



**The University of Western Ontario  
POL 2137 650: Politics of the Environment  
Summer Distance Studies 2015**

**Course Outline & other Materials:** OWL (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>)

**Instructor:** Professor David Pond

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**Readings:**

There is no textbook to purchase in this course. All of the required readings will be available online. See below, pp. 5-7.

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the multidisciplinary study of environmental problems. We start with an overview of some of the basic concepts and paradigms used to analyze environmental issues.

We then deploy these concepts and paradigms to examine three globally significant environmental problems: climate change, biodiversity and nuclear waste. Our examination will draw on a variety of academic disciplines, including economics, political science, history, law, philosophy, geography, and cultural anthropology.

We then turn to the politics of the environment in Western liberal democracies. How does the environment fare in the rough and tumble world of democratic politics? Why do some issues get the politicians' attention, while others do not? How do environmentalists attempt to motivate us to change our economic behaviour and lifestyles? The focus here is on the politics of environmental policy-making, which is understood by examining the interests and actions of the relevant state and non-state actors, as they function within the context of institutions (rules and decision-making procedures), the constitution, the political economy, idea and values.

We conclude the course with a global overview: how well are international institutions, and the nation-states that control them, responding to global environment issues? What are the obstacles to more effective international co-operation here on Planet Earth?

By the end of this course, students should be able to grasp the interdisciplinary nature of environmental studies. Students should also have a deeper understanding of the issues under discussion. Finally, students should be able to appreciate the intractable nature of environmental problems in the real world of policy-making.

This course is taught by a political scientist, but the course is designed to be accessible to students from a variety of academic backgrounds.

**Grading Scheme:**

Essay Proposal: 10% (due June 1)

Essay: 25% (due July 13)

*Late penalty: 2% per calendar day*

Participation: 15%

Take Home Test: 15% (question set June 6; answer due back Saturday June 13)

Exam: 35% (in Exam Period July 27-30)

**Written Assignments:**

The essay assignments will be explained in detail in a separate hand-out. Students will be offered a list of essay-topics to choose from for their essay proposal and full-length essay. The essay proposal will outline your preliminary thesis statement and proposed structure of your subsequent full-length essay. A template for this proposal will be provided on the course OWL site.

The full-length research paper (maximum 3,000 words; double-spaced, 12 pt. times new roman), will expand on the ideas you initially developed in your proposal, and will benefit from the feedback you received from me on your essay proposal.

The take home test will be a single question you will have one week to answer. The test will be based on the lectures and course readings covered in the first half of the course.

**Participation:**

Students are expected to actively engage with their classmates and professor through the online forum on the OWL site. I will regularly post questions and comments to stimulate discussion.

In addition, students will participate in an online 'Tragedy of the Commons' game simulation, which is designed to demonstrate graphically many of the core concepts discussed in Weeks #1 and #2. In order for this exercise to succeed, students must take it seriously and participate enthusiastically.

**Exam:**

The final exam date will take place during the summer term's Exam Period, July 27-30. Our exam date will be announced by the Office of the Registrar. This information will appear on OWL as soon as it is available.

The exam covers the entire course.

Electronic devices are not allowed during the exam in this course. You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device including electronic dictionaries, with you during the exam.

**Staying in Touch:**

I am physically in Toronto, not London. I am committed to making myself as available as modern technology allows. This course employs the technology platforms available including OWL, cellphone, e-mail, videocalls, and Skype to give you as much access to me as possible.

Feel free to e-mail me at any time. This is the quickest way to get me. When sending e-mail, please indicate the course number (Pol 2137) in the subject line. If you send your messages from 7 AM to 10 PM Eastern Standard Time, Monday to Friday, I am most likely to respond within hours. But I also available by e-mail any other time.

I can also call you on the phone if necessary. Please e-mail me with your question, phone number and a time when I can reach you. You may use the FaceTime function of your cell phone if you have it (I use an iPhone).

We can also set up Skype conversations by appointment. My Skype ID is: david.pond38. See <http://www.skype.com/en/> for information on using Skype

### **Important Notice re Prerequisites:**

Unless you have the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from the 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.

