

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

**POL2137 650**  
**SUMMER 2011**

**Professor N. A. Vamvakas**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

I am stationed in Toronto, the best way to reach me is by e-mail Monday-Friday. If you need to contact me DO NOT use WEBCT—use ONLY my sympatico e-mail: [vamvakas@sympatico.ca](mailto:vamvakas@sympatico.ca)

When sending me an e-mail please indicate the [course number](#) in the [subject line](#).

You should [check the announcement section on your web ct weekly Monday-Friday](#)—if there is any information I need to convey to you as a GROUP, I will use this venue.

Web ct technical difficulties should be directed to: [webct@uwo.ca](mailto:webct@uwo.ca)

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

An examination of human impacts on the earth's ecosystems, and the political responses to these impacts with particular attention to the effects of industrial technologies and economic patterns, and the underlying values which support these.

This course focuses on the deterioration of the natural environment and the struggle to address these problems through the political process. The investigation of the relationship between politics and the environment features four interrelated themes: 1. political structures and processes; 2. fundamental principles of ecology; 3. attitudes and beliefs about the relationship between human beings and nature; and 4. rural and urban development and economic growth in the era of globalization. The course surveys current environmental issues; solutions which have been proposed; and how and why certain outcomes are expected or achieved. Attention is also given to specific Canadian environmental issues; to the complexity of Canadian federalism; and to Canada's role in international environmental politics.

## ORGANIZATION

The course is organized into four units. The course [does NOT have a Mid-term](#) exam; there is [ONLY a Final Exam](#) to be held during the [August 2-5 exam period](#). Your WEBCT access allows you to read the lectures, submit assignments and take part in discussions. The lectures were designed to be used in the following manner: 1. Step One: complete the assigned readings; 2. Step Two: read the written lecture and make notes as required; 3. Step Three: review the Major Themes and webpage references; 4. Step Four: commit to memory any significant terms, concepts or definitions as identified in the Lecture Outline. Please note that the terms, concepts and definitions used are taken from a variety of sources. Politics of the Environment often attracts students from a variety of disciplines including political science, geography, history, philosophy, natural sciences and the environmental science program. There is no prerequisite for the course; however if you do not have Politics 20 (Introduction to Political Science) you may wish to read an introductory text in this field.

## **Required Texts**

Dryzek, John and David Schlosberg, *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader*. Second edition. Oxford University Press, Don Mills. 2005.

McKenzie, Judith I. *Environmental Politics in Canada: Managing the Commons Into The Twenty-First Century*. Oxford University Press, Don Mills. 2002.

## EXAMINATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

	<b>Value</b>	<b>Date Due</b>
Assignment One	25%	May 24, 2011 5pm
Assignment Two	25%	June 27, 2011 5pm
Final Examination	50%	TBA

**1. Assignments and instructions** are listed on [page 5 of this syllabus](#).

**2. Discussion Board participation is not graded**—some students benefit from discussing issues with fellow students, other students do not find this helpful—so it is entirely up to if you wish to utilize this venue.

### **3. Final Examination**

The Final Exam date will be announced by the Registrar, it will take place during the Final Exam Period (August 2-5, 2011). The exam will be 2 hours in length and will include definitions/short answers and a major essay question. It will cover material from the **ENTIRE COURSE** and will include assigned readings and lectures. Details are available in the [EXAM PREPARATION FILE](#) which is located on your [main web ct course page](#).

## POLICIES

### 1. PREREQUISITES/ANTIREQUISITES

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.  
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

### 2. POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. [Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office \(the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty\) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.](#) For further details, please refer to the Academic Handbook, Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness.

### 3. LATE ASSIGNMENTS/ESSAYS

If there is a medical reason for late submission, University Policy as outlined in the Handbook will be followed (please see point 2 on previous page). [In cases requesting non-medical accommodation, documentation must be provided by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office and NOT to the Professor.](#) In cases where accommodation has not been requested, or has been denied, a penalty of [two percentage points per day \(including weekends\)](#) will be applied for submissions after the deadline.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Out of fairness to the other students the late penalty will be applied strictly; **NO EXCEPTIONS** will be made.

