

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT
POL2137 650
SUMMER 2013

Professor N. A. Vamvakas

CONTACT INFORMATION

I am not stationed in London/UWO, the best way to reach me is by e-mail Monday-Friday.

If you need to contact me DO NOT use SAKAI—use ONLY my sympatico e-mail:
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 SAKAI Course page weekly](#)—if there is any information I need to convey to you as a GROUP, I will use this venue.

Technical difficulties should be directed to the **ITS Help Desk 519 661 3800**
<http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk/>

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 **July 29-August 1 exam period**. Your SAKAI access allows you to read the lectures, syllabus and take part in discussions/forums. 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

	Value	Date Due
Assignment One	25%	May 24, 2013 5pm
Assignment Two	25%	June 27, 2013 5pm
Final Examination	50%	TBA

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

2. **Discussion Board/Forum 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 you 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 (July 29-August 1, 2013). 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.

DETAILED EXAM/PREPARATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOUND ON PAGES 6-7 OF THIS SYLLABUS.

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 26, 2013.

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 6-May 20)

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 21-June 16)

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 17-July 7)

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 8-July 26)

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

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

ASSIGNMENT ONE (1500 Words 25%)

How is sustainable development linked to the concept of 'ecological footprint'. **(Due: 5pm May 24, 2013)**

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, 2013)**

EXAM PREPARATION/INSTRUCTIONS

I. MATERIAL TO FOCUS ON:

(i) Know ALL the terms listed below:

- Sustainable Development
- Economic/Social/Environmental Development
- Modernity
- Sustainable Living
- Brundtland Commission/Our Common Future
- Ecological Footprint
- Ecological Citizenship
- Waves of Environmentalism
- Race to the Bottom
- Federalism and the Environment
- Materialist/Post-Materialist
- First Great Transition
- Second Great Transition
- Third Great Transition
- Externalities
- Clayoquot Sound
- Life Cycle
- Easter Island
- The Case for Frugality
- Stewardship/Ownership
- Issue Attention Cycle
- Cassandras/Pollyannas
- Tragedy of the Commons
- Deep/Shallow Ecology
- Buddhist Economics

Hints:

- When putting together your definitions:
 - >look at lecture notes
 - >consult textbooks
- Many of the terms are found in more than one place—you have to be very thorough—flesh out your definition/answer.
- I am looking for a well thought-out explanation/definition.
- Terms are also interrelated.
- The material is in your lectures and textbooks—you simply have to hunt for it.
- To be well-prepared you must **KNOW ALL THE TERMS** (this will **assist you for BOTH PARTS** of the exam).
- **I WILL NOT HELP YOU LOCATE TERMS**—you must do the work yourself.

(ii) Know the material from Unit Four (lectures and textbook readings):

- Search for Solutions
- Internationalizing Environmental Issues
- Economic Issues and Alternatives

II. FORMAT OF THE EXAM:

LENGTH: TWO HOURS

PART A: Short Answers (10 Marks each/20 Marks total)

- 4 terms from the above 'key term' list will be selected.
- You must answer **2** out of the **choice** of **4 terms**.
- I am looking for a well thought-out explanation/definition.
- Approximately **250 words** each answer.
- Single spaced—**point form is acceptable** for this section only.

PART B: Essay (30 Marks)

- **NO CHOICE** here.
- You will be asked to respond to a statement which will draw heavily from **UNIT FOUR**.
- Proper **ESSAY FORM**—marks will be deducted for poor style—make sure you explain all concepts raised in the statement/question.
- **1000 words**, single spaced.
- Suggestion: make use of the blank page in the exam booklet to jot down a point-form plan—this will help you organize your thoughts.

APPENDIX 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 (see Calendar)

"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>."

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/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.

Submission of Course Requirements

Essays, assignments, take-home exams must be submitted according to procedures specified by your professor. The Main office does not date-stamp or accept any of the above.

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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