

PSCI 3801 A
Environmental Politics
Tuesday 8:35 a.m. – 11:25 p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Kimberly Bittermann

Office: B 647 Loeb

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. or by appointment (please e-mail)

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Course description

This course introduces students to the history, development, and current form of environmental issues, focusing on the Canadian context. It examines how environmental issues are framed and what some of the implications of those framings are. The aim of the course is to provide an overview of significant environmental actors, writers, events, and processes and an understanding of key concepts and debates in environmental politics.

Class Structure

Each class will be structured around a lecture, an analysis of current environmental news headlines (where relevant), a film or part of a film, and a discussion of the readings for that class.

Learning objectives

- Become familiar with the development of environmental issues and debates, particularly in Canada
- Build the skills of critical environmental policy analysis
- Apply critical analysis to current events

Texts

All reading materials are either on reserve at MacOdrum Library or available through cuLearn

Evaluation

Participation/Quizzes	20%
Essay Outline (due Feb. 4 th)	15%
Essay (due March 17 th)	30%
Final Exam	35%

Participation/Quizzes (20%)

Class attendance is mandatory for this course. Absences will only be excused if you can provide suitable documentation (e.g. a doctor's note). From time to time there will be quizzes in class that will be based on the readings or the previous lecture. I will use these quizzes to help me determine the class participation mark.

Essay Outline (15%)— 1000 words

This assignment is to develop an outline for your final paper. You will need to identify the article(s) you will be using and provide a preliminary bibliography. Your outline should state your tentative thesis, and provide the topic sentences for 5-6 paragraphs that will sustain your thesis. Your final essay

project is to critically analyze how a news article has been framed. Your outline should clearly identify the logical steps that you will take to do this. **As well, it should include a hard copy of the article you are using for your paper. The essay outline is due at the beginning of class on Feb. 4th with the word count noted on the cover page.**

Essay (30%) – 2000-2500 words

For this assignment, your task is to take a current environmental news article and analyze it drawing from the insights you have gained from the study of environmental issues this term. You will need to find an appropriate news story in the *Weekly Guardian* or *Yale Environment 360* that has been published since 1 September 2019. You will need to reference the article in your bibliography and include a hard copy of it when you submit your paper. If you wish to use another source, you will need to clear it with me first. Your paper should provide a critique of how the article was framed and an analysis of the potential consequences of that framing. I will provide examples of how you might do this from time to time in my lectures. You will need to use at least 3 academic sources to support your analysis with one of those sources being either the reading by Donald Worster or the reading by James Scott. **The essay is due at the beginning of class on March 17th with the word count noted on the cover page. You are expected to submit your graded essay outline along with this second essay. Failure to do so will result in the loss of 2/3 of a letter grade (e.g. B- to C).**

Marking: Your paper will be marked on the basis of content, organization, argumentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar. Papers that fail to state and develop a thesis will not receive a passing grade.

Late essays (only) may be submitted to the Political Science department's mail box outside B640 Loeb and will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per business day (e.g. a B paper handed in two days late would be reduced to a C+). Retain a copy of all written assignments. The departmental drop box cut off time is 4pm. Any assignments submitted after 4pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

Final Exam (35%)

Class Schedule

PART 1 (weeks 1-2): Analytical Tools

Week 1 (January 7)

Course overview

Required reading:

This syllabus

Week 2 (January 14)

Framing and narratives in environmental politics

Required reading:

- Donald Worster, "The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History," (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988) 3-20.
- Ed Struzik, "Fire-Induced Storms: A New Danger from the Rise in Wildfires," *Yale Environment 360*, (24 January 2019).

PART 2 (weeks 3-6): Environmental Issues in a Canadian and World Context

Week 3 (January 21)

The politics of forestry

Films:

- Robert Anderson and Fernand Ménard, “Serial Attack on Spruce Budworm,” in *Eyewitness* Series no. 67, National Film Board of Canada, 1954. (10 minutes)
- Neal Livingston, *Herbicide Trials*, DVD, National Film Board of Canada, 1984.

Required reading:

- James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998): 1-52.

