Political Science 499-335
Directed Study Substitution for Environmental Politics and Policy
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

Spring, 2007
Every other Wednesday
12:00nn-12:30pm
UCB 355

Instructor: Dr. Todd Belt
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Email: tbelt@hawaii.edu
Website: http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/~tbelt/pols499-335.html
Office: UCB 355
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm, and by appointment.

Course Description
This course will address the environmental and resource problems facing society today. Topics covered will include air and water pollution, energy development and land use. Special attention will be paid to the role of government and the private sector in solving these environmental challenges. Additionally, we will analyze the roles of the courts, congress, the president, the mass media, public opinion, corporations and interest groups in the formation and implementation of environmental policy.

Goals of the Course
Upon completion of this course, you should be able to do the following:

➢ You will understand the various environmental problems facing the world.
➢ You will understand the resource management challenges (such as oil), facing the world.
➢ You will be able to explain the role that different political institutions, actors, and other forces play in the play in the crafting of environmental policy.
➢ You will become familiar with the implementation processes involved the enforcement of environmental policy.
➢ You will be able to discuss the role of nonprofit organizations, interest groups, privatization, and government regulations in determining environmental policy, quality of life, and ownership of environmental technology.

Required Texts
All readings will be distributed to the student directly. There will be no need to purchase any books.

Student Responsibilities and Requirements
There are three requirements for this course:

1. **Short Written Assignments.** Every two weeks (with the exception of weeks where the term paper outline, the term paper itself, and midterm or final exams are due) a short written assignment will be due. Assignments are to be typed and turned in during a meeting with the instructor. An assignment sheet specifying the requirements of the assignment will be distributed two weeks prior to the due date.

2. **Examinations.** There are two examinations (one midterm and a final). The examinations will consist of take-home essay questions.

3. **Term Paper.** Analyze a the role of different actors in one environmental issue domain (air, water, oil, etc.). In order to do this, you must not only explain what the policy is, but why it is what it is and how it is enforced. You should perform your analysis based upon concepts and theories learned in class. The paper is to be 8-10 pages in length and must include at least five sources. Do not be afraid of the library. You may only cite internet resources if they reflect legitimate sources of information (such as newspaper articles). You may cite course readings, but they will not count toward the requisite five sources. The paper must:
• be typewritten in 12 point Times Roman font
• be double spaced with 1 inch margins on top, bottom, and both sides
• include a title and cover page (do not include a cover, just staple your paper)
• include a bibliography page
• done in the citation style of your choice (footnotes or parenthetical – be consistent)
• include page numbers
• include an introduction, body, and a conclusion

Evaluation Method and Grading Policy
The instructor’s evaluation of student performance will be guided by the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➢ In order to earn an Excellent (A) grade, a student must demonstrate mastery of all of the factual material, be able to apply and in fully integrate theories and concepts, and demonstrate clear organization of ideas and arguments.

➢ In order to earn a Good (B) grade, a student must demonstrate mastery of nearly all of the factual material, demonstrate some application and integration of theories and concepts, and demonstrate clear organization of ideas and arguments.

➢ In order to earn a Satisfactory (C) grade, a student must demonstrate mastery of most of the factual material and demonstrate clear organization of ideas and arguments.

➢ In order to earn a Poor (D) grade, a student must demonstrate mastery of most of the factual material.

➢ In order to earn a Failing (F) grade, a student must not demonstrate adequate knowledge of the factual material.

Students will be evaluated by the instructor and will receive a letter grade for each of the course requirements:

Four Short Assignments 30% (7.5% each)
Two Examinations 40% (20% each)
Term Paper 30%

Grade weighting method: The grade a student receives for each requirement will be converted to grade points and weighted by the corresponding percentage (see above). The final value will be rounded to the closest Grade Point assignment and the corresponding grade will be recorded as the student’s final grade in the course.
Other Course Policies and Notes

Student Consultation Policy (Office Hours)
Students are my highest priority. I want every student to do well. I am always happy to meet with students who need help. My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus, and I am available for drop-in consultation at that time. If you need to see me but cannot make it during my normal office hours, please schedule an appointment with me. Sometimes my office door is left open at other times during the week, and you can drop-in to talk if it is. If my door is closed, I may or may not be available to speak with you (please knock to find out). If you want to schedule an appointment with me, you may see me before or after class, call me or email me. When you email me, please be sure to say who you are and the class in which you are enrolled.

