

Fall 2015

EES 2510

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University of New Orleans

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SYLLABUS FOR
EES 2510 – Environmental Science and Policy
FALL SEMESTER 2015

Instructor: Dr. Martin O'Connell
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Office Hours: Tu-Th 8:30-9:30, 10:45-11:45,
W 9:00-11:00
Lecture: Tue and Thu 2:00-3:15
Room: GP 1000

****THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXT****
WHEN AVAILABLE, HANDOUTS WILL BE PROVIDED IN CLASS

COURSE GUIDELINES

1. Grades for this course will be based on the student's participation in weekly debates on environmental issues. There will be twelve (12) graded and assigned debates for the entire semester, each worth twenty-five (25) points and three (3) graded open debates worth ten (10) points each (total course points = 330). Each student is expected to read the relevant materials prior to the debates, actively participate in the debates, and hand in written material each week. I will grade your performance during the debates and also grade the written materials submitted by your debate team (i.e., Side A, Side B, and The Public).
2. This course is intended for students who are interested in how environmental policy is developed and who want to learn more about environmental policy issues on both the global and local scale. It will be difficult to obtain a good grade in this course without attending all of the lectures and debates. Absences will be excused only for dates on which you have a valid, dated medical excuse signed by a health professional or if there has been a death in your family. Note, however, there is no way to "make up" the full points from a missed debate.
3. Grading will be based on a scale of: 90 – 100% = A ; 80 – 89% = B ; 70 – 79% = C ; 60 – 69% = D ; less than 60% = F.

POINT STRUCTURE

Twelve (12) graded debates @ 25 points each =	300 points
Three (3) graded open debates @ 10 points each =	<u>30 points</u>
	TOTAL = 330 points

<u>Date</u>	<u>Debate Topic and Required Reading Material</u>
Thursday, August 20th	Introduction to course, how debates will be conducted, grading, three teams each week: Side A, Side B, and The Public
Tuesday, August 25th	**1st OPEN DEBATE (10 pts) - TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED**
Thursday, August 27th	Overview lecture on the Precautionary Principle; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, September 1st	Debate on the Precautionary Principle; <u>read handouts.</u> (note: this first debate will not be officially graded.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Debate Topic and Required Reading Material</u>
Thursday, September 3rd	Overview lecture on Sustainable Development; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, September 8th	Debate on Sustainable Development; <u>read handouts.</u>
Thursday, September 10th	Overview lecture on Aquaculture and Invasive Fishes; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, September 15th	Debate on Aquaculture and Invasive Fishes; <u>read lecture notes and conduct your own research</u>
Thursday, September 17th	Overview lecture on Drilling in ANWR; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, September 22nd	Debate on Drilling in ANWR; <u>read handouts.</u>
Thursday, September 24th	Overview lecture on Global Warming; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, September 29th	Debate on Global Warming; <u>read handouts.</u>
Thursday, October 1st	Overview lecture on Biofuels; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, October 6th	Debate on Biofuels; <u>read handouts.</u>
Thursday, October 8th	Overview lecture on Nuclear Power; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, October 13th	Debate on Nuclear Power; <u>read handouts.</u>
Thursday, October 15th	**NO CLASS**
Tuesday, October 20th	**2nd OPEN DEBATE (10 pts) - TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED**
Thursday, October 22nd	Overview lecture on Organic Farming; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, October 27th	Debate on Organic Farming; <u>read lecture notes and conduct your own research</u>
Thursday, October 29th	Overview lecture on Hydropower; <u>read handouts.</u>
Tuesday, November 3rd	Debate on Hydropower; read lecture notes and conduct your own research

<u>Date</u>	<u>Debate Topic and Required Reading Material</u>
Thursday, November 5th	Overview lecture on the Endangered Species Act; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, November 10th	Debate on the Endangered Species Act; <u>read handouts.</u>
Thursday, November 12th	Overview lecture on Fishery Declines; teams are assigned.
Tuesday, November 17th	Debate on Fishery Declines; read lecture notes and conduct your own research
Thursday, November 19th	Overview lecture on Fracking; teams are assigned
Tuesday, November 24th	Debate on Fracking; read lecture notes and conduct your own research
Thursday, November 26th	**NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING**
Tuesday, December 1st	Overview lecture on Bayou St. John; teams are assigned. Note short turn-around time.
Thursday, December 3rd	Debate on Bayou St. John; read lecture notes and conduct your own research
Thursday, December 10th	**3rd OPEN DEBATE (10 pts) - TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED** NOTE: DEBATE STARTS AT 3:00 pm

Prerequisites: EES 1002

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will receive an introduction to the role of science in environmental policy making and policy analysis. Emphasis will be on understanding basic policy mechanisms, major policy actions related to environmental and resource issues, and limits of science in policy making. The approach of the course will be to focus on current environmental problems and case histories. Through hands-on analysis students will develop an appreciation for the complex causes of environmental problems and how viable solutions can be formulated.

Statement on Student Conduct: All students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and disciplined manner that does not disrupt nor distract from the educational pursuits of others. Should the professor determine that a student's conduct is being distracting or disruptive, the professor may impose the student's immediate removal from the classroom until the student can conduct himself or herself in an appropriate manner. If the professor is unable to obtain the cooperation of the student, the student may be referred for disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.