COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to environmental problems and examines roles of politics and relations of power in creating and solving them. Readings and other media, structured online discussions, and projects are designed to enable students to better understand how political processes, institutions, policies, and environmental movements account for environmental outcomes in development and environmental policy. We will examine contemporary environmental issues and focus primarily on cases in the United States, but will take into account international issues and regimes when relevant. We will also consider how environmental problems and their solutions are influenced by perceptions of the environment and power.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

We will

- identify political institutions, policy processes, and relations of power that account for outcomes observed in development and environmental policy;
- identify, describe, analyze, and discuss challenges to sustainable development;
- analyze environmental problems and cooperate with other students to construct political solutions to environmental problems of interest;
- prepare informative online Wiki Page presentations about environmental issues and related debates or conflicts;
- identify and collect scholarly sources of information on environmental problems and politics and demonstrate the ability to cite them correctly;
- evaluate and illustrate how relations of power influence environmental outcomes and efficacy of problem solving through a case study.

COURSE RESOURCES

Canvas

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

If you are new to Canvas, get started on a successful experience by watching this video overview of the basics on using Canvas:  http://guides.instructure.com/s/2204/m/4210/l/141852-canvas-overview-video
Canvas offers help, accessible with a click from the upper right-hand corner of the screen. It connects you in real time to chat with a technician who can provide immediate help, and allows you to send messages requesting assistance and to report problems. 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.

Software and hardware

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

You will need to use either Firefox or Google Chrome to best interact with Canvas. You will need Adobe Reader to view PDF files we will use and you can obtain it for free at http://get.adobe.com/reader/.

Some materials are presented as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx). If you do not have Microsoft Word installed on your computer, you can use Open Office Writer, which you can obtain for free at http://www.openoffice.org/. I recommend you invest in Microsoft Office instead. Shop carefully. You can buy Microsoft Home & Student or Microsoft Office 365, which is a subscription and includes cloud services, such as additional SkyDrive online storage and Skype minutes for home use. The Wildcat Shop sometimes has good bargains on software (and Cat Tech offers hardware, repair of Apple products, and buys some used hardware for cash).

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.

Our textbook is Environmental Policy and Politics, Sixth Ed., by Michael E. Kraft, published by Routledge in 2015. The CWU bookstore offers it for sale. Contact me if you require assistance gaining access to chapters from the Kraft text.

Required readings not from the Kraft text will be posted in course Modules as PDF files or come from e-Books in the CWU library's collection.

Subscribe to these internet environmental news sources:

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.

Environment News Service is a daily international wire service. (Scroll down to the bottom of the page linked here and click on "Subscribe to ENS.") You will get a summary e-mailed to you and can scan the headlines there to see what’s in the news.
Videos

You will need to access videos and movies online. Some will be available only through Netflix or Amazon. You might have to pay to access some. Some may be made available at no cost.

Your instructor

I got my PhD in political science from the University of Oregon, with emphases in comparative politics, political theory, and political ecology. I have studied environmental politics for many years, exploring movements, political culture, political ecology, and cultural politics in Latin America, the US, and Canada. I have an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona 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 e-mail and the course site frequently and will respond to you promptly. I am available during office hours or by appointment. If you’re in Ellensburg, you can always come by my campus office – PSYCH 474 – for a face-to-face visit.

Course Components

Modules in Canvas present lists of assignments you must complete. Modules should be completed in the order presented. In some cases, it is necessary to complete all Module work before moving on to the next Module.

Canvas course Pages provide instructions, information about topics, and assignments for class Modules. Before getting started with module work, carefully read the Page/s associated with the Module. Modules are updated periodically, so you must check for updates to Pages on a regular basis.

Quizzes guide and measure your comprehension of reading materials. They are open-book exercises. Quiz questions are provided in advance as study guides. Quizzes should be taken after carefully reading assigned texts. You will receive feedback on your quizzes.

We will engage in Canvas Discussions as an online class community to help us think more critically about course topics. For full credit on any Discussion, you must respond to questions or responses addressed to you, and participate throughout the discussion period.

Working in groups, students will publish informative Wiki Pages about environmental issues and related debates in society.

Journal entries will enable you to describe and critically reflect on your own observations of challenges to sustainable development you identify in your surroundings. They will be submitted as Word documents on Canvas during weeks 3 through 8.

A case study project allows you to evaluate and explain how relations of power may influence environmental outcomes and efficacy of problem solving. The final result will be an 8-10 page paper with a correctly-formatted reference list. You may focus on local, state, regional, or national issues.
**Course Policies**

**Communication and feedback**

- Log in to Canvas every day, carefully read announcements, and review Modules and Pages for updates.

- Check the Canvas inbox and your CWU e-mail account on a daily basis and please respond promptly (normally within 24 hours.)

- I carefully review all student work and provide feedback through discussions, comments on quizzes and student work, and e-mail. **I am happy to help** however I can with assignments and research.

- I respond promptly to e-mail.

- We can talk by Canvas Chat or phone or schedule face-to-face meetings on campus in Ellensburg.

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

**Missed or make-up work**

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

- Make arrangements **in advance** before submitting late work.

- Missed course requirements 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 and 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. Specific student responsibilities and expectations of student conduct 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=106-120](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=106-120).

**Special needs**

Students with disabilities wishing to arrange academic adjustments in this class must be registered with Disability Services (DS). Information about the DS intake process may be obtained by e-mailing cds@cwu.edu or calling (509) 963-2171. Once you are registered with DS, send me an official accommodation request, and we will then arrange requested adjustments.
**Preliminary Course Schedule for weeks 1-3**

- Unless otherwise specified, coursework is **due at midnight** on dates indicated.
- Course schedules for weeks 4-finals will be posted at Canvas.
- Watch for Canvas announcements about course schedule updates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Coursework (See Modules &amp; Pages in Canvas for more info.)</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Introductions | ➢ Module 1  
• Read Module 1 Pages  
• Update bio on Canvas Profile  
• Discussion 1 ["D1"] 1st and final posts  
• Syllabus quiz  
• Survey | ✓ 3/31 Updated bio on Canvas Profile due  
✓ 4/2 D1, 1st posts due  
✓ 4/3 Deadline to finish syllabus quiz and survey |
| 2    | Sustainability and development | Module 2 continued  
******  
Module 2  
• Read Kraft Ch. 1  
• Complete Reading Quiz 1 ("RQ1") on Kraft Ch. 1 by 4/10 | ✓ 4/4: D1, final posts due  
✓ 4/10: RQ1 & RQ2 due |
| 3    | Environmental issues I: Development and the state of the environment | Module 3 continued  
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Module 3  
• Read "The economy and the environment" by Swanson, from *An Introduction to Capitalism*  
• Read "Sustainable Development: A Critical Review" by Sharachchandra Lélé in *Green Planet Blues*  
• Complete RQ2  
• Watch “Surviving Progress” [basis for J1]  
• Complete Journal 1 entries ["J1"] by 4/13 | ✓ 4/13: E-mail re: enviro. issue group choice due  
✓ 4/13: J1 entries due  
✓ 4/15: D2, 1st posts due  
✓ 4/17: RQ3 due |
Grading

Grades are based on the following 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>Journals</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Pages</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case study project</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grades are calculated using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-88</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62-60</td>
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