PLAN 620
Environmental Policies and Programs
Spring 2011
Thursdays 4:30-7:15pm

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Course Description:

This course provides an overview of local and global environmental issues including climate change, air quality control, water quality, and ocean resource management. The course will explore policy tools utilized to promote and ensure environmental stewardship, and institutional and agency relationships for policy implementation at the county, state, federal, and international levels. While the course will specifically focus on Hawaii as a “case study” of environmental policies and programs, tools of analysis can often be generalized to other locales.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Through this course, students will learn an array of policy mechanisms for environmental stewardship including protection mandates, designation of conservation areas including various funding mechanisms, pollution taxes and environmental subsidies, and cap-and-trade pollution systems. Students will build understanding of governance structures to support these policy mechanisms as well as learn applied skills in conducting local policy research.

Course Requirements & Grading Policy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Essay Policy Briefs (x4)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study/Term Paper:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Term Paper (Due April 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study Presentation (April 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; and 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Term Paper (Due May 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Assignments will be graded for logic, persuasiveness, accuracy, documentation, grammar, and spelling. Papers will be typewritten with one-inch margins. The term paper should be double-spaced while reflections can be either single or double-spaced (either two or four pages depending). References should be completely and consistently documented using conventional standards.
Assignments are due in-class. Late assignments will be penalized two grade steps from the maximum grade for each day that assignment is late (for example, from an A- to B if late one day, counting after-class) unless previously arranged with the instructor (with a compelling reason). Incomplete grades will be given only to students with a compelling reason (like extended sickness).

**Class Participation** is expected throughout class discussions. While coming to class is important, it is also important to be an active listener and constructive contributor.

**Short Essay Policy Briefs** are designed to be an exploratory analysis of current environmental policies and issues. Students are required to pick a local policy issue relating to a relevant environmental issue in a newspaper article. Using the article as a jumping-off point, students should complete a general review of the policy history of the issue (i.e. have there been landmark pieces of legislation in Hawaii regarding the topic?) as well as summarize the current debate. The brief should incorporate lessons learned and identified best practices from course readings. The essay should be in the author’s own words and should not simply paraphrase the newspaper article. The essay should not exceed two pages in length, single-spaced (or 4-pages double-spaced) with one-inch margins. Part of the challenge of this exercise is to learn how to write policy briefs concisely and in an informative manner.

The **Case Study** is an in-depth analysis of an environmental policy or program. The case study can be an analytical comparison of a particular policy, implemented in multiple locales; analysis of policy design, funding mechanism and implementation in a specific location; or a literature review of best practices motivated by a local example.

The case study will be both a **Term Paper** and **Class Presentation**.

The **Term Paper** should be between 20 and 25-pages in length, double-spaced, 1-inch margins. This includes a cover page, text, tables, and figures. This does not include references or appendices. All sources, include borrowed tables or figures, must be cited within the text as well as the bibliography. A draft of the term paper will be due April 14th. The draft provides the opportunity for the instructor to provide constructive feedback. The draft will be graded and account for 10% of the final grade. It is thus worthwhile to take the draft seriously, using the time in-between the draft and the final report to fine-tune and perfect the paper rather than writing it at the last minute. Final papers are due on May 5th at noon.

The **Class Presentation** is an oral presentation to the class of the case study. The presentation will be 20 minutes in duration (or TBA depending on the number of students) with time for questions and discussion afterwards. Students may prepare handouts or a powerpoint presentation. Get creative!

There are **No Required Texts** for this course. Readings will be available online and through the University of Hawaii Electronic Resources Library.