



Political Science – Orillia 2015

PS3332 WAO – ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-4:00PM, Orillia Academic, Room 2015

Instructor: Dr. D. West

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00PM-2:30PM or by appointment

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Focus and Scope

This course has been developed to provide an understanding of environmental policy making discourse vis-à-vis its socio-political implications in Canada. Policy-making in Canadian environmental sector, as in other arenas, is a complex process that involves diverse issues, multiple actors, wide-ranging jurisdictions, legislative authority, globalization, and the role of special interest groups. Two case studies, incorporated in the course, aims to demonstrate the convoluted institutional interface in which environmental policies are formulated, implemented and assessed in Canada. The course will also examine contemporary questions, civil society concerns and emerging institutional frameworks for policy-making and implementation.

Students in this course will abide by the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures published by Lakehead University.

The course aims to help the students to develop their skills and knowledge to be earned in the following areas:

1. To introduce you to various concepts from the environmental policy literature (e.g., sustainability, risk, corporate social responsibility, environmental policy instruments);
2. To analyse environmental policymaking in the context of political science theories concerning the impact of ideas, institutions, and interests;
3. To give you more in depth knowledge of particular environmental controversies (e.g., climate change, water security, toxic chemicals);
4. To allow you to build analytical models to reflect and understand human/environment interactions
5. To provide opportunities for you to practise and improve your written and oral communication, policy analysis and research skills.

Learning Objectives - Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

1. Introduce a conceptual framework on environmental policy,
2. Outline the constitutional-legal proceedings affecting Canadian environmental policy,
3. Draw the contemporary institutional approach on Canadian environmental management,
4. Examine the role of internal and external policy actors,
5. Scrutinize inter-governmental relations in environmental policy atmosphere,
6. Facilitate policy analysis using recent provincial and federal case studies on environment.
7. Develop data gathering techniques involving focus group work

Readings and Class Format: All readings will be posted on Desire2Learn. Tuesday class will be lecture and Thursday class will be discussion of the Assigned Readings

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Everyone taking the course will be required to complete **THREE** assignments:

PRESENTATIONS	TWO X PRESENTATIONS	20%
ARTICLE SUMMARIES	TWO X 5 PAGE ARTICLE SUMMARIES	40%
COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING OR RESEARCH PAPER	STUDENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED A COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT OR STUDENTS WILL CHOOSE TO RESEARCH AND WRITE A 10-12 PAGE (DOUBLE-SPACED, 12 POINT FONT) RESEARCH PAPER	40%
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each assignment submitted must be an independent and original piece of work.• Please note that it is your responsibility to contact the Instructor if your assignment will be late.• Late assignments without prior authorization will be automatically marked down 5% each week late, until a maximum of 6 weeks late or 30% reduction.	

CLASS SCHEDULE

JANUARY 6 – INTRODUCTION – NEGOTIATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS

JANUARY 8 – INTRODUCTION TO POLICY STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

JANUARY 13-15 – INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE ENVIRONMENT/LAND

JANUARY 20-22 – ENVIRONMENTAL THEORY

JANUARY 27-29 – CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 3-5 – CANADIAN FEDERALISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

FEBRUARY 10-12 – PROJECT PRESENTATIONS – PRELIMINARY REPORTS

FEBRUARY 16-20 – READING WEEK

FEBRUARY 24-26 – BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN NORTH AMERICA

MARCH 3-5 – GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

MARCH 10-12 - LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

MARCH 17-19 – INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE ENVIRONMENT/LAND – MOVING FORWARD

MARCH 24-APRIL 2 – TWO WEEKS OF FINAL STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

APRIL 7 – EXAM REVIEW

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

- 1. LU COMMUNITY GARDENS EXPANSION –
FACULTY/STUDENT/COMMUNITY**
- 2. MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM SUPPORT**
- 3. GANARASKA TRAIL - MOU**
- 4. SCOUT VALLEY – USE BY FACULTY/STUDENT
SERVICES**
- 5. LU GARDEN VOLUNTEER MAINTENANCE –
COMPOST SERVICE**
- 6. KIDS FOR TURTLES TURTLE NESTING PROGRAM**
- 7. FISHING POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR A
HALIBURON PROPERTY OWNER’S ASSOCIATION**
- 8. WASTE WATER TREATMENT – CLASS 1
OUTHOUSE/PRIVY POLICY**
- 9. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE IN ORILLIA**
- 10. FOOD CO-OP FOR ORILLIA**

Each CSL project will have 3 participants and 3 components:

1-Policy component – the development of a policy related to the project

2-Theoretical component – the situation of the project in an environmental ideological context

3-Practical component – the development of a plan or product

Students will also maintain a reflective diary throughout the project