Fall 2015

EES 2510

Martin O'Connell

University of New Orleans

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

Instructor: Dr. Martin O’Connell
Office: GP 1008
Phone: 280-4032
Email: moconnel@uno.edu

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 = 30 points
TOTAL = 330 points

Date                     Debate Topic and Required Reading Material
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; read handouts.
                         (note: this first debate will not be officially graded.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Debate Topic and Required Reading Material</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 3rd</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Sustainable Development; teams are assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 8th</td>
<td>Debate on Sustainable Development; read handouts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 10th</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Aquaculture and Invasive Fishes; teams are assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 15th</td>
<td>Debate on Aquaculture and Invasive Fishes; read lecture notes and conduct your own research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 17th</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Drilling in ANWR; teams are assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 22nd</td>
<td>Debate on Drilling in ANWR; read handouts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 24th</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Global Warming; teams are assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 29th</td>
<td>Debate on Global Warming; read handouts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 1st</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Biofuels; teams are assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 6th</td>
<td>Debate on Biofuels; read handouts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 8th</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Nuclear Power; teams are assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 13th</td>
<td>Debate on Nuclear Power; read handouts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 15th</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 20th</td>
<td><strong>2nd OPEN DEBATE (10 pts) - TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 22nd</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Organic Farming; teams are assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 27th</td>
<td>Debate on Organic Farming; read lecture notes and conduct your own research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 29th</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Hydropower; read handouts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 3rd</td>
<td>Debate on Hydropower; read lecture notes and conduct your own research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Debate Topic and Required Reading Material</td>
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<td>Thursday, November 5th</td>
<td>Overview lecture on the Endangered Species Act; teams are assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 10th</td>
<td>Debate on the Endangered Species Act; <strong>read handouts.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 12th</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Fishery Declines; teams are assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 17th</td>
<td>Debate on Fishery Declines; <strong>read lecture notes and conduct your own research</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 19th</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Fracking; teams are assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 24th</td>
<td>Debate on Fracking; <strong>read lecture notes and conduct your own research</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 26th</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 1st</td>
<td>Overview lecture on Bayou St. John; teams are assigned. Note short turn-around time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 3rd</td>
<td>Debate on Bayou St. John; <strong>read lecture notes and conduct your own research</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 10th</td>
<td><strong>3rd OPEN DEBATE (10 pts) - TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED</strong></td>
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<td>NOTE: DEBATE STARTS AT 3:00 pm</td>
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**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.