

POLI 3332 WDE

Environmental Policy in Canada

Winter 2021

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1. Course Description

In this course we are going to examine how the environmental policy process in Canada works. Students will become familiar with Canadian environmental organizations and government structures, the courts' interpretation of environmental legislation, and the historic development of, and changes associated with, the environmental movement in Canada and in North America. We will also be identifying and evaluating some of the environmental-policy tools that governments have used or might use in the future. These policy tools include regulation, environmental assessment, and mediation (multi-stakeholder discussions and bargaining) as well as market-based tools such as environmental taxes and user fees, green products, environmental subsidies (to recycling, for example), and subsidy removals (from extractive industries or energy-inefficient modes of transportation, for example). Throughout the course, we will refer to specific case studies that illustrate the distinctive and challenging nature of environmental policymaking, politics and governance in Canada. The course also emphasizes the importance of ideas, institutions, interests, inequality and power in environmental policy formation, implementation and effectiveness.

2. Required Texts

VanNijnatten, D.L. 2016. *Canadian Environmental Policy and Politics: The Challenges of Austerity and Ambivalence*, 4th Edition. Oxford University Press.

3. Grading, Expectations, and Assignments

Your marks for the course will be based on the following components:

- 1. Participation and Attendance (20%):** Students who attend and participate have an opportunity to earn up to 20% for their time and effort.
- 2. Mid-Term Paper (20%):** A short paper analysis **due February 12, 2021**. Must be roughly 2-3 pages in length, not including the title page, bibliography, etc. (approx. 500 to 750 words). I will provide detailed instructions for this assignment on a separate document. Students are free to choose any topic they prefer provided their essay engages with the terms and concepts from the readings. Please email me with your topic idea before writing your paper.

4. Final Paper (30%): a 5–7-page essay (approx. 1250 to 1750 words). **Due on April 13, 2021.** Students are free to choose any topic they prefer provided their essay does not cover the same topic as the first essay and still engages with the terms and concepts from the readings. Please email me with your topic idea before writing your paper.

5. Online Final Exam (30%): A “take-home” open-book exam **will be open on D2L April 21, 2021, for the full 24 hours.** You will have two hours to complete it. The exam will test students on the terms and concepts covered in the course. It will have two parts: Section one will consist of short answer questions which require students to define specific terms and discuss their relevance for Canadian environmental policy. Section two will consist of short answer type questions that require students to provide longer and more detailed answers.

4. E-mail

E-mail will be answered within two business days.

I welcome e-mail queries and comments. All students are required to have a valid Lakehead e-mail address. It is your responsibility to maintain your e-mail address in good working order. The University expects you to correspond with me through your official e-mail address, and not through a commercial e-mail account.

Failure to receive important class announcements and messages from me because of a faulty e-mail account (for example, an account which screens out my e-mails as junk mail; bounced messages because of overloaded caches) are not legitimate excuses.

Forwarding your Lakehead email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of e-mail account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from your Lakehead addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that e-mails from me may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

5. Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me, and/or Accessibility Services. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

6. Essays

You are to complete two essays, one in first section, and one in the second. The goal of each essay is to provide a clear, concise response (argument) to the research question backed by rational consideration of the evidence.

Summarize your response (argument) in a sentence or two – the thesis statement – and appear in the first paragraph of your essay. Be explicit. The reader should be clear on what you are arguing. Assume an educated reader. Do not spend more than a few paragraphs providing background information. Focus on providing information that advances your argument. While the balance of the paper will defend your argument, you should also acknowledge counterarguments and seek to demonstrate that your argument is superior.

7. Formatting bibliographies, references

You can use whatever citation style you prefer in your paper. The written assignments should all be double-spaced in 12pt Times New Roman font with standard margins. Essays should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and complete bibliography. Include a title page with your name, the date, the course number, and my name.

In completing the written assignments, students must cite all facts and figures that are not common knowledge and must cite all ideas that are borrowed from other authors. Students must use a recognized standard format correctly in their bibliographies, references, and footnotes. Failure to do so will result in a penalty in calculating your assignment grade.

The University takes instructional offences (including plagiarism) very seriously. Please make sure that you are familiar with the regulations regarding instructional offences. Also, it is not acceptable to submit the same assignment in two different courses.

8. Late Penalties

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day including weekends. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date. If you require an extension or accommodation, please email me.

9. Course Schedule

The first class of each week – the Tuesday - will involve a lecture and brief discussion. The second class of each week – the Thursday – will be more of a discussion taking up the questions that conclude each reading of the textbook.

Week 1 (January 12 & 14)

Introductions

Syllabus Review

Questions and Answers

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 1.1 Environmentalism and Austerity in Canada: Electoral Effects

“Climate change and a path forward for Canada”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tj_2507rv4

Week 2 (January 19 & 21)

Chapter 1.2: The Environmental Movement in Canada: Current Challenges

“David Suzuki wants Canada to embrace renewable energy before it's too late”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4HMa2YNpw>

Week 3 (January 26 & 28)

Chapter 1.3: The Current (Post-Staples?) State of Canada's Resource Industries

“Rex Murphy: The Biggest Threat To The Resource Sector Is The Government”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQTVhdHFZRQ>

Week 4 (February 2 & 4)

Chapter 1.4: Environmental Law in the Time of Austerity

“Environmental Law: A Very Short Introduction”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nq3racsBxg0>

Week 5 (February 9 & 11)

Chapter 1.5: Implementing Environmental Policy in Canada

“Noront Resources 'poster child' of all that's gone wrong with resource development in Ontario”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-p1VV6XQ4U>

Week 6 (February 16 & 18) Break/Reading Week - No Classes.

Week 7 (February 23 & 25)

Chapter 1.6: Science and Canadian Environmental Policy

“Karl Popper, Science, & Pseudoscience”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-X8XfI0JdTQ>

Week 8 (March 2 & 4)

Chapter 2.7: The Struggle of the Canadian Federal Government to Institutionalize Sustainable Development

“Canada and the Sustainable Development Goals”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wVAY7aSTXU>

Week 8 (March 9 & 11)

Chapter 2.8: Federalism, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Environment

“Checking in with Canada's Environment Minister”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEns3JCh0e8>

March 12: Deadline for Course Withdrawal

Week 10 (March 16 & 18)

Chapter 2.10: Aboriginal People and Environmental Regulation: Land Claims Co-Management Boards in the Territorial North

“Canada and the Sustainable Development Goals”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eewPeioutOY>

Week 11 (March 23 & 25)

Chapter 3.15: Water Policy in Canada: The Great Lakes Case

“The Dirty Secret at the Bottom of the Great Lakes: Oil & Water”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic9NcKtEPGs>

Week 12 (March 30 & April 1)

Chapter 3:17 Environmental. Policy and Politics: The Case of Oil

“Pipelines, Power and Democracy”

https://www.nfb.ca/film/pipelines_power_and_democracy/

Week 13 (April 6 & 8)

Chapter 3.18: Conserving Canada’s Biodiversity in the Twenty-First Century: Challenges at the Science-Policy Interface

“Who is an Environmentalist?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7D9yJPkneG0>

Week 14 (April 13)

Review