practices in U.S. environmental politics and policy. Topics include ecological principles, the history and philosophy of environmentalism, the contemporary political conflict over environmental policy, and environmental policy analysis. This 3 unit course counts for elective credit for the MPA, MA, and undergraduate political science and public administration degrees. (Formerly PLSI 189T).

Course Goals:

This course surveys the recent history of environmentalism in the United States and explores the nature of policy making with regard to environmental and developmental issues. Several debates are presented such as conservation vs. preservation, multiple use vs. sustainability, intergovernmental policy implementation, eco-terrorism, and free-market environmentalism. Upon completion of this course students should be able to think, speak and write critically about environmental politics and policy.

Course Requirements:

Participation—20%

Four Examinations—80%

Required Texts:

Brown, Lester. 2003. *Plan B*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Gonzalez, George A. 2001. *Corporate Power and the Environment*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Rosebraugh, Craig. 2004. *Burning Rage of a Dying Planet*. New York: Lantern Books.

VanDeVeer, Donald and Christine Pierce. 2003. *The Environmental Ethics and Policy Book*, 3rd ed. Wadsworth.

Additional readings on reserve at the library.

Students will conform to University policies concerning cheating, plagiarism, copyright violations and computer use. Any evidence of cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of F for the course. Please consult the *Catalog* or Class Schedule for further clarification.

Any student who requires some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements due to a disabling condition must contact the instructor as soon as possible so that the necessary accommodations can be made. Students must present an official Accommodation Letter from the CSUF Services for Students with Disabilities office in order to receive special arrangements.

Students who plan to miss class for religious observances are required to submit in writing those days which they intend to miss prior to the completion of the first week of classes.

Evaluations

Participation: Students are evaluated on the quality of their preparation and their substantive contribution to class discussions. Weekly readings should be done prior to class. Short quizzes will be given most weeks. If students are not prepared or do not contribute to the class discussion other assignments may be given, which will be factored into the participation grade. **There are no make-ups for missed quizzes or other assignment deadlines.**

Examinations: The exams will cover all readings prior to the exam date (or since the previous exam) and will be in-class essay exams. Students will be required to discuss and analyze course readings. Bring a blue essay exam book and a pen. If for some reason you must miss an exam, you must notify the professor in advance so that a make-up can be arranged. **Make-ups are given during office hours, or by appointment at the convenience of the professor, not the student.**

Grading

There is no grading curve in this class. There is no extra credit in this class. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the date assigned. **Late work will not be accepted.** If you plan to miss class the day an assignment is due, be sure you turn it in early. Attendance is taken but will only be counted in borderline situations. Of course, failure to attend class has a direct impact on the participation grade and an indirect impact on other assignments. Please consult the *Catalog* or Class Schedule for details on the University's add/drop policy and how it pertains to course grading. Grades for all assignments will be based on the following scale:

A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=0-59%.

Tips for doing well on written work

Don't be intimidated. If you are prepared and know the material you should do just fine. You should focus your studies on the main concepts presented in the material rather than the details. Use of argument and persuasion is acceptable but please keep in mind that there is a difference between good argument and being argumentative. Remember you are being graded on your understanding and analysis of the material, not your personal opinion, so stay off the soapbox. Spelling and grammar count, so learn to proofread and use your spellchecker.

An "A" essay/paper should include all relevant points and be well written and organized, with few grammatical and spelling errors. It should also demonstrate superior thought, insight and

analysis of the material.

A “B” essay/paper should include most of the relevant points and also be well written and organized, with few grammatical and spelling errors. It should also demonstrate your understanding of the material.

A “C” essay/paper should include most of the relevant points and demonstrate your understanding of the material.

A “D” essay/paper is one in which few relevant points are made, is poorly written and organized and shows little thought or understanding on the part of the author.

An “F” essay/paper is one that does not follow instructions or answer the question adequately enough to pass, or answers another question that was not asked. Writing that is unintelligible or illogical will result in an “F.” **Failure to turn in written work on time will result in an “F.”**

Code of student conduct

College is for adults. Our major courses of study are not entitlement programs. Students are encouraged to behave in a professional manner and be courteous to each other and to the instructor. Anyone who is rude or disruptive will be asked to leave. If you are asked to leave, assume you are done for the semester because you will not be welcomed back. Please make every effort to attend regularly and on time. If this is a problem, please keep the instructor apprised as to your situation. The professor does not allow recording of class lectures/discussions unless required to do so under the ADA. Please do not bring electronic devices to class that might disrupt the class unexpectedly.

The professor reserves the right to reschedule or restructure this syllabus as needed. In the event there is a conflict between University policies and this syllabus, the course will be modified to conform to University requirements.

Course Schedule

- Aug 23-25: Introduction to Environmental Ethics, Politics, Policy and the Gaia Hypothesis
VanDeVeer & Pierce, Section I
- Aug 30-Sep 1: Western perspectives and Native views
VanDeVeer & Pierce, Section II; Stransky (2000) on reserve
- Sep 6-8: Economic pressures on the environment
VanDeVeer & Pierce, Section V: C, D & E
- Sep 13-15: Free-Market Environmentalism and Private Property Rights
VanDeVeer & Pierce, Section V: A & B
- Sep 20-22: Animal Rights
VanDeVeer & Pierce, Section III
- Sep 27: Environmental Ethics
VanDeVeer & Pierce, Section IV
- Sep 29: **Exam 1**
- Oct 4-6: Speciation and Genetic Engineering
VanDeVeer & Pierce, Section VI: A & B

- Oct 11-13: Conservation, Preservation and Consumption
VanDeVeer & Pierce, Section VI: C & D
- Oct 18-20: Crisis & Response
VanDeVeer & Pierce, Section V: E and Section VI
- Oct 25: **Exam 2**
- Oct 27: No Class. Access the *Green Theory and Praxis* website and write a brief (~3 pp.)
comparative critique of the articles published there:
<http://greentheoryandpraxis.csufresno.edu/main.asp>
- Nov 1-3: U.S. Environmental Policy Making
Downs (1972); Kingdon (1984) on reserve
- Nov 8-10: U.S. Environmental Policy Making, continued
Gonzalez, entire
- Nov 15-17: Eco-Terrorism (?)
Rosebraugh, entire.
- Nov 22: **Exam 3**
- Nov 24: Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 29-Dec 1: Eco-economics and policy solutions
Brown, Chs. 1, 7-11
- Dec 6-8: Eco-wars and Environmental Security
Liotta (2002); Hansen & Somma (2005) on reserve
- Dec 15: **Final Exam 8:45-10:45 am (Thursday)**