Week 4 (January 28)

The politics of fisheries

Film:

- Nigel Markham, *Taking Stock*, DVD, National Film Board of Canada, 1994.

Required reading:

- Rosemary Ommer, “One Hundred Years of Fisheries Crises in Newfoundland,” *Acadiensis* 23:2 (Spring 1994): 5-20.
- Charles Clover, *The End of the Line: How Overfishing is Changing the World and What We Eat*, (New York: The New Press, 2006): 1-23 and 41-53.

Week 5 (February 4)

Environmental activism in Canada

Film:

- Michael Maclear and Shelley Saywell, *The Greenpeace Years*, DVD, National Film Board of Canada, 1991.

Required reading:

- Andrea Olive, *The Canadian Environment in Political Context*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016): 77-98.
- Rex Weyler, *Greenpeace: An Insider's Account* (London: Rodale, 2004): 55-90.

Week 6 (February 11)

The rise of a global environmentalism

Film:

- Terre Nash, *Marilyn Warring on the Environment*, DVD, National Film Board of Canada, 1996. (26 min)

Required reading:

- James Meadowcroft and James Forino, eds., *Conceptual Innovation in Environmental Policy*, (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2017): 53-76.
- James Meadowcroft, “Reaching the limits? Developed country engagement with sustainable development in a challenging conjuncture”

Winter Break – February 17-21

PART 3 (weeks 7-12): Contemporary Environmental Issues

Week 7 (February 25)

Toxins in the environment and environmental racism

Film:

- Patrick McGuire and Rafael Katigbak, *Canada's Toxic Chemical Valley*, Vice Media Inc., 2013.

Required reading:

- Dayna Nadine Scott, “‘Gender-benders’: Sex and Law in the Constitution of Polluted Bodies,” *Feminist Legal Studies* 17:3 (2009): 241–265.
- Marla Cone, *Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic* (New York: Grove Press, 2005): 144-159.

Week 8 (March 3)

Climate change on (and off) the political agenda

Film:

- Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, *Merchants of Doubt*, DVD, Directed by Robert Kenner, Mongrel Media Inc., 2014.

Required reading:

- Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, “The Denial of Global Warming,” in *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming*, (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2010): 169-215.

Week 9 (March 10)

Business politics and environmental change

Film:

- Mark Achbar, Bart Simpson, *The Corporation*, DVD, Directed by Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbott, Big Picture Media Corporation, 2003.

Required reading:

- Jonathan Watts and John Vidal, “Environmental defenders being killed in record numbers globally, new research reveals.” *The Guardian*, (13 July 2017).
- John Vidal, “As water scarcity deepens across Latin America, political instability grows,” *The Guardian*, (1 March 2017).

Week 10 (March 17)

Part 1: Agricultural in crisis – soil health, biodiversity, and climate change

Film:

- Robert Kenner, Elise Pearlstein, and Kim Roberts, *Farm Inc.*, DVD, Directed by Robert Kenner, Magnolia Pictures, 2007.

Required reading:

- John Vidal, “Farming mega-mergers threaten food security, say campaigners,” *The Guardian*, 26 March 2016.

- Jennifer Clapp, Peter Newell, and Zoe Brent, “The Global Political Economy of Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Systems” *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 45:1 (2017): 80-88.

Week 11 (March 24)

Part 2: Agricultural in crisis – soil health, biodiversity, and climate change

Film:

- Robert Kenner, Elise Pearlstein, and Kim Roberts, *Farm Inc.*, DVD, Directed by Robert Kenner, Magnolia Pictures, 2007.

Required reading:

- George Monbiot, “We’re treating soil like dirt. It’s a fatal mistake, as our lives depend on it,” *The Guardian*, (25 March 2015).
- David Montgomery, *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2017): 1-40.

Week 12 (March 31)

Back to local – small places can make big changes

Required reading:

- Shawn William Miller, *An Environmental History of Latin America*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007): 167-192
- TBA

Guest Speaker

Week 13 (April 7)

Review

Academic Accommodations

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your

Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of “F” for the course. Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment

returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society

"The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.