Academic Integrity Policy
Academic honesty is required of all students. Each student is responsible for understanding and following campus policies on academic honesty. Academic dishonesty defrauds all those who depend on the integrity of University courses and is a serious offense. The UHH Catalog defines academic dishonesty as:

“Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another’s idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; purchasing term papers; or drylabbing, which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms, or fabricating data to fit the desired or expected results” (p. 65-66).

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Note that submitting the same paper for more than one course without the prior approval of both instructors is considered to be a case of academic dishonesty. You must use quotation marks (“these things”) if you are directly copying another author’s words. Simply citing the author is not enough unless you are paraphrasing (rewriting the idea in your own words). Copying material off of websites and pasting it in your paper is plagiarism. You are encouraged to paraphrase wherever possible, as it is preferable to using too many quotes. If plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty (including cheating on examinations) is suspected, the incident will be thoroughly investigated. If you are caught cheating in any form or plagiarizing any part of a test, paper, or other assignment, you will receive an “F” for the course (not just the assignment) and may be reported to the University administration for further possible action, including expulsion from the university.

Late Assignment Policy
Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class of the day assigned. Assignments that are turned in during or at the end of class will be treated as late. A late assignment is to be turned in directly to me at the next class meeting (do not slide it under my door or attach it to the clip outside my office door). Do not email your assignment. The assignment will be deducted one full letter grade for every class period it is late. Missing assignments or exams will result in an “F” for the assignment plus a full letter grade deduction in the student’s final grade. Thus, it is far better to turn an assignment in late than not to turn it in at all. See the course website for any missed handouts.

Note on Disability Services
I will do everything possible to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the University Disability Services Office—Hale Kauanoe A Wing Lounge, 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY), shirachi@hawaii.edu. Please do so as early in the semester as possible.

Note on Academic Advising
Advising is a very important resource designed to help students complete the requirements of the University and their individual majors. Students should consult with their advisor at least once per semester in order to decide upon courses, check progress towards graduation, and discuss their career options and other educational opportunities provided by UH Hilo. Advising is a shared responsibility, but students have the final responsibility for meeting degree requirements. You can visit your advisor here: http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/advising/advisors
Course Outline

For Week 3. Visualizing the Relationship between Man and Nature
Due: Short Assignment #1.

For Week 5. Progress vs. The Environment
Reading: Chs. 1-4, 14 from *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson (1962).
Due: Short Assignment #2.

For Week 7. Environmental Politics and Environmental Belief Systems
Due: Short Assignment #3.

Due: Midterm Exam.

For Week 11. Specific Policies II: Animals, Food and GMOs
Reading: Chs. 5-7 of *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser (2002);
Movie: *The Future of Food*
Due: Short Assignment #4.

For Week 13. Environmentalism and Social Justice
Reading: Chs. 1-3 of *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality* (3d ed.)
Due: Term Paper Outline.

For Week 15. Enforcement, Evaluation and Problem Solving
Reading: Pp. 265, 268-71 from *Environmental Politics and Policy* by Brent Steel, Richard Clinton and Nicholas Lovrich (2003);
Ch. 7 of *Environmental Policy and Politics* (3rd ed.) by Micheal Kraft (2004);
Due: Term Paper.

For Finals Week. The Future of Environmental Challenges and Policy
Reading: Chs. 1 and 4 of *Toxic Sludge is Good for You!* by John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton (1995);
Ch. 8 of *Environmental Policy and Politics* (3rd ed.) by Micheal Kraft (2004);
Due: Final Exam, due Wednesday, May 9 between 11:30am and 12:00noon in my office (UCB 355).