

Political Science 380: Environmental Law & Politics

Spring 2019

[Writing Intensive & Oral Communication focus course]



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Synopsis: This course integrates environmental conservation and management perspectives with international, national and local legal and policy determination. The course takes advantage of Pooley's experience as a senior government environmental science manager and policy participant.

The course will have four themes that will anchor the course:

- Commodification of nature
- Regulatory regimes
- Globalism
- Environmental equity

Topics and legal cases under these topics range from the Trump administration's approach to climate change and the use of executive authority by Presidents Trump, Obama and Bush (including counterposing litigation), from local fisheries and endangered species litigation to U.S. – Mexico border issues, and controversies concerning takings, environmental equity and sustainability.

- Integrated written and oral assignments but no exams.
- There is no textbook.
 - Readings will be on-line through the UH Manoa portal (Laulima) for this course.

Approach: A combination of lecture, class room discussion and workshops, and presentations anchored on topical readings.

- Students will work in groups of 3-6 to explore one of the course's themes in their written and oral assignments
- Four oral communication assignments:
 - O1: Panel discussion on one of the course's themes (group exercise)
 - O2: Individual presentation on a contemporary environmental issue
 - O3: Group presentation on one of the course's themes
 - O4: Oral comments on other group's or person's presentations
 - ✚ Comments (oral and/or written) will be provided to students following each oral assignment.
- Four written assignments:
 - W1: Note on the political and legal implications of a contemporary environmental issue (individual exercise)
 - W2: Prospectus for the group oral presentation (group exercise)
 - W3: Policy brief (including critical analysis) on the theme of the oral presentation topic (individual exercise)
 - W4: Term paper analyzing a relevant environmental policy (individual exercise)
 - ✚ Written comments will be provided to students following each written assignment.

Evaluation: Assignments require that students participate in, as well as observe and evaluate, the classroom work of the course, as well as to complete the written and oral assignments.

- Oral presentations: 45%
- Written assignments: 45%
- Classroom participation: 10%
 - Classroom participation is a combination of being there and being engaged

Class Schedule [assuming Monday/Wednesday cycle]

Assignment evaluation and dates:

W1: Note (5%) – due January 23rd

O1: Panel Discussion (5%) – due February 11th

W2: Prospectus (5%) -- due February 20th

O2: Individual presentation (20%) – March 4th

W3: Policy Brief (15%) – due April 1st

O3: Group presentation (15%) – April 15th and 17th

O4: Oral comments on presentations (5%) – completed by April 22nd

W4: Term paper (20%) – due May 1st

There will be a penalty for late assignments.

Additional information will be in the on-line (Laulima) syllabus.