SOCS 12 Course Outline as of Fall 2015

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: SOCS 12 Title: ENV POLICY & 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	17.5	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:
Introduction to environmental studies, examining the political processes and institutions involved in implementing public policy to address environmental problems with emphasis on national and international issues.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Introduction to environmental studies, examining the political processes and institutions involved in implementing public policy to address environmental problems with emphasis on national and international issues. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent
Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

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

CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Analyze how political institutions and processes impact environmental policy-making and outcomes.
2. Identify domestic and international environmental issues and trends, and engage in political discourse on these issues and trends applying critical thinking skills and analysis to support a point of view.
3. Assess the gravity of environmental problems and the role of the individual in political advocacy and action.

Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify and assess contemporary environmental problems (e.g. air, water, land, toxics, endangered species biodiversity, climate change).
2. Describe major U.S. environmental policies, their origins, key policy actors, and alternative proposals for policy change.
3. Apply the analytical framework of public policy-making to connect environmental policy to the political process.
4. Identify and evaluate the role of environmental groups and public opinion in environmental politics.
5. Research both domestic and international issues and trends drawing on diverse sources.

Topics and Scope:

I. Environmental Problems and Politics
  A. Perspectives on Environmental Problems
    1. Scientific Knowledge and Its Use
    2. Economics and Incentives
    3. Environmental Values and Ethics
  B. The Role of Government and Politics
    1. Defining Environmental Policy
    2. Policy Typologies
    3. Public Policy Responses
  C. Historical Framework for Environmental Protection
    1. From the Colonial Period to 1900
    2. Progressive Reforms and Conservationism: 1900 - 1945
    3. Recreation and the Age of Ecology: Post World War II to 1969
    4. Earth Days and Deregulation: 1970 - present
    5. Global Awareness and Gridlock: 1993 to the present
  D. Principles, methodologies, value systems and ethics employed in social scientific inquiry related to environmental research.
II. Participants in the Environmental Debate
  A. U.S. environmental organizations
  B. The Environmental Justice Movement
  C. Radical environmentalism
  D. Environmental opposition in the United States
  E. The Role of the media and public opinion
  F. Global Green political parties
  G. International governmental organizations
  H. Transnational advocacy networks
III. Environmental Policy-Making
  A. The Policy Process Model
    1. Agenda Setting
    2. Policy Formulation
    3. Policy Adoption
    4. Policy Implementation
    5. Policy Evaluation
    6. Policy Change
  B. The Role of the Executive Branch
  C. Congressional Policy-Making
  D. Courts and Environmental Policy
  E. State and Local Policy Making
  F. The EPA’s Organization, Budget and Jurisdiction
IV. Public Lands Debate
  A. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Management of Public Lands
  B. U.S. Forest Policy
  C. Battles over Wilderness
  D. Grazing Rights
  E. Mining Law and Public Lands
  F. Private Property and Public Lands
  G. The Endangered Species Act
V. Waste and Toxics Issues
  A. The Nature of Waste: Generation and Disposal
  B. Hazardous Waste
  C. Toxic Chemicals and Health Effects
  D. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Superfund

- E. The Toxic Substances Control Act
- F. Nuclear Waste

VI. Energy Policies
- A. The Energy Pie
- B. Corporate Average Fuel Economay (CAFÉ) Standards
- C. Energy Policy Cycles
  1. Carter's National Energy Plan
  2. Reagan's Deregulation of Energy
  3. The Bush's Administration National Energy Strategy
  4. Energy Policy under the Clinton Administration
  5. Energy Policy Under George Bush and Barack Obama
  6. State and Local Energy Initiatives
- D. Energy Use and Climate Change

VII. The Politics of Water
- A. Trends in Water Use
- B. Water Resource Management in the United States
- C. Wetlands Protection
- D. Water Quality
  1. Pollution of Surface Waters
  2. Drinking Water Quality
  3. Toxic Contamination
- E. The Clean Water Act
- F. The Safe Drinking Water Act

VIII. Air Quality: Pollution and Solutions
- A. Sources of Air Pollution
- B. Indoor Air Quality
- C. Acid Precipitation
- D. The Clean Air Act
- E. The Clear Skies Initiative
- F. Transboundary Air Pollution
- G. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and Stratospheric Ozone Layer

IX. Endangered Species and Biodiversity
- A. Endangered Species
- B. The Endangered Species Act
- C. Wildlife Policy
- D. Biodiversity Loss and Implications
- E. International Biodiversity Agreements and Policies

X. The Global Commons
- A. The Atmosphere
- B. Global Climate Change
- C. Stratospheric Ozone Depletion
- D. U.S. Oceans Policy
- E. Global Oceans Policy
- F. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

XI. Population and Sustainability
- A. Trends in Growth Rates and Projected Population Increases
- B. Population and Sustainable Development
- C. The Role of the United States
- D. Global Population and Sustainability Efforts

XII. Emerging Environmental Issues for the Twenty-First Century
- A. Climate Justice
- B. Environmental Disasters

C. E-Waste
D. Environmental Policy Toward Sustainable Development
   1. President's Council on Sustainable Development
   2. Sustainable Development at State and Local Levels
   3. Business and the Environment
   4. Citizens and the Environment
E. International Environmental Institutions and Policies
F. Global Environmental Policy Issues
   1. Climate Change
   2. Protection of Biological Diversity
   3. Population Growth and Economic Development

Assignment:

1. Read and study about 30 – 40 pages of texts and anthologies weekly.
2. One to three multiple-choice and essay examinations including a final.
3. One to three writing assignments of 1500- 2500 . These will be either reaction papers, analytical essays or research papers.
4. Optional assignments may include written summaries of current events, oral presentations, debates or group work.

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.

Analytical essays, reaction papers, and research papers	Writing 30 - 50%

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.

One to three multiple choice and essay exams, including a final	Exams 40 - 60%

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

Class participation, oral presentations, and debates	Other Category 0 - 30%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:
Environmental Politics: Domestic and Global Dimensions, (6th). Vaughn. Cengage Learning:: 2012

Environmental Policy and Politics, (6th). Kraft. Longman: 2014

Comparative Perspectives on Environmental Policies and Issues. Robert Dibie. Routledge: 2014