Instructor
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W & Th - 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
or by appointment

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Course description

This project-based, online course introduces students to contemporary environmental problems and politics. Readings and other media, Wiki Page construction, structured discussions, and guided case-study research enable students to understand how political systems and institutions, policy processes, movements, and relations of power account for outcomes in environmental policymaking and development. We consider the influence of ecological processes on creation and solution of environmental problems. We focus primarily on cases in the United States, but consider international issues and regimes as relevant.

Learner outcomes

| Recognize and identify roles of political systems and institutions, policy processes, movements, and relations of power in creating outcomes observed in environmental policymaking and development. |
| Examine and describe environmental problems and related ecological processes that pose challenges to sustainable development and must be addressed by environmental policy. |
| Examine contemporary political conflicts and debates related to environmental problems. |
| Apply methods from the social sciences to assess how relations of power influence sustainable development. |
| Formulate and propose political and policy solutions to a particular contemporary environmental problem. |

Resources

For online students

Carefully review information on technology presented at CWU’s Online Learning site: http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/technology-requirements. There you will find all necessary information about technology requirements and links to download browsers, plug-ins, and programs.

You will need Adobe Reader and you can obtain it free at http://get.adobe.com/reader/.

Some materials are presented as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx), and submitting assignments prepared using Word is required. If you don’t have Word, sign in to this website to download Office 365, free for currently enrolled CWU students: https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education.

The Wildcat Shop sometimes has good bargains on software. Cat Tech offers hardware, repair of Apple products, and buys some used hardware for cash: https://wildcatshop.net/c-4-cat-tech.aspx.

Materials presented at CWU’s Online Student Resource Center are designed primarily for students enrolled in fully online degree programs, but students taking online classes may also find them helpful. See http://www.cwu.edu/student-achievement/online-student-resource-center.

Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System we use for our course. We will use Modules, Pages, Quizzes, People, Discussions, Conferences, and other Canvas tools.

Use either Firefox or Google Chrome to best interact with Canvas.
Our course is presented as a series of Canvas modules. Modules are sets of assignments you complete in the order they are presented. In some cases, you may have to complete a module’s assignments before proceeding to work on the next module.

Canvas Pages provide information about topics and concepts, instructions, and links to all assignments and materials related to each module. Always begin working on each module by carefully reading the Page associated with the module. Canvas Pages are required readings.

If you are new to Canvas, you can reference Canvas guides as needed. See https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701

You can get help while working in Canvas by clicking the “Help” icon at the bottom of the column at the left side of the screen. You can chat online in real time with a technician who can provide immediate assistance or send a message requesting assistance. You can also call the Canvas Support Hotline toll-free: (877) 399-8897.

Here is a link to CWU’s Canvas Help and Support for Students webpage: http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/canvas-help-and-support-students.

We may use Canvas Conferences. Here is a link to a Canvas guide on using Conferences: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-8075. This content is linked at CWU’s Online Learning webpage on technology tools. See http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/how-do-i-usetechnology-tools.

Reading materials
Online classes require a lot of reading. Experienced students with upper-division college reading skills should expect to spend an average of about 4-6 hours/week reading. Please keep in mind that the amount of time you need to keep up with reading will depend in part on your time-management skills. Open-book reading quizzes will help you identify and interpret key points in readings.


Module Pages are required readings. You receive reading quiz points for reading them.

Other required readings will be linked in course Modules.

Internet environmental news services
Subscribe to these right away:

Sightline Daily is a service of the Sightline Institute, an independent, non-profit research and communications institute established in 1993 to equip the Northwest’s citizens and decision-makers with the policy research and practical tools they need to advance long-term solutions to our region’s most significant challenges. Sightline Daily is delivered to your e-mail account daily. The 10 linked stories are picked from more than 120 media outlets from the Northwest and beyond. Go to https://www.sightline.org/signup/ to sign up.

Environment 360 is an online publication of Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies that offers reporting, analysis, opinion, and debate. Go to https://e360.yale.edu/newsletter and sign up for their newsletter to get a weekly update of the latest content delivered to you by email.

Videos
You will need to access videos online. Some may be available at no cost. Some will be available only through subscription services, such as Netflix, or other services that require you to pay to access content.

Your instructor
I’ve been teaching at CWU since 2000. I study environmental politics, political ecology, Indigenous politics and movements in Latin America, the U.S., and Canada. I got my PhD in political science from the University of
Oregon. I have an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona (politics, literature, history) and got my BA in political science at CWU long, long ago.

**Contact me anytime** you have questions or need assistance figuring out what to do or how to do it! I check my email and the course site frequently and will respond to you promptly. I am available during office hours or by appointment. Call me at 509-963-1842.

**Course components**

**Quizzes** are open-book exercises. Quiz questions are provided in advance as study guides for readings. Complete your quizzes as you read assigned texts. They help guide your reading by drawing your attention to some of the major points and will help you measure your comprehension. If you need clarification on a point or concept, “raise your hand” right away by contacting me. I provide feedback on your quizzes to help you better understand concepts in readings. Note that Module Pages are required readings. You receive quiz points for reading them.

