

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science

Political Science 2137 – Section 650 - POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Course Outline 2014 – 2015

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.”

Learning Outcomes

Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

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.

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- recognize and apply the key forms of political discourse which frame understanding, debate and decisions personal and collective regarding environmental issues
- demonstrate knowledge of the key actors, interest groups and institutions which influence contemporary policy debates in Canada, the United States and more broadly
- identify and apply key economic, political and policy concepts related to monetary, fiscal, trade, financial, corporate governance, social and environmental policy
- demonstrate an understanding of the Canadian political system including key political institutions, electoral politics and federalism
- acquire knowledge of Canadian and U.S. economic history and recognize key milestones and events

Knowledge of Methodologies

- acquire and apply knowledge of basic qualitative research methods

Awareness of Limits of Knowledge

- recognize the inherently political nature of environmental policy debates in terms of the relationship between ideas and interests

Application

- demonstrate an ability to critically assess arguments about environment issues

Communication

- acquire and apply knowledge in communicating in a clear, analytic and scholarly fashion, in written and verbal forms

Organization

The course is organized in four units and delivered in a lecture based format. Lectures are posted online each week as indicated on the Lecture Outline on Page 4 of this Outline. Weekly postings of the lectures provide the Instructor with the opportunity to update lectures and highlight the most

important current events in this constantly changing field. 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

Dryzek, John S. *The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses*. Third Edition. Oxford University Press. Toronto. 2014 ISBN: 9780199696000

Rubin, Jeff, *The End of Growth*. Random House Canada Limited. Toronto. 2012 ISBN-13: 978-0307360908

Stoett, Peter J., *Global Ecopolitics: Crisis, Governance and Justice*. University of Toronto Press. 2012 ISBN 9781442601932

Required Reading

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 25, 2014
Second Test – Unit Two	20%	TBA December exam period, December 6 – 17, 2014
Third Test – Unit Three	20%	February 28, 2015
Bi-weekly Online Discussions	10%	During the course beginning Sept. 25
Final Exam	30%	During the exam period, April 11 – 30, 2015 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 25 multiple choice questions and short answer questions. Each of the three tests is valued at 20%. The October Test and the February Test will be held on Saturday mornings in a location to be announced from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. The December test will be scheduled during the December Exam Period. It will be two hours long. Time, date and place to be announced.

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 25 multiple choice questions. The balance of the Final Exam will consist of an essay question which will be distributed at the conclusion of class on Thursday, April 4th.

3. The instructor will check and monitor participation in the Bi-weekly Online Discussions. The Bi-weekly Online Discussions First Term Grade is 5% as is the Second Term Grade for a total of 10%. The grades are earned by participating in the Online Discussions section of the Course site on 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 S. *The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses*. Student participation on OWL should be directed towards discussion, critical commentary and analysis of the main points in each reading. Each reading will be open for two weeks. First Discussion opens Sept. 25th.

4. Final Examination: the Final Exam period is April 11 – 30 (inclusive), 2015. 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 25 multiple choice questions. The balance of the Final Exam – worth 50% of the exam - will consist of an essay question which will be distributed at the conclusion of the class on Thursday, April 3rd. The question will be based on Jeff Rubin's *The End of Growth*.

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://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> 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

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Here's the link to the official policy:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.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.”

LECTURE OUTLINE

Unit One – Introduction and the Three Great Transitions			
Lecture Date Release	Lecture Title	Lecture Title	Readings
Sept. 4	Review of course outline and tips on success in Online studies. Comments on the significance of Political Discourses	#1 Human Security, The Environment Crisis and the Fate of Easter Island	Stoett pgs 1 – 7
Sept. 11	#2 Principles of Ecology	#3 The Life Cycle	Dryzek pgs 1 – 23
Sept. 18	#4 Lungs of the Earth	#5 Temperate ‘Lungs’ and Tropical Lungs: Economics and Oxygen	Dryzek pgs 25 - 51
Sept. 25	#6 Soil and the Nutrient Loop	# 7 Biodiversity	Dryzek pgs 145 – 164

Oct. 2	# 8 First Great Transition	# 9 Second Great Transition	Dryzek pgs 52 - 72
Oct. 9	# 10 Energy and the Second Great Transition	# 11 Third Great Transition	
Oct. 25	Unit One Mid Term Test 9:00 – 11:00 AM Location: TBA		
Unit Two – Domestic Politics in Context			
Oct. 16	# 12 Politics as Conflict Resolution - Politics as Division of the Spoils	#13 Private Property and Ecopolitics	Dryzek pgs 99 - 121
Oct. 23	# 14 Politics and The State: Canadian Federalism, American Federalism	# 15 Ecopolitics and Elections	Dryzek pgs 207 - 229
Nov. 6	# 16 Fifty Shades of Green Federalism	# 17 Greenwashing and Symbolic Measures	Dryzek pgs 122 - 144
Nov. 13	# 18 Policy Making and Regulation	# 19 Regulation Success and Failure	Dryzek pgs 73 – 98
Nov. 20	# 20 Globalization	# 21 The Debt Boomerang	Stoett pgs 129 – 146
Nov. 27	# 22 Urbanization and Technology	# 23 Urbanization	
Dec. 6 – 17 Exam Period	Unit Two Mid Term Test – two hours - December Exam Period - date, time, place to be determined by the Registrar		

Unit Three – Global Ecopolitics and the Resources of the Earth			
Jan. 8	# 24 International Agreements	# 25 From Stockholm to Rio to Rio Plus 20	Stoett pgs 19 – 42, 165 - 180
Jan. 15	# 26 Wilderness and Wildlife	# 27 Biodiversity	Stoett pgs 43 – 63
Jan. 22	# 28 Deforestation	# 29 Land Degradation	Stoett pgs 65 – 83
Jan. 29.	# 30 Climate Change	# 31 Air Pollution	Stoett pgs 85 - 106
Feb. 5	# 32 Water, Water Everywhere	# 33 Ice Caps	Stoett pgs 107 – 127
Feb. 12	# 34 Great Lakes – Great Water?	# 35 Foodland Ontario – Local Food	
February 16 to February 20 – Conference Week – No class			
Feb. 28	Unit Three Mid Term Test 9:00 – 11:00 AM Location: TBA		
Unit Four – The Search for Solutions			

Feb. 26	# 36 The Age of Reason	The Men of Reason	Rubin, all
Mar. 5	# 37 Feminism	Eco-feminism	
Mar. 12	# 38 News From Nowhere: William Morris and Utopia	# 39 Post Modern, post- governmental	Dryzek pgs 185 – 206
Mar. 19	# 40 Buddhist Economics	# 41 Economics for the Future: Intermediate Technology	Dryzek pgs 165 – 183
Mar. 26	# 42 Ontological Security	# 43 State Security	Stoett pgs 145 - 163
Apr. 2	# 44 Global Justice as Eco-justice	# 45 Ecocide and Eco- justice	Dryzek pgs 231 - 239 Stoett pgs 181 - 185
Apr. 11 – 30 Exam Period	Final Exam – two hours – Final Exam Period - date, time, place to be determined by the Registrar		

**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 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.

SUPPORT SERVICES

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<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.