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office hours: Wed 1:00-3:00

HI 291 Politics of the American Environment Fall 2014

When have Americans addressed declining resources and ecological deterioration? Why hasn't every environmental problem provoked a policy response? This course examines how debates over environmental rights and risks shaped U.S. history from the country's beginning to the present. We will also examine how questions of resource distribution and hazard have influenced modern American politics and government.

The assigned books are available at the BU Barnes & Noble and they are also available online through BU Libraries. Students will find the additional assigned readings, lecture outlines, and assignments posted to Blackboard Learn. You will do well in this class if you (1) attend class consistently; (2) complete the reading the day it is assigned for discussion; (3) listen carefully during lectures and understand that they will not repeat the reading, but will provide supplementary contexts and alternative interpretations; (4) take notes during lecture and review your notes before the next class meeting; (5) budget plenty of time to study for the exams and to complete the writing assignment.

Required Books:

Richard Andrews, *Managing the Environment, Managing Ourselves: A History of American Environmental Policy*, 2nd ed. Yale, 2006, 978-0300111248

Andrew Hurley, *Environmental Inequalities: Class, Race, and Industrial Pollution in Gary, Indiana*. North Carolina, 1995, 978-0807845189

Course Requirements:

These include (1) active engagement and class participation; (2) pop quizzes; (3) two exams, which will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings; and (4) a contemporary issue report, guidelines for which will be distributed in a timely manner. Late reports will be penalized one-half a letter grade for each day late. You must receive a passing grade on each of the course components to receive a passing grade in the course.

Component/Assignment	Due Date	% Final Grade
Participation/Engagement	Every class meeting	20%
Pop Quizzes	Unannounced	15%
Midterm Exam	Oct 20	20%
Proposal for Issue Report	Nov 24	5%
Contemporary Issue Report	Dec 12	20%
Final Exam	Dec 17	20%

Attendance and Pop Quizzes:

I will not take attendance, but a pop quiz on the previous lecture is always a possibility, so you should attend class consistently and review your notes from the previous lecture before arriving. If there is a quiz, it will be administered at precisely 10:02 am. If you arrive later than 10:02 am, you must wait outside the door until the quiz is over and you will not be allowed to take the quiz. No make-up quizzes will be administered for missed classes or late arrivals, but I will drop the three lowest quiz scores. Make a friend the first day of class so that you can get the notes from any missed lectures, because the instructor will not provide lecture notes.

Electronic Devices:

Electronic devices are impediments to lecture comprehension and to note taking. More importantly, they are profoundly distracting to students who are trying to pay attention. Therefore, you may not use a computer, tablet, or phone during class without special permission. [Recent studies, in fact, suggest that students retain information better when they take notes by hand, even if they are able to write less than they can on a computer. On this topic, see "Taking Notes? Bring a Pen, Skip the Computer," *Boston Globe*, 25 May 2014.]

Academic Integrity:

It is your responsibility to read and understand the Boston University Academic Conduct Code (available at www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code) and to abide by its provisions. Any suspected cases of plagiarism or unethical academic behavior will be referred to the appropriate officials.

Lecture Schedule, Reading Assignments, and Class Preparation:

The reading assignments should be completed on the day they are listed. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are available on Blackboard Learn. **Bring the assigned reading to each discussion to have available for reference; you may print out the readings or you may use a computer or device for this purpose only.** Each class meeting will combine lecture and discussion. You must be prepared for discussion: you must have read and thought about the assigned material; you should also think about questions you want to ask and observations you'd like to make.

Sept 3 Course Introduction/Finding Environmental Politics

Sept 5 NO CLASS: START READING 4 CHAPTERS FOR NEXT WEEK!