**Canvas Discussions** will help us learn how to apply models and methods from the social sciences to assess relations of power that influence how environmental problems can be addressed and solved. For full credit on any Discussion, you must carefully follow instructions, respond to questions or responses addressed to you, and participate throughout the discussion period. **ALL DISCUSSIONS HAVE MULTIPLE DEADLINES** – due dates for first and response posts and the date the discussion closes.

**Wiki Page assignments** offer you an opportunity learn about environmental problems and related ecological processes that challenge policymakers. You will construct your own page and review those of others. Evaluation is based in part on peer review.

**Midterm essay** enables you to examine contemporary political conflicts and debates related to an environmental problem that interests you and to appraise how these are informed (or not) by research.

**Final essay** provides you the opportunity to assess relations of power and propose new political strategies to help solve a particular contemporary environmental problem that interests you.

**Assessment**

**Grade distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>% value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canvas Discussions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiki Page assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>% range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80</td>
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<td>67-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62-60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course policies

Communication and feedback

- Contact me whenever you have questions, need assistance, or want feedback. I am happy to help however I can to enable you succeed and I will respond promptly to messages (within 24 hours or sooner, if possible).

- Log in to Canvas every day and carefully read announcements.

- Check the Canvas inbox and your CWU email daily.

- Consider feedback on your assignments.

- Watch for course schedule updates: The pace of our work together may need to be adjusted as we proceed. Due dates for assignments may change. Rest assured that I will never move a due date forward (that is, make an assignment due sooner than originally indicated).

- I welcome all the feedback you may wish to provide on the course and your experiences! If you have suggestions about how to make assignments more valuable or due dates more reasonable, etc., let me know. This will help not just you and me, but others in the class and those who take it in the future.

Missed or make-up work

- If an emergency prevents you from completing required coursework on time, contact me right away.

- Make arrangements in advance to submit late work. Missed assignments are entered into grades as “0” points.

University policies

Academic integrity and student conduct

You are expected to complete all coursework and assignments using your own original ideas and own words. You must properly cite the ideas and words of others. Sanctions for plagiarism range from failure of a particular assignment to suspension from the university.

You must be honest and respectful in your interactions with other students and your instructor.
Expectations of student conduct and specific student responsibilities are established by the University and by Washington state law. See the CWU Catalog for more information. See the Washington state Student Conduct Code (which includes proscribed conduct and disciplinary sanctions) at http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=106-125.

**On student success, rights, and responsibilities**

In compliance with RCW 28B.137.010, Central Washington University makes every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students must present written notice to their instructor within the first two weeks of class listing the specific dates on which accommodations are required. Contact the Dean of Student Success at (509) 963-1515 for further information or questions.

Link here to the Office of the Dean of Student Success: http://www.cwu.edu/student-success/

Link here to CWU’s Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities: http://www.cwu.edu/student-rights/

**Special needs**

Students with disabilities wishing to arrange academic adjustments in this class must register with Disability Services (DS). Once you are registered with DS, they arrange requested adjustments with instructors. Visit http://www.cwu.edu/disability-support/requesting-student-accommodations, email DS@cwu.edu or call (509) 963-2214 to get information about the DS intake process.
**Preliminary course schedule**

- This is the preliminary schedule for weeks 1-3. See course schedule updates for information on upcoming weeks. Updates are posted on Canvas regularly and you will receive notifications when they are available.
- Unless otherwise specified, online work is due at midnight on dates indicated.
- Make a note of all discussion due dates: those for first posts and response posts, and the date the discussion closes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>COURSEWORK (SEE PAGES IN CANVAS FOR COMPLETE INFO.)</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Module 1 Introductions | Module 1  
- Read Startup, Module 1a and 1b Pages  
- Syllabus quiz  
- Update bio at Canvas Profile  
- Discussion 1 [“D1”] | ✓ 9/27: Deadline to finish syllabus quiz  
✓ 9/27: Updated bio at Canvas Profile due  
✓ 9/28: D1, 1st posts due |
|      | Module 2 What is Environmental Politics? | Module 1 continued  
**********  
Module 2  
- Read Module 2a and 2b Pages  
- Read Kraft Chapter 1  
- Complete Reading Quiz 1 (“RQ1”) | ✓ 9/30: D1, response posts due  
✓ 10/1: D1 closes  
✓ 10/1: RQ1 due  
✓ 10/6: RQ2 due |
| 2    | Module 3 Sustainability and Development | Module 3  
- Readings and materials at Module 3 Page  
- Complete RQ2 | |
| 3    | Module 4 Ecology and the Political | Module 4  
- Readings and materials at Module 4 Page  
- Complete RQ3 | ✓ 10/10: RQ3 due  
✓ 10/11: Begin D2 with group members  
✓ 10/13: D2, 1st posts due |
|      | Module 5 Problems and Power | Module 5  
- Readings and materials at Module 5 Page  
- Begin D2  
- Wiki Page assignment #1: email instructor two possible choices of environmental problems to study for Wiki Page project by 10/15 | |