### **OWL at Western:**

This course is delivered through OWL. Login to OWL by going to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>, and entering your user ID and password. All course materials will be delivered through this website. Students will submit their essay assignments using OWL. Your essay is time-stamped when you submit it. All essays are due at 11.59 PM Eastern Standard Time on the due date. The late penalty is 2% per calendar day including the weekends.

Information about accessing OWL and the Distance Studies program can be accessed at the Distance Studies website: [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/applying/distance\\_studies/index.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/applying/distance_studies/index.html).

If you are having problems with OWL, don't hesitate to contact the ITS Helpdesk, at <http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk>. You can phone for assistance (519-661-3800), visit the drop-in counter in the Support Services Building, or submit questions online.

### **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. Please visit the following website to access the University's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical accommodation, such documentation must be submitted to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office, and not to the instructor. It is the Dean's Office that will determine whether accommodation is warranted.

The documentation that must be submitted to the Dean's Office is the 'Student Medical Certificate,' which can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the Student Services website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

Please note, this accommodation policy applies to work worth 10% or more of the total grade in this course. The instructor's own policy applies only to work worth less than 10% of the course grade.

**Support Services:**

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

The website for the Office of the Registrar at UWO is: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>. Support services, including Counselling and Student Development, may be accessed at the Student Development Centre. See: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>.

**TurnItIn:**

This course uses TurnItIn. Students will be required to submit their essays to TurnItIn via OWL. 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 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>).

If you object to TurnItIn, you should advise me as soon as possible. We will need to set up alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments. Such arrangements could include some or all of the following: submission of your drafts, rough work and notes; submission of photocopies of the sources you used; submission of the URLs of all sources you used in your research.

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 offense (see the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Academic Offences:**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, including the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## Our Lecture Schedule:

Topic	Schedule
Thinking about the Environment	Week #1 (May 5 & 7) Week #2 (May 12 & 14)
Decision-Making Structures	Week #3 (May 19 & 21)
Case-Study #1: Climate Change	Week #4 (May 26 & 28) Week #5 (June 2 & 4) Week #6 (June 9)
Case-Study #2: Biodiversity	Week #6 (June 9 & 11) Week #7 (June 16 & 18)
Case-Study #3: Nuclear Waste	Week #8 (June 23 & 25) Week #9 (June 30 & July 2)
The Environmental Movement & Politics	Week #10 (July 7 & 9) Week #11 (July 14 & 16)
Global Governance	Week #11 (July 16) Week #12 (July 21 & 23)
Exam	During Exam Week (July 27-30)

## Online Readings

### Thinking about the Environment (Weeks #1 & #2)

#### Thinking about Growth:

- Eric Neumayer, *Next Stop Environmental Paradise?* (London School of Economics 2001)
- John DeGraff, “Are There Limits to Limits?” & Roger Pielke Jr., “What Does It Mean To Be Anti-Growth?,” *Earth Island Journal* (Spring 2014), pp. 46-48 (on p. 48, DeGraff is the left-hand column & Pielke is the right-hand column)
- Mark Sagoff, “Do We Consume Too Much?,” *Atlantic Monthly* (June 1997), pp. 80-83, 86-96

#### Social Science Concepts:

- Elinor Ostrom, et al., “Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges,” *Science*, 9 April 1999, pp. 278-282
- Thomas Dietz, Elinor Ostrom & Paul Stern, “The Struggle to Govern the Commons,” *Science*, 12 December 2003, pp. 1907-1912
- Virginia Hughes, “The (Continuing) Tragedy of the Commons,” *SEED Magazine* (4 December 2006)
- Kostas Bithas, “Sustainability and externalities: Is the internalization of externalities a sufficient condition for sustainability?,” *70 Ecological Economics* (2011), pp. 1703-1706
- Ahmed Hussein, *Principles of Environmental Economics: Economics, Ecology and Public Policy* (2000), pp. 95-100

#### Sustainable Development:

- Robert Kates, et al., “What is Sustainable Development?,” *47 Environment Magazine* (April 2005), pp. 8-21

- Steven Hayward, “A Sensible Environmentalism,” *Public Interest* (Spring 2003), pp. 62-74
- Eduardo Porter, “A Call to Look Past Sustainable Development,” *New York Times*, April 14, 2015