Sept 8 Colonial Environments I

READ: Andrews, chs. 1 & 2

Sept 10 Colonial Environments II

READ: Andrews, ch. 3

Sept 12 Revolution and Constitution

READ: Andrews, ch. 4

- Sept 15 Continental Expansion
READ: Andrews, ch. 5
- Sept 17 Early Industry
READ: * Henry Thoreau, excerpt from "Walking" (1851)
* F. L. Olmsted, excerpt from "The Yosemite Valley" (1865)
- Sept 19 Slavery and Southern Environments

- Sept 22 The Closing Frontier
READ: Andrews, ch. 6
- Sept 24 Industry and Externalities
READ: * Karl Jacoby, "Class and Environmental History: Lessons From the War in the Adirondacks"
- Sept 26 Conservation and Preservation I
READ: Andrews, ch. 8

- Sept 29 Conservation and Preservation II
READ: * Theodore Roosevelt, "Address to the Conference of Governors" (1908)
* Gifford Pinchot, excerpts from *The Fight for Conservation* (1910)
* John Muir, "Hetch Hetchy Valley" (1912)
- Oct 1 Governing Nature, Nurturing Government
READ: * Brian Balogh, "Scientific Forestry and the Roots of the Modern American State"
- Oct 3 Conservation for Whom?
READ: * Karl Jacoby, *Crimes Against Nature*, pp. 149-198

- Oct 6 Watering the West
- Oct 8 Cleaning Up the City
READ: Andrews, ch. 7
- Oct 10 Rhetoric and Power
READ: * Adam Rome, "'Political Hermaphrodites': Gender and Env. Reform"
* Susan Flader, "Citizenry and the State in the Shaping of Env. Policy"

- Oct 13 NO CLASS: START READING DUE FRIDAY
- Oct 14 (Monday schedule) Progressives and Pollution
- Oct 15 Hazards of the Job
- Oct 17 Discussion/ READ:
* Alice Hamilton, brief bio, and excerpt, *Exploring the Dangerous Trades* (1943)
* Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, *Deceit and Denial*, chs. 1-4

Oct 20 MIDTERM

Oct 22 Conservation Continues

READ: Andrews, ch. 9

* Sarah Phillips, *This Land, This Nation*, Introduction

Oct 24 The New Deal

READ: * Sarah Phillips, *This Land, This Nation*, chs. 2 & 3

Oct 27 Dust Bowl I/ *The Plow That Broke the Plains*

START READING DUE FRIDAY

Oct 29 Dust Bowl II

Oct 31 World War II

READ: * Sarah Phillips, *This Land, This Nation*, ch. 4

Andrews, ch. 10

Nov 3 From Conservation to Environment

READ: * Douglas Strong, short bio of Aldo Leopold

* Aldo Leopold, selections from *A Sand County Almanac* (1949)

Nov 5 Pesticides and Politics

READ: Andrews, ch. 11

* Rachel Carson, excerpts from *Silent Spring* (1962)

* Jamie Whitten, excerpt from *That We May Live* (1966)

Nov 7 The 1960s: Liberals and Radicals

Nov 10 NO CLASS: USE TIME TO THINK ABOUT REPORT PROPOSALS

Nov 12 Environmental Movements Take Shape

READ: * Finis Dunaway, "Gas Masks, Pogo, and the Ecological Indian: Earth Day and the Visual Politics of American Environmentalism"

Nov 14 Growth and Population: The Context and the Critics

READ: Hurley, *Environmental Inequalities*, Preface, chs. 1 & 2

Nov 17 Nationalizing Environmental Policy

READ: Andrews, ch. 12; Hurley, *Environmental Inequalities*, chs. 3 & 4

Nov 19 Discussion of Hurley

READ: Hurley, *Environmental Inequalities*, chs. 5-7 and Epilogue; Review entire book before class

Nov 21 Case Study: NEPA

READ: Andrews chs. 13 & 14

Nov 24 Report Proposals Due in Class/Presentations to Class
[Nov 26-28 THANKSGIVING RECESS]

Dec 1 Foreign Oil and the Crisis of Confidence

Dec 3 Environmental Justice I
READING TBA

Dec 5 Environmental Justice II
READING TBA

Dec 8 Development, Trade, and the Environment (Globalization)
READ: Andrews ch. 15

Dec 10 Climate Change and American Politics
READ: Andrews ch. 16

CONTEMPORARY ISSUE REPORT DUE FRIDAY DEC 12 BY 12 NOON

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY DEC 17 9:00-11:00AM