ENVS 3010 Environmental Policy Fundamentals

Course Description

This course is intended to enhance the effectiveness of citizens as well as future natural resource and environmental professionals in contributing to solutions to environmental problems. Students will learn why environmental policies are made, who makes these policies and how policy processes function.

Much of your work for this class will be focused on a team-based learning project where you research a policy issue, craft a new policy and work on implementing this policy solution with allies already working on this issue.

This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-1:15 in Widtsoe Hall 007. I ask you to wear a mask to attend this class due to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Course Objectives

The intended purpose of this course is to enable students to:

1. Understand why environmental policies exist in their current configurations; and
2. Learn ways to engage in policy processes now and in the future to create more effective solutions to linked environmental and social issues.

Instructor

Sarah Klain | sarah.klain@usu.edu | NR 346

Office hours are for masked students in my office on Wednesdays from 2-3p. I am also available via Zoom or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant

Emily Fletcher, emily.fletcher@usu.edu

Undergraduate Teaching Fellows

Meridian Wappett, mswappett@gmail.com

Writing Fellows

Sophia Sperber
sperber011@gmail.com
This course uses the support of the Writing Fellows Program. Writing Fellows are trained peer tutors who act as liaisons between professors and students to aid in course writing development. They do not grade or “fix” your writing; instead, they provide support throughout the writing process. Students in this course are required to submit designated writing assignments to a Writing Fellow, who provides written feedback and then meets with you for a one-on-one conference. Students can then make revisions before submitting the final draft to the professor for a grade. This cycle—drafting, feedback, and revision—is a hallmark of strong writing and learning. For this reason, working with your Writing Fellow, by submitting a draft and conferencing by the deadlines stated in the syllabus schedule, is a required element of this course (please see the course grading policy). On-time draft submissions and conference attendance is critically important; late draft submission acceptance and conference rescheduling is unlikely and only at the discretion of your Writing Fellow.

Course Resources

Course readings are available through the course site. Students may want to purchase the following books:


Evaluation Methods and Criteria

Student attendance and class participation counts towards 20% of your grade. The other points and percentages below are approximate.

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<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade (%)</th>
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Total points: 1000 (100%)
Grade Scheme

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 % to 93.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 93.0 % to 90.0%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 90.0 % to 87.0%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>&lt; 87.0 % to 83.0%</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt; 83.0 % to 80.0%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>&lt; 67.0 % to 60.0%</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Attendance and Excused Absences Policy

Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections. Please inform the course instructor about your absence and why you were absent in order not to be penalized.

In this class there are a number of small assignments, such as weekly in-class activities, that cannot easily be replicated by students who missed that day’s class. Students who are absent from class on those days will be responsible for completing a makeup assignment. The makeup assignment will be the same for all such missed assignments. Every week in this syllabus contains a list of supplemental readings. Students who miss a class will be responsible for selecting one of those supplemental readings, reading it, and writing a 300-500 word memo describing what they learned from that reading. This one-page summary must be emailed as an attachment in .pdf, .rtf, .doc, or .docx format, to Teaching Assistant Emily Fletcher emily.fletcher@aggiemail.usu.edu no later than 1 week after the student’s return to class, with the subject line as follows: “Makeup work for <student’s full name> for class period <missed class period date>”. Note that separate assignments and emails must be sent for each missed assignment.
Auto Access eBook: America, the Owner's Manual eBook, 2e by Graham

This course requires all-inclusive digital materials that are provided to you at a lower price than traditional printed materials. These materials are paid for through an “Auto Access Digital Materials” charge placed on your student account when you registered for the course. To access the materials, visit the Canvas course site. For more details, including dates, deadlines, and opt-out info, visit your student Auto Access Portal: https://portal.verba.io/usu/login

Library Services

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at libguides.usu.edu/rc.

Classroom Civility

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read Student Code Article V Section V-3 (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5) for more information.

University Policies & Procedures

COVID-19 Classroom Accommodations

To ensure that you receive the appropriate accommodation for COVID-19 related challenges, the University requires you to fill out the COVID-19 Questionnaire (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/questionnaire/index.php). Upon doing so, the University COVID CARE Team (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/if-you-are-sick/care-team.php) will contact you to determine your needs and how to support you. The CARE Team will also contact your instructors and provide important direction on how best to accommodate your needs. For additional reference, please see USU's Attendance and Excused Absence (https://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3160) policy and the COVID-19 Classroom Accommodations (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/operations/acomodations) page.

Reducing COVID-19 Risk

You can help keep classes, events, and activities happening in person this semester by following these steps:

1. Get vaccinated if you're able. Vaccines are the best available tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19. They are safe, free, and easy to access.
2. If you are vaccinated, let USU know. Please upload your proof of full vaccination (http://aggiehealth.usu.edu/) to AggieHealth. If you are exposed to COVID-19, USU's case containment will not require you to quarantine if they know you are vaccinated and you do not have symptoms.
3. Stay home if you're sick and get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or have been exposed. It's important to not bring any illness to campus.
4. Wear a mask indoors. Public health experts recommend that even vaccinated people wear masks indoors in high COVID-19 transmission areas, which includes most of Utah.
If USU’s COVID Case Containment team identifies an uncontained situation in the classroom, you will be notified of any temporary changes to your course delivery method through a Canvas announcement. Please make sure you are receiving immediate notifications of new Canvas announcements. The situation will be handled according to protocols on the COVID Classroom Exposure (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/students/classroom-exposure) page.

**Class Seating Charts (For In-Person Classes)**

In classes with more than 10 students, a seating chart will be used to track where you are sitting. After the first week of classes, your instructor will tell you how to enter your seat number in Canvas. **You must sit in the same seat for the rest of the semester.** This is extremely important for tracking cases of COVID-19 and helping classes remain in person.

**Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities**

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. Faculty Code Policy #403 (http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

**Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"**

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University’s Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually;”
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
  - Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
• **Falsification**: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

• **Plagiarism**: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

**Sexual Harassment/Title IX**

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 (http://www.usu.edu/policies/339) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU's Office of Equity (https://equity.usu.edu/) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment (USU Policy 305 (http://www.usu.edu/policies/305/)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

**Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term ‘extenuating’ circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (http://www.usu.edu/drc/) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, drc@usu.edu (mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

**Diversity Statement**

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

• Division of Student Affairs: https://studentaffairs.usu.edu (https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1712, studentservices@usu.edu (mailto:studentservices@usu.edu), TSC 220
• Student Legal Services: https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services (https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
• Access and Diversity: http://accesscenter.usu.edu (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu (mailto:access@usu.edu); TSC 315
Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7).

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- Student Conduct (http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct)
- Student Code (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)
- Academic Integrity (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

Emergency Procedures

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

Mental Health

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (https://counseling.usu.edu).

Students are also encouraged to download the “SafeUT App” (https://healthcare.utah.edu/uni/programs/safe-ut-smartphone-app) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.