

Florida Atlantic University
Department of Political Science
POS 4697 U.S. Environmental Law and Policy
Three Credits

Class Room and Time: GCS115 from 11:00-12:20

Instructor: Dr. Timothy O. Lenz

Office Location: SO391C

Office Hours: W and F 930-1100; Th 930-1100

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Syllabus

POS4697 U.S. Environmental Law and Policy is a special topics course that examines U.S. environmental politics, law, and policy. The *politics* includes public opinion and voting behavior; ideology and partisanship; the environmental movement and the countermovement; interest groups; and various environmental issues. The *law* includes the elaborate legal regime of local, state, federal statutes and regulations—as well as international agreements—and Supreme Court case law rulings. The *policy* includes an examination of *who* makes and administers policy, *how* policy is made and administered, and *what* the policy is (the substance of policies). The participants in making and implementing policy include government officials—Congress, the president and the executive branch agencies, state and local governments, and the courts—as well as non-governmental actors—individual policy entrepreneurs, organizations/interest groups and businesses with a stake in environmental issues or which advocate on environmental issues at the local, state, national, and international levels of government. The environmental issues/policies/problems that will be examined include water and air quality, land and natural resource conservation, energy, food production, sustainability, and climate change/global warming. Special attention will be paid to the State of Florida.

One of the main themes of the course is that American government structure—mainly federalism and the separation of powers—greatly complicates making and implementing environmental policy. A second, related theme is that the U.S. has developed an open system (of politics and government) where individuals and organizations have many access points to try to get what they want. These features make environmental policy complicated AND conflicted.

An introduction to American government (e.g., POS2041) is a pre/co-requisite for this course. POS4697 Environmental Law and Policy is an upper division political science course in the American Politics category. American politics is a subfield of political science that examines government institutions and relationships (Congress, the presidency, the Supreme Court, and federalism); political organizations including parties and interest groups; political behavior (e.g.,

voting and elections); public law; public policy; and specific issues related to domestic affairs. It is not necessary to be a political science major to do well in this course; non-majors can do well.

The course objectives are

- to provide information about environmental politics, law, policy, and issues;
- to increase understanding of environmental politics, law, policy, and issues; and
- to develop written communication and analytical skills through essay tests as well as practical writing assignments and projects.

Reading and Other Materials.

Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century (10th Edition 2019), Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft, Editors.

Substantial course materials include Course Readings (CRs) which will be provided electronically. These CRs will include original documents, articles (including audio and video clips), and information from government (national, state, and local) and non-government (for-profit and not-for-profit organizations and interest groups) websites.

Tests. There are three tests which will consist of essay questions on specific topics from the assigned material. The tests are not cumulative; test three is not a final exam. The tests are designed to assess three things: information acquired/facts learned, understanding of the main points of the course materials, and the ability to clearly communicate information and understanding.

Papers and Projects. There are also three short (one to two pages) papers/reports/projects on specific topics.

Grade Policy. Course work must be completed as scheduled. There are grade penalties for late submissions. Assignments will be graded primarily on content/substance and clear, concise, and descriptive writing. The exam grades and the course grades will be determined according to the percentile system (90%=A-minus; 80%=B-minus; 70%=C-minus; 60%=D-minus; below 60%=F). Political Science majors must receive a “C” grade or better. Tests, assignments, and other course work must be completed as scheduled. Make-up work will be accepted only with the instructor’s prior approval. An Incomplete grade will be given only with the prior consent of the instructor and, according to University policy, only when a student is unable to complete the course. A student who is passing a course, but who for unforeseen circumstances is unable to complete all the course work may, may request an Incomplete (“I”) grade. The “I” grade is a temporary grade given at the discretion of the instructor in accordance with university policy. After a specified time, the “I” grade is changed to a final course grade. Any student who decides to drop a course is responsible for completing the proper paper work for **withdrawing** from the course. A student may request a review of the final course grade (appeal a course grade) when s/he believes that one of the following conditions apply:

- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
- Non-academic criteria were applied in the grading process.

- There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.
- The procedures for a grade appeal may be found in [Chapter 4 of the University Regulations](#).

Code of Academic Integrity. Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg_4.001_5-26-10_FINAL.pdf

Plagiarism is unacceptable in the university community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording, or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as one's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized. This includes all discussion board posts, journal entries, wikis, and other written and oral presentation assignments. If in doubt, cite your source!

Attendance Policy. Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University approved activities (for which there is no grade penalty). Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. A student who is absent for a University-approved reason shall be given the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the final course grade as a direct result of such absence. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the university in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. For further information, please see [Academic Policies and Regulations](#).

Religious Accommodation Policy Statement. In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. For further information, please see [Academic Policies and Regulations](#).

Disability Policy. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU’s campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Disruptive Behavior Policy Statement. Disruptive behavior is defined in the FAU Student Code of Conduct as “... *activities which interfere with the educational mission within classroom.*” Students who behave in the face-to-face and/or virtual classroom such that the educational experiences of other students and/or the instructor’s course objectives are disrupted are subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior impedes students’ ability to learn or an instructor’s ability to teach. Disruptive behavior may include, but is not limited to: non-approved use of electronic devices (including cellular telephones); cursing or shouting at others in such a way as to be disruptive; or, other violations of an instructor’s expectations for classroom conduct.

Support Services and Resources

Office of Information Technology Online Help Desk:	http://helpdesk.fau.edu
FAU Libraries Website:	http://www.fau.edu/library
Center for Learning and Student Success Website:	http://www.fau.edu/class
University Center for Excellence in Writing:	http://www.fau.edu/UCEW
Math Learning Center:	http://www.math.fau.edu/MLC
Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry:	http://www.fau.edu/ouri
Office for Students with Disabilities Website:	http://osd.fau.edu/
Office of International Programs and Study-abroad:	www.fau.edu/goabroad
Freshman Academic Advising Services:	http://www.fau.edu/freshmanadvising

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. Florida Atlantic University respects the right of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions which do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative:

- To establish and implement academic standards
- To establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class
- To refer disciplinary action to those students whose behavior may be judged to be disruptive under the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals should consider services provided by the FAU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Grading/Evaluation: The assignments are weighted as follows:

Test One	60 points	15%
Three Papers/Projects	60 points	15%
Test Two	100 points	25%
Test Three	100 points	25%
Participation/Attendance	80 points	20%
TOTAL	400 points	100%

Course Schedule

DATES	TOPICS	MATERIALS
January 9	Introduction	Course Reading (CR)
11, 16	The U.S. Political/Government System	Ch.1-3
18, 23	Conservation of Land	CR
25, 30	Air Pollution	Ch4-5
Feb 1		Court Cases
Feb 6	**TEST ONE**	
Feb 8, 13	Water Policy	Ch. 6
15, 20		Court Cases
22, 27	Preserving Species	Ch 7
Mar 1	**TEST TWO**	
Mar 4–8	Spring Break	
Mar 13, 15, 20	Energy Policy	Ch 8
		CR
22, 27	Food Policy	Ch9
Mar29, Ap3	The Workplace	Ch 10-11

Apr 5, 10	Urban Environment/Design	Ch12
Apr 12, 17	Climate Change/Resiliency/Sustainability	Ch13-14
April 19	Summary and Conclusions	Ch 15 CR

Apr 22 Last Day of Classes

Reading Days: April 23 and 24

TEST THREE: Wednesday, May 1: 10:30 – 12:00

Course Grades Due: Monday, May 6, 9:00am

The Instructor reserves the right to adjust the course syllabus as necessary.