

**Political Science 2137 – 650**  
**THE POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**University of Western Ontario**  
**Fall/Winter 2012-13**

**Instructor:** Bruce Morrison  
UWO Social Science Centre  
Office location: Room 4137 SSC  
Office Hours: Thursday 10:30-12:00 or by appointment  
Phone: 519 661 - 2111, ext. 84837  
[bmorris2@uwo.ca](mailto:bmorris2@uwo.ca)

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course focuses on the deterioration of the natural environment and the struggle to address these problems adequately through the liberal democratic political processes. It examines the effects of human activity on our planet as well as the efficacy of our political systems in response to these effects. Particular attention is paid to the significance of industrialization and market economics and their relationship to the values underlying both liberal trading arrangements and democratic institutions.

The investigation of the relationship between politics and the environment emphasizes four interrelated themes: (1) the fundamental principles of ecology; (2) rural and urban development and economic growth, both historically and especially in the era of globalization; (3) changing attitudes and beliefs about the relationship between human beings and nature; (4) the character of political processes and policy-making, particularly in the developed west, and their responsiveness of liberal democracies to environmental challenges. 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, and the complexity imposed by such key institutional arrangements as Canadian federalism, while also constructing in detail the international context of Canada's environmental efforts and activities. This year, added emphasis will also be placed upon international environmental negotiations.

**Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites** Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite 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. **Political Science 2235 E is an antirequisite course for Political Science 2137.** Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

## ***Course Organization***

The course is divided into six units, each of which will feature a discussion question, while the written assignments will come in association with each pair of units. Topics for Course discussion questions will be drawn from both course readings and lecture materials. The course also has a midterm and a final exam.

Your access to the new OWL-SAKAI website will allow you to read the lectures, which are grouped into units in the “Lessons” section, submit assignments, take part in discussions and ask questions of the instructor. The lectures were designed to be used in the following manner: (1) complete the assigned readings; (2) read the written lecture and make notes as required; (3) review the major themes and webpage references; (4) commit to memory any significant terms, concepts or definitions identified in the lecture; (5) take the Self Test to see how well you are doing.

The Politics of the Environment course 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. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, or you need additional background information or understanding in order to make sense of some of the course materials. By the way, you should contact me at my uwo email account, as above, rather than directly from the website (except of course in the case of course discussions, during which we will communicate within the “Forums” section).

### ***Required Texts*** (available for purchase):

Dryzek, John and David Schlosberg, eds., *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) (Oxford University Press, 2005).

Robert Garner, *Environmental Politics: The Age of Climate Change* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

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

McCarthy, Cormac, *The Road* (Vintage International, 2007).

### ***Recommended Text*** (also available for purchase):

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

**Required reading** (but available online at no charge):

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.

### **Examinations and Assignments**

#### **Three assignments** (10% each):

Assignment One – Due November 10, 2012 at 5 pm

Assignment Two – Due February 9, 2013 at 5 pm

Assignment Three – Due April 6, 2013 at 5 pm

#### **Six Discussion Questions** (20% total):

Question One – Due September 29, 2012 at 5 pm

Question Two – Due October 27, 2012 at 5 pm

Question Three – Due December 1, 2012 at 5 pm

Question Four – Due January 26, 2013 at 5 pm

Question Five – Due March 9, 2013 at 5 pm

Question Six – Due March 30, 2013 at 5 pm

#### **Online Discussion** (10%):

Regular participation in, or initiation of, online discussions

#### **Mid-Term Examination** (20%):

To be scheduled during the December 2012 exam period

#### **Final Examination** (20%):

To be scheduled during the April 2013 exam period

1..*Assignments* are due on the **day indicated on the submissions page** unless otherwise specified by your instructor. There are three written assignments, and they represent a crucial component of this course. **Each is valued at 10%**. The questions will be released two weeks ahead of the due date.

Late Assignments: Late submissions will be penalized at 2% per day. A late penalty of **25%** will be charged on assignments which are submitted more than two weeks after the due date. **Please note that assignments will not be accepted after 11:59 PM on April 11, 2013.**

2. Course Discussion Questions.

### **Responding to Course Discussion Questions – 20% of total grade**

Your participation grade will be determined by the consistency and quality of your responses:

- Each topic question will be posted for about two weeks
- During this time you will be expected to post an answer to the Discussion question for that period
- The question will then disappear and your ability to post to that topic will end
- Please pay close attention to the posting end dates
- As a general rule of posting, you should respond to the topic initially during the first week and then respond to other students' postings during the second week
- Plan your work so that you do not find yourself unable to post due to a last minute attack of the cold or flu or other minor illness, conflicts with work or other assignments
- Poor planning does not constitute grounds for extensions or alternative assignments

### **Course Discussion Question Grading**

Grading is based on the following grading rubric:

#### ***No response 0 points***

If you do not post to the question, no grade.

#### ***Below average response (60 or below)***

Consistent problems with factual correctness, grammar and spelling. Presents opinion instead of research-based knowledge and analysis. Colloquial prose. Narrow view of issue under discussion. Uncritical analysis.

#### ***Average response (75 or below)***

A few problems with facts, grammar, spelling and use of research. Some discussion of issue under study. Much more descriptive than analytical. Analysis may not 'go deep' to address underlying causes and expose links and connections. Analysis may be superficial.

#### ***Very good response (above 75)***

Some insightful points with room for additional development. A critical reasonably-well developed analysis which may miss one or two major issues. No more than one or two errors in facts, grammar, spelling, use of research. Generally well written.

