Course Description

This course will introduce students to the history, evolution, and contemporary forms of environmental and natural resources management policies in the United States. We will discuss various theories of the policy process and apply these theories to environmental laws and policies. Students will also learn about specific environmental laws and policies. We will discuss not just the content of these policies but will also talk about what events led to each policy, how and why the policy was designed the way it was, the implementation of the policy, and the effects of the policy.

Through this course, I hope that you will not only learn fundamental principles and knowledge in environmental policy, but I hope that you will also learn to apply the course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions relevant to natural resource and environmental issues. I also want you to practice analyzing and critically evaluating ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Fees

An online course fee of $45 is applied to sustain current digital technologies and support services required for delivering online learning.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. analyze various theories of the policy process and apply these theories to environmental laws and policies;
2. learn about specific environmental laws and policies;
3. know not just the content of these policies but will also understand what events led to each policy, how and why the policy was designed the way it was, the implementation of the policy, and the effects of the policy;
4. apply the course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions relevant to natural resource and environmental issues; and
5. analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Instructor

Dr. Lisa Welsh
lisa.welsh@usu.edu
NR 352
435-797-0922
You can email me or message me through Canvas. Office hours will be by appointment. This semester, we can meet by the phone or through online video conferencing. I attempt to respond to student messages within 24 hours.

**Undergraduate Teaching Fellow**

Meridian Wappett will be our UTF this semester. She is available to also help you with any questions you may have on the material and any assignments. You can message her through Canvas.

**Course Resources**

There is no assigned textbook for this course. All assigned readings, handouts, and supplemental resources are available on the course website accessible via Canvas. It is your responsibility to check Canvas frequently for updates, as you are responsible for all material posted.

The readings do include a fair amount of NY Times articles, so you may want to consider a student subscription to the NY Times for the duration of the course - it's only a $1 a week for students: [https://www.nytimes.com/subscription/education/student?campaignId=6WYWY](https://www.nytimes.com/subscription/education/student?campaignId=6WYWY)

Our library also has access to the NY Times through ProQuest, which you can access through this link: [https://library2.usu.edu/inabs/more.php?Identify=365](https://library2.usu.edu/inabs/more.php?Identify=365)

To access High Country News articles, complete the following steps for a FREE student subscription:

- Visit [https://www.hcn.org/subscribe/student/digital](https://www.hcn.org/subscribe/student/digital)
- Choose "Student - Digital Subscription"
- Enter Code: "HCNStudent" to change term and pricing to $0 for 6 months.

**Course Requirements**

The following are the requirements in this course that will earn you points:

1. Canvas discussion posts (14 at 15 points each)
2. Canvas discussion responses (28 at 2.5 points each)
3. Weekly homework assignments (9 at 25 points each)
4. Quizzes (5 at 50 points each)
5. Utah State Legislative Timeline (55 points)
6. Policy Brief (150 points)
7. Policy Brief peer reviews (2 at 20 points each)

**Grade Scheme**

You can earn a total of 1000 points. At the end of the semester, the total points earned in this course will be converted to a letter grade based on the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 % to 93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Range</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 93.0 % to 90.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 90.0 % to 87.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt; 87.0 % to 83.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt; 83.0 % to 80.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt; 80.0 % to 77.0%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>&lt; 77.0 % to 73.0%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt; 73.0 % to 70.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt; 70.0 % to 67.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt; 67.0 % to 60.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59.0 % to 0.0%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Course Feedback**

It is very important for you to be able to see all of the feedback we give you on each assignment so that you can understand the grade you received. More importantly, paying attention to our feedback will allow you to do better on future assignments. If you have a concern about your grade, you must bring your concerns to my attention via email within one week after the assignment has been graded. There are two places that you might see feedback:

A. There is a “Comments” section where we may put general comments about your assignments. You should get notifications that we have made comments.

B. We also may put comments directly on your assignment paper. Here’s how to check for that kind of feedback: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10542-4212352349.

C. You can also view rubric results for assignments and discussions that include a rubric. Sometimes, we will also write comments in the rubric. Here’s how to check rubric results: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10491-421267891.

