

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: SOCS 12

Title: ENV POL & POLITICS

Full Title: Environmental Policy and Politics

Last Reviewed: 2/7/2022

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**  
An introduction to environmental studies. Examination of political processes for implementing solutions to environmental problems. Interplay of ecology, economics and ethnics, their translation to public policy. Consideration of the socio-ecological design of a sustainable society, the requisite public policy and political advocacy, and strategies for social change. Emphasis on national and international environmental issues.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**  
Completion of ENGL 100 or ESL 100.

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: An introduction to environmental studies emphasizing the interplay of ecology, economics & ethics, their translation to public policy. Examination of political processes for implementing solutions to environmental problems. (Grade or P/NP)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Completion of ENGL 100 or ESL 100.

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Fall 1981	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social Science	Fall 1981	
	D1	Anthropology and Archeology		
	D2	Economics		
	D3	Ethnic Studies		
	D4	Gender Studies		
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	4	Social and Behavioral Science	Fall 1981	
	4J	Sociology and Criminology		
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

**Outcomes and Objectives:**

To enable students to:

- evaluate environmental policy alternatives using an "environmental methodology;"
- address ethical questions implicit in contemporary environmental concerns;
- apply relevant and useful tools of economic thought and analysis to the evaluation of environmental policy alternatives;
- criticize and evaluate the notion of a sustainable economy and consider the requisite political activities for the institution of such a structure;
- describe the gravity of environmental problems and assess the role of the individual in political advocacy and action.

**Topics and Scope:**

- I. Impasse: ecology vs. economics
- II. Solving problems "from the outside, in"
- III. Biophysical constraints: energy, ecology
- IV. Counter-ecological economics
- V. Economic concepts: external costs, opportunity costs

- VI. The econosphere: two models
- VII. Economics of a sustainable society
- VIII. The "five fatal flaws" of throughput economics
- IX. Transition strategies for a sustainable society
- X. Political advocacy and action

### Assignment:

Reading Assignments: Two texts, fifty pages per week including many "handouts."

Written Assignments: Three ninety-minute essay exams; one 1500 word critique paper.

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Essay exams, Term papers

Writing  
10 - 100%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

None

Exams  
0 - 0%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

None

Other Category  
0 - 0%

### Representative Textbooks and Materials:

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Lester Brown et al., SAVING THE PLANET: how to shape an environmentally sustainable global economy, Norton, 1991.

Senator Al Gore, EARTH IN THE BALANCE: ecology and the human spirit, Houghton Mifflin, 1992.

#### OPTIONAL BOOKS:

Daniel Quinn, ISHMAEL, Bantam Books, 1992.

Paul Hawken, THE ECOLOGY OF COMMERCE: Harper Business, 1994.

Daly & Cobb, FOR THE COMMON GOOD, redirecting the economy toward community, the environment and a sustainable future, 2nd ed., Beacon Press, 1994.

E.C.O.: THE NEW COMPLETE GUIDE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS, revised edition, Island Press, 1993.