#### ***Excellent response (80 or above)***

The statements are factually correct with evidence supporting your position. Your response shows that you have researched other "expert" opinions and correctly cited them. References to posts by other students indicate that you have heard their arguments and are responding logically to their position.

The grammar and spelling are correct. Your response shows that you have thoughtfully considered the question before writing your response. Your response is insightful. There is evidence of originality in your response. Your response is very well written.

### **General information on posting responses to the Course Discussion Questions:**

Your responses will be longer than a few sentences, but it will not be an essay on the topic. Three or four paragraphs are sufficient.

The instructor wants you to read all of the students' responses and consider what they have said. Your final grade for the Discussions – General Participation will be related to the completeness of your responses, and the number of times you respond to a topic, and the diligence with which you read and consider other students' postings.

When responding to discussion questions please conform to a socially acceptable standard of communications. The belittling or harassing of others will not be tolerated.

Please be aware that the instructor will not be responding to each and every answer / comment that you post. The instructor will post comments or direction when he or she feels that they are needed.

### 3. Online Discussions

The instructor will check and monitor participation in online discussions. 10 % of the course grade is earned by regular participation through comments on the Course Discussion Questions and on other matters which the instructor and/or students may raise. The instructor expects students to monitor the discussions on a weekly basis and post responses at least once every two weeks.

4. First Term Examination: To be held during the Christmas exam period. The exam will be based on the first three units and will include definitions and short answers as well as a prepared essay. The exam will be two hours in length.

5. Final Examination: The exact date of the Final Exam will be announced by the Registrar during the winter term. The exam will be two hours in length and will include definitions, short answers and a major essay question. The major essay question will be distributed in advance and will cover the full course and will include assigned readings, discussions and lectures.

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

7. 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/scholoff.pdf>.

8. Support Services: The web site for the Registrar's Office at The University of Western Ontario is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Services Support Group may be accessed at:  
<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm/student-services-organizational-units/student-services-support-group/>

Student Development Centre may be accessed at:  
<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm/student-services-organizational-units/student-development-centre/>

Teaching and Learning Services may be accessed at:

<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm/student-services-organizational-units/teaching-and-learning-services/>

9. Accommodation for students with medical illness:

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 UWO document can be accessed at:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

## ***Topic Outline***

### ***Unit One: Introduction***

(September 6 – October 3, 2012)

#### ***Review:***

Lectures 1-5

1. Is There An Environmental Crisis?
2. Principles of Ecology

3. The Lungs of the Earth
4. The Living Soil
5. Biodiversity

*Read:*

Garner, *Environmental Politics*, chapter 1 and chapter 2 (pp 14-29).

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

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 37-48 (Lester Brown, “A Planet Under Stress”).

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 25-36 (Garret Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons”).

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 74-88 (Bjorn Lomborg, “The Truth About the Environment” and Tom Burke, “Ten Pinches of Salt: A Reply to Bjorn Lomborg”).

McKenzie, *Environmental Politics in Canada*, pp. 1-7, 202-41.

***Unit Two: Conceptualizing Crisis***

(October 4 – October 31, 2012)

*Review:*

Lectures 6-10

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

*Read:*

Garner, chapters 3 and 5.

Brundtland, Part I #3.

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 257-300.

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 348-354 (Dave Foreman, “Putting the Earth First”) and pp. 303-21 (John Barry, “Ecological Modernisation”).

***Unit Three: Environmental Politics at the National Level***

(November 1 – December 5, 2012)

*Review:*

Lectures 11-14

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

*Read:*

Garner, chapters 4, 9, and 2 (pp. 11-14).

Dryzek and Schlosberg, Section IV (pp. 145-206).

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 509-24 (Douglas Torgerson, “Farewell to the Green Movement?”)

and pp. 573-83 (Thomas Poguntke, “Green Parties in National Governments”).  
McKenzie, chapter 3.

***Unit Four: Environmental Politics and International Economic and Political Change***  
(January 7-February 4 2013)

*Review:*

Lectures 15-18

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

*Read:*

Garner, chapters 6 and 7.

Brundtland, Part II, #8 and #9.

Rubin, chapters 1-4.

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 322-38 (Paul Hawken et al., “The Next Industrial Revolution”).

***Unit Five: Resources and Population***

(February 5-March 11 2013)

*Review:*

Lectures 19-26

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

*Read:*

Brundtland, Part II #7.

Rubin, chapters 5-Conclusion.

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 51-73 (Julian L. Simon and Herman Kahn, “The Resourceful Earth”).

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 450-60 (Celene Krauss, “Women of Color on the Front Line), pp. 399-426 (Ynestra King, “Toward an Ecological Feminism and a Feminist Ecology”), and Section XI (pp. 461-504).

McKenzie, chapter 4.

McCarthy, *The Road*, first several chapters.

***Unit Six: The Search for Solutions***

(March 12-April 11 2013)

*Review:*

Lectures 27-34

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

*Read:*

Garner, chapter 10.

Brundtland, Part III, #10 and #11.

Dryzek and Schlosberg, pp. 207-10 (Terry L. Anderson and Donald R. Leal, “Rethinking the Way We Think”), pp. 211-228 (Robert Stavins and Bradley Whitehead, “Market-Based Environmental Policies”), and pp. 550-72 (David Schlosberg, “Networks and Mobile Arrangements”).

Dryzek and Schlosberg, Section XII (pp. 585-646)

McCarthy, *The Road*, remaining chapters.

**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 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.

\*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

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.

**Mental Health at Western:** If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.