**Course Schedule/Outline**

Each weekly discussion post and weekly homework assignment will be due 11:59 pm Sunday at the end of that unit’s week. Your two discussion response posts will be due 11:59 pm Wednesday following the original post’s due date. You will not have a homework assignment on weeks where you have a quiz or the week your policy brief is
due. Quizzes are open book but with a time limit of two hours. This time limit should be more than enough time to complete the quiz if you have been keeping up with the readings and assignments and are familiar with the material. The quiz must be completed individually.

Quiz #1 - due 11:59 pm 1/30/22
Quiz #2 - due 11:59 pm 2/20/22
Quiz #3 - due 11:59 pm 3/20/22
Quiz #4 - due 11:59 pm 4/10/22
Quiz #5 - due 11:59 pm 5/1/22
Utah Legislative Timeline - due 11:59 pm 3/20/22
Policy Brief - due 11:59 pm 4/3/22
Policy Brief peer reviews - due 11:59 pm 4/24/22

Late Work Policy

Students should turn in all work by the posted due dates, especially quizzes. If there are extenuating circumstances, students should contact me BEFORE the assignment is due with a plan on when they will have the work completed. Late discussion posts and late quizzes will be strongly discouraged and will not be accepted after four days late, unless arrangements have been made with me. Late assignments will incur a late penalty (-10% of the assignment’s total points for each day late), which may be waived at my discretion.

Nonattendance Policy

Students May Be Dropped For Nonattendance

If a student does not attend a class during the first week of the term or by the second class meeting, whichever comes first, the instructor may submit a request to have the student dropped from the course. *(This does not remove responsibility from the student to drop courses which he or she does not plan to attend.)* This option is typically used for classes that are full and the instructor is trying to make a seat available for another student, but may be considered for other courses. Requests must be made during the first 20 percent of the course and will be considered on an individual student basis. Students who are dropped from courses will be notified by the Registrar’s Office through their preferred e-mail account (see 2018-2019 General Catalog [http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3955]).

Assumption of Risk

All classes, programs, and extracurricular activities within the University involve some risk, and certain ones involve travel. The University provides opportunities to participate in these programs on a voluntary basis. Therefore, students should not participate in them if they do not care to assume the risks. Students can ask the respective program leaders/sponsors about the possible risks a program may generate, and if students are not willing to assume the risks, they should not select that program. By voluntarily participating in classes, programs, and extracurricular activities, a student does so at his or her own risk. General information about University Risk Management policies, insurance coverage, vehicle use policies, and risk management forms can be found at: [http://www.usu.edu/riskmgmt/](http://www.usu.edu/riskmgmt/)
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. (http://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

If you face COVID-19 related challenges and feel you need accommodations, you must request those accommodations by filling 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/accomodations) 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
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)

Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct
General Overview

USU strives to provide an environment for students and employees that is free from discrimination (https://www.usu.edu/equity/non-discrimination.php) and sexual misconduct (https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/Sexual-Misconduct-Terms.php). If you experience sexual misconduct or discrimination at any point during the semester inside or outside of class, you are encouraged to contact the USU Title IX Coordinator (https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/Title-IX-Coordinator.php) via Old Main room 161 in Logan, 435-797-1266 (tel:1-435-797-1266), titleix@usu.edu (mailto:titleix@usu.edu), or at equity.usu.edu/report (https://www.usu.edu/equity/report.php). You can learn more about the USU resources available for individuals who have experienced sexual misconduct at sexualrespect.usu.edu (https://www.usu.edu/sexual-respect/). Resources for individuals who have experienced discrimination are listed at equity.usu.edu/resources (https://www.usu.edu/equity/resources).

Required Reporting of Sexual Misconduct

The instructor is designated by USU as a "reporting employee" (https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/employees.php). This means that if you share information about sexual misconduct (https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/Sexual-Misconduct-Terms.php) (sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, or sex-based stalking) with the instructor, they will report that information to the USU Title IX Coordinator (https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/Title-IX-Coordinator.php). The instructor is also required to tell you about designated confidential resources (https://www.usu.edu/sexual-respect/resources.php), supportive measures (https://www.usu.edu/equity/Supportive-Measures.php), and how you can file a report (https://www.usu.edu/equity/report.php) with the USU Title IX Coordinator.

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.

Respect for Diversity

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
You can learn about your student rights by visiting:
The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University: https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode

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.