Lectures: Wednesday, 2:30-4:20 PM, Abramsky Hall 2
Tutorials: Friday, 2:30-4:30 PM, Abramsky Hall 2
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OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

This course aims to familiarize students with how governments develop, implement and evaluate policies designed to manage activities relevant to the environment. This will assist students in developing an understanding of how social and political aspects of the environment relate to its scientific aspects, with which they are likely more acquainted. The course emphasizes the planning and development phases of environmental policy, often referred to as “policy-making.” It examines the interrelated roles of law, governance, politics, administration and economics, among other disciplines. It concentrates on the Canadian setting, in exploring how environmental policy in this country is set at the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government. However, it also recognizes that Canada’s environment is also strongly influenced by international policy and legislation; and that globalization has increasingly implicated Canada as a participant in international environmental policy.

REQUIRED READING & PARTICIPATION

A package of required readings is available for purchase at the AMS Publishing and Copy Centre, at a cost of $55 plus tax. The Schedule of Session Topics (below) indicates the numbers of the readings for each session, as listed in the Table of Contents in the reading package. Additional required readings may be placed on reserve at Stauffer Library. Attendance at all lectures and tutorials is mandatory. Students are expected to have read and thought about the assigned readings in advance of each session, and to come prepared to participate actively and constructively in the discussion. Fifteen (15) percent of each student’s final grade will be assigned according to the effort, quality and quantity of her/his participation during the lectures and (especially) the tutorials.
EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due/Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informed, constructive participation</td>
<td>All sessions</td>
<td>15 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briefing note on an environmental issue</td>
<td>Due: October 15, 2004</td>
<td>15 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of critique of an environmental policy (group)</td>
<td>Dates to be assigned</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written critique of an environmental policy (group)</td>
<td>Due: December 3, 2004</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (2 hours)</td>
<td>December (exact date TBA)</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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SCHEDULE OF SESSION TOPICS (subject to change)

Bracketed numbers refer to the readings in the Course Reading Package.

Sept. 15 Introduction to the Course and to Environmental Policy (1)
Sept. 22 Evolution of Environmental Policy in Canada (2,3)
Sept. 29 Public Environmental Awareness and the Role of the News Media (4,5)
Oct. 6 Constitutional/Jurisdictional Issues and Environmental Legislation (6,7)
Oct. 13 Influence of Law and the Judiciary on Environmental Policy (8)
Oct. 20 Working with Provincial Environmental Policies in Ontario – R. McRae (9,10)
Oct. 27 Federal-Provincial Relations and Environmental Policy-making (11,12)
Nov. 3 Trade vs. Environmental Regimes & Global Governance – Prof. B. Doern (13,14)
Nov. 10 Policy Approaches to Environmental Protection (15,16)
Nov. 17 Policy Approaches to Environmental Protection (continued) (17)
Nov. 24 Environmental Conflict, Resource Scarcity and Global Security (18,19)
Dec. 1 Perception, Assessment and Management of Environmental Risk (20,21)

ASSIGNMENTS

Briefing Note

The Briefing Note is a commonly used document in the policy field. It is usually employed by analysts to give policy advice to senior bureaucrats and politicians in a very concise, easily readable format. In environmental policy, this often requires the skillful distillation of rather complex information. For this individual assignment, assume that you are a policy advisor to the Canadian Federal Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Stéphane Dion. The Minister is about to attend a meeting of Ministers of the Environment from around the world and needs to be very familiar and up-to-date on all key environmental issues/problems relevant to Canada. Choose one such issue. It does not necessarily need to be a Canadian domestic issue; just one directly relevant to Canada. You must discuss your chosen policy with the Teaching Assistant, to reduce duplication and overlapping of topics, and to provide the opportunity to receive guidance.
In no more than 1,000 words (plus 5. Appendix below), prepare an individually written briefing note that addresses the following items for your chosen issue under the following headings:

1. Issue: Briefly describe the environmental issue.
2. Background: Briefly outline the key information necessary to understand the issue.
3. Proposal: Recommend the best specific policy solution to the identified problem(s) that the Government of Canada should pursue. Justify your proposed course of action and address likely obstacles to its implementation.
4. Comments: Provide other important information, including (but not necessarily limited to) anticipated criticisms of the recommended policy solution by interest (e.g. environmental) groups and a suggested response by the Minister to each.
5. Appendix: A list of good, current sources to which one might turn for further information.

The Briefing Note will comprise 15% of the course grade. Please submit your Briefing Note to the Teaching Assistant, no later than the beginning of the tutorial on **October 15, 2004**. A 5% per day lateness penalty will apply.

**Policy Critique (Group Written Submission and Presentation)**

This group assignment consists of both a written submission and an in-tutorial presentation. Select one recent Canadian environmental policy, and prepare a critical evaluation of it. The policy may be that of any level of government, a corporation, a non-governmental organization (NGO), or a volunteer organization. You must discuss your chosen policy with the Teaching Assistant prior to (and hopefully well in advance of) your presentation, to avoid duplicating and overlapping topics, and to provide the opportunity to receive guidance. Students will be responsible for forming their own groups.

Both the presentation and the written submission must (at least) briefly outline the environmental problem the policy is intended to address, discuss challenges it faces in doing so, critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the policy, and make recommendations for improving the policy. You may wish to structure your evaluation based on one or more of the popular texts on policy analysis, such as Patton, C.V. and D.S. Sawicki. 1993. **Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning, Second Edition** and Weimer, D.L. and A.R. Vining. 1999. **Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice, Third Edition**.

The written submission should include at the end a brief explanation of how the workload and sections of the submission were divided among group members (i.e. who did what). Submissions exceeding 5,000 words (not including title page, references, etc.) will not be accepted.

The presentation is intended to be a brief and concise summary of the written critique. The number of students in each group (likely 3-4) and the time allocated to each group’s presentation will depend on course enrolment, and will be announced in tutorial. The presentation will comprise 20% of the course grade; the written critique 25%. Please hand in your group written submission to the Teaching Assistant no later than the beginning of the final tutorial on **December 3, 2004**. A 5% per day lateness penalty will apply.