**PLEASE NOTE: NO SUBMISSION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 5PM JULY 23, 2011.**

#### **4. PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. The Department's Policy and Guidelines on Plagiarism are outlined in the appendix. Please review these carefully.

### **LECTURE OUTLINE**

#### **UNIT ONE LECTURES (May 9-May 23)**

##### **Introduction**

1. Is There An Environmental Crisis?
2. Principles of Ecology
3. The Lungs of the Earth
4. The Living Soil
5. Biodiversity

##### **Lecture Readings:**

McKenzie, pgs. 1 - 7, 202 - 241  
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 37 - 48,

##### **The Great Transitions**

6. The First Great Transition
7. The Second Great Transition and Third Great Transition
8. Sustainable Development
9. Our Ecological Footprint

##### **Lecture Readings:**

McKenzie, pgs. 8 - 104  
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 257 - 302

#### **UNIT TWO LECTURES (May 24-June 18)**

##### **The Political System**

10. The Environment and Politics
11. The Greening of the Electorate
12. Politics and Political Structures
13. Regulation and Regulatory Failure

##### **Lecture Readings:**

McKenzie, pgs. 105 - 127  
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 145 - 206, 573 - 584, 585 - 595

##### **The Environment and World Development**

14. Technology, Industrialization and Urbanization
15. Energy and Transportation
16. Globalization and Economic Growth
17. GATT, The World Bank and the IMF
18. The Crisis of Third World Debt
19. Consequences of World Debt

##### **Lecture Readings:**

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 89-144,

### UNIT THREE LECTURES (June 19-July 9)

#### **Resources of the Earth**

- 20. Temperate Forests part one
- 21. Temperate Forests part two
- 22. Tropical Rain Forests
- 23. Soils and Agriculture
- 24. Water and Oceans
- 25. Energy and Transportation

#### **Lecture Readings:**

McKenzie, pgs. 128 - 201  
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 49 - 73

#### **Population**

- 26. Population and Urbanization
- 27. Population and Soils
- 28. Population as a Feminist Issue

#### **Lecture Readings:**

McKenzie, pgs. 32 - 36  
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 450 - 504

### UNIT FOUR LECTURES (July 10-July 28)

#### **The Search for Solutions**

- 29. Technology and Rational Methods and Specialists and Experts
- 30. Buddhist Economics and William Morris and Environmental Activism
- 31. Ownership and Stewardship

#### **Lecture Readings:**

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 383 - 426

#### **Internationalizing Environmental Issues**

- 32. Flying Down to Rio - The Failure of Rio
- 33. NAFTA and NAAEC

#### **Lecture Readings:**

McKenzie, pgs. 242 - 268

#### **Economic Issues and Alternatives**

- 34. Demographics and Politics
- 35. The Enviro-Citizen

#### **Lecture Readings:**

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 585 - 646

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different political science courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

## Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

### **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western**

Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

## ASSIGNMENTS

There are two assignments. Each assignment should be in proper essay form, 1500 words. Each assignment must fully utilize a minimum of **four academic sources**. Course readings and lectures will count as **two academic sources**. Please be sure to properly credit the author of any direct quotes or paraphrased material. It is not necessary to cite material in the printed lectures.

HINT: Look ahead in the readings/lectures for information pertaining to assignments.

NOTE: Assignments should be submitted by e-mail attachment by 5 pm on the date indicated to: [vamvakas@sympatico.ca](mailto:vamvakas@sympatico.ca)

### **ASSIGNMENT ONE (1500 Words 25%)**

How is sustainable development linked to the concept of 'ecological footprint'. **(Due: 5pm May 24, 2011)**

### **ASSIGNMENT TWO (1500 Words 25%)**

Explain why the 'tragedy of the commons' can be interpreted either as an argument for private property or for government intervention. **(Due: 5pm, June 27, 2011)**