#### *Natural Capital:*

- Robert Costanza et al., “The Value of the World’s Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital,” 387 *Nature* (15 May 1997), pp. 253-260

#### *Wicked Problems:*

- Mike Hulme, “The Appliance of Science,” *The Guardian*, March 14, 2007
- Sheila Jasanoff, “Skinning Scientific Cats,” *New Statesman & Society* (26 February 1993), pp. 29-31
- Daniel Sarewitz, “Liberating Science from Politics,” 94 *American Scientist* (March-April 2006), pp. 104-106

#### Decision-Making Structures (Week #3):

- Donald Savoie, “First Ministers, Cabinet and the Public Service,” in *Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics* (2010)
- Penny Becklumb, *Federal and Provincial Jurisdiction to Regulate Environmental Issues* (Parliamentary Library, September 2013)
- Jerry McBeath & Jonathan Rosenberg, *Comparative Environmental Politics* (2006), chapter 4 (political institutions and the environment)

#### Climate Change (Weeks #4 - #6):

- Tony Eggleton, *A Short Introduction to Climate Change* (2013), chapter 4 (a summation of the basic science)
- Spencer Weart, “The Development of the Concept of Dangerous Anthropogenic Climate Change,” in Dryzek, et al., *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society* (2012)
- Will Steffen, “A Truly Complex and Diabolical Policy Problem,” in Dryzek, et al., *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society* (2012)
- Thomas Bernauer & Lena Marie Schaffer, “Climate Change Governance,” in Levi-Faur, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Governance* (2012)
- Gwyn Prins & Steve Rayner, “Time to Ditch Kyoto,” *Nature* (25 October 2007), pp. 973-975
- Mike Hulme, “Moving Beyond Climate Change,” *Environment Magazine* (May/June 2010), pp. 15-19
- Gary D. Libecap, “The Misguided Rush to Climate Change Action,” *Defining Ideas* (Hoover Institution), January 21, 2015

#### Biodiversity (Weeks #6 & #7):

- *Scientific American*, “What is the point of preserving endangered species that have no practical use?” (21 October 1999)

- Will Steffen, et al., “The Anthropocene: Are Humans Now Overwhelming the Great Forces of Nature?,” 36 *Ambio* (December 2007), pp. 614-621
- Anthony Barnosky, et al., “Has the Earth’s sixth mass extinction already arrived?,” *Nature* (3 March 2011), pp. 51-57
- William Marsden, “Global warming: welcome to the age of mankind,” *The Montreal Gazette*, January 22, 2012
- Stewart Brand, “Rethinking Extinction,” *Aeon Magazine*, April 21, 2015

#### Nuclear Waste (Weeks #8 & #9):

- Ethan Wilding, “Framing Ethical Acceptability: A Problem with Nuclear Waste in Canada,” 18 *Science & Engineering Ethics* (2012), pp. 301-313
- M.V. Ramana, “Shifting Strategies and Precarious Progress: Nuclear Waste Management in Canada,” 61 *Energy Policy* (2013), pp. 196-206
- Charles Wilkins, “Inside the Race for Canada’s Nuclear Waste,” *The Globe and Mail*, February 26, 2015
- Eugene Rosa, et al., “Nuclear Waste: Knowledge Waste?,” *Science*, 13 October 2010, pp. 762-763

#### The Environmental Movement & Politics (Weeks #10 & #11)

- Michael Howlett & Sima Joshi-Koop, “Canadian Environmental Politics and Policy,” in *Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics* (2010)
- Neil Forkey, *Canadians and the Natural Environment to the Twenty-First Century* (2012), chapter 4
- Michael Maniates, “Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?,” 1 *Global Environmental Politics* (August 2001), pp. 31-52
- Gary Haq & Alistair Paul, *Environmentalism since 1945* (2012), chapter 6

#### Global Governance (Weeks #11 & #12)

- James Connelly, et al., *Politics and the Environment: From theory to practice* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 2012), chapter 7
- Gary Haq & Alistair Paul, *Environmentalism since 1945* (2012), chapter 3

**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.

### SUPPORT SERVICES

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.