

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

Department of Political Science

Political Science 2137 – 001 - POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Course Outline 2011 – 2012

Instructor: Ross Gibbons

Office Hours and Contact Information

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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.

Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites Please Note: “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.”

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

Organization

The course is organized in four units and delivered in a lecture based format. 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 1020 E (Introduction to Political Science) you may wish to read an introductory text in this field.

Required Texts

McCarthy, Cormac, *The Road*. Vintage International, New York. 2007

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

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

Rubin, Jeff, *Why Your World is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller*. Random House Canada Limited. Toronto. 2009

The following text is required reading and is available at no charge on line:

Brundtland, Gro Harlem, *Our Common Future*. <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>

If you wish to buy a hard copy of *Our Common Future* it was published in 1987 by Oxford University Press, Toronto.

<u>Examinations and Assignments</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Date</u>
First Test – Unit One	20%	October 27, 2011
Second Test – Unit Two	20%	January 19, 2012
Third Test – Unit Three	20%	March 8, 2012
Attendance and Participation	10%	Throughout the course
Final Exam	30%	during the exam period, April 14 – 30, 2011 exact date TBA

1. The Course is divided into Units 1, 2, 3, 4. Two hour tests will follow the conclusion of each of Units 1, 2, 3. Each test will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. Each of the three tests is valued at 20%. Each Test will be held from 4:30 – 6:30 PM.

2. Unit 4 will be tested as part of the Final Examination. Half of the two hour final examination will be on Unit 4 and will consist of multiple choice questions. The balance of the Final Exam will consist of an essay question which will be distributed at class on Thursday, April 5th.

3. The instructor will check and monitor attendance at lectures. 5 % of the course grade is earned by regular attendance. The balance of the Attendance and Participation grade (5%) is earned by participating in the Discussions section of the Course's site on WEBCT OWL. The instructor expects students to participate on a bi-weekly basis online. On a bi-weekly basis the instructor will post discussion questions drawn from the course readings in Dryzek, John and David Schlosberg, *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader*. Student participation on WEBCT OWL should be directed towards discussion, critical commentary and analysis of the main points in each reading.

4. Final Examination: The Final Exam period is April 14 – 30 (inclusive), 2012. The exact date of the Final Exam will be announced by the Registrar during the Winter term. The exam will be 2 hours in length. Half of the two hour final examination will be on Unit 4 and will consist of multiple choice questions. The balance of the Final Exam will consist of an essay question which will be distributed at class on Thursday, April 5th.

5. Electronic devices are not allowed during tests and examinations. You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device including electronic dictionaries, with you during tests or examinations

6. Statement on 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/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

7. Support Services: The web site for the Registrar's Office at The University of Western Ontario is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca> Support services including Counselling and Student Development may be accessed at <http://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

8. Statement on Documentation for Accommodation for Medical Illnesses:

The Instructor's policy applies **only to work worth less than 10% of the total course grade.**

Where medical documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office, and it will be the Dean's office that will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. Given the University's Official Student

Record Information Privacy Policy, **instructors may not collect medical documentation.**

Note: In all cases where accommodation is being sought for work **totaling 10% or more of the final grade in a course**, students are directed to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office.

Student absences for reasons other than illness shall continue to be verified according to current practices.

The entire document can be accessed at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

9. Computer marked tests and 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."

Topic Outline

Unit One Lectures (September 9 – October 21):

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:

Brundtland, Part I, # 1, # 2, Part III, # 6

McKenzie, pgs. 1 - 7, 202 - 241

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 37 – 48,

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 25 – 36 (Tragedy of the Commons)

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 74 – 88 (Truth About the Environment and Ten Pinches of Salt)

THE GREAT TRANSITIONS

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

Lecture Readings:

Brundtland, Part I, # 1, # 2, Part III, # 6
McKenzie, pgs. 1 - 7, 202 - 241
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 37 – 48,
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 25 – 36 (Tragedy of the Commons)
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 74 – 88 (Truth About the Environment and Ten
Pinches of Salt)

First test - Unit One: Thursday, October 27, 2011

Unit Two Lectures (November 3, 2011 – January 12, 2012):

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

11. Green Politics and Green Political Theory
12. The Environment and Politics
13. The Greening of the Electorate
14. Regulation and Regulatory Failure

Lecture Readings:

Brundtland, McKenzie, pgs. 105 - 127
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 145 – 206, 573 – 584, 585 - 595
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 7 – 24 (Nature of Exponential Growth) and 37 –
48 (Planet Under Stress)
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 505 – 524 (Farewell to the Green Movement)
and 525 – 549 (Politics Beyond the State)

and

THE ENVIRONMENT AND WORLD DEVELOPMENT

15. Technology, Industrialization and Urbanization
16. Globalization and Economic Growth
17. GATT, The World Bank and the IMF and Third World Debt
18. Security, Energy, Sustainability and Survival

Lecture Readings:

Brundtland, Part II, # 8, # 9
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 89 – 144,
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 303 – 338 (Ecological Modernisation and the
Next Industrial Revolution)
Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 633 – 646 (Political and Ecological
Communication)
McCarthy, The Road (all)
Rubin, chapters 1, 2, 3

Second Test – Unit Two: Thursday, January 19, 2012.

Unit Three Lectures (January 26 – March 1, 2012)

RESOURCES OF THE EARTH

19. Temperate Forests – Assault on the Forests
20. Canadian Forests and Market Solutions
21. Soils and Agriculture
22. Water and The Oceans
23. Energy and Petroleum

Lecture Readings:

- Brundtland, Part II, # 7
- McKenzie, pgs. 128 - 201
- Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 49 – 73

POPULATION

24. Population and Poverty
25. Population and Soils
26. Population as a Feminist Issue

Lecture Readings:

- Brundtland, Part II, # 4, # 5
- McKenzie, pgs. 32 - 36
- Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 450 - 504

Third Test – Unit Three: Thursday, March 8, 2012.

Unit Four Lectures (March 15 – April 5, 2012)

THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS

27. Rational Methods
28. Specialists and Experts
29. Buddhist Economics and William Morris and Environmental Activism
30. Ownership and Stewardship

Lecture Readings:

- Brundtland, Part III, # 10, # 11
- Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 383 – 426
- Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 550 – 572 (Networks and Mobile Arrangements)
- Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 207 – 210 (Rethinking the Way We Think) and 211 – 228 (Market-based Environmental Policies)
- Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 585 - 646
- Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 608 – 632 (Inequality, Ecojustice and Ecological Rationality)

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 596 – 607 (Ecological Citizenship)
Rubin, chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and Conclusion

WHERE SOLUTIONS MAY BE FOUND

31. Demographics and Politics

32. Flying Down to Rio – From Rio to Kyoto and Beyond

33. NAFTA and NAAEC and Beyond

34. The Enviro-Citizen

Lecture Readings:

Brundtland, Part III, # 12

McKenzie, pgs. 242 - 268

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 427 – 430 (Principles of Environmental Justice)

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pgs. 431 – 449 (Environmental Justice in the 21st Century)