Syllabus: August 28, 2016
U25 PolSci 3312 01: Environmental & Energy Issues
University College
Department of Political Science
Washington University in Saint Louis
Fall Semester 2016

Instructor:
Joseph G. Frank, PhD (email: jgfrank@wustl.edu phone: 314-935-8680)

Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday, by appointment only.
Washington University in St. Louis West Campus, West Building;
7509 Forsyth Blvd., Suite 150 (HR Benefits Department); St. Louis, MO 63105.
Access to Suite 150 is limited; please call me to let me know you are there.
I will also plan to be in the classroom (Seigle Hall 111) for a few minutes right
before class to answer questions.

Course Information:
Location: Seigle Hall 111
Time/Day: Wednesdays, 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM August 31 through December 14

Course Description:
This course considers the major issues in these increasingly important areas of public
policy. We discuss the importance of political processes and actors on such phenomena
as global warming, endangered species, and public lands. This course emphasizes the
American experience but also considers international implications.

Required Textbook:
Vig, Norman and Michael Kraft, editors. Environmental Policy: New Directions for the
Additional readings will be made available on Blackboard as the dates approach.

Grading:
10% Participation/Attendance in-class.
15% Participation in Blackboard discussion boards (A new board for almost every week)
15% Short Essays (1 pp. each) for most weeks about a topic related to the readings.
15% Brief Report (3-5 pp.) and Presentation (7-10 min.) on a Current Events Topic
15% In-Class Presentation (about 15 min., on final research paper topic)
30% Final Research Paper (7-10 pp.) as well as topic (10/5), outline (11/2), draft (11/30).

Ground Rules:
This class will involve some lecture and some discussion. Please arrive by 6:10 PM. We
will take a 10-minute break at 7:20 PM, and end on time at 8:30 PM. Please make sure
all cell phones, tablets, laptops and other electronic devices are inaudible or (preferably)
turned off completely during class. Also, it’s ok to eat during class, but please be
respectful of your classmates and please clean up after yourself. If you know in advance
you might miss class, please let me know as soon as possible. In class discussions and on
Blackboard, please treat your classmates with respect. Also, don’t forget at the end of the semester to complete online course evaluations.

Please refer to the Washington University undergraduate student academic integrity policy at: https://wustl.edu/about/compliance-policies/academic-policies/undergraduate-student-academic-integrity-policy/; and to the University College undergraduate student academic integrity policy at: https://ucollege.wustl.edu/faculty/academic_integrity for additional guidance.

**Approximate Timeline:** (subject to change at discretion of the instructor.)

*American Environmental Policy: Evolution over the past 50 years*

8/31 Week 1: Introduction to environmental and energy policy. No reading.

9/7 Week 2: US federal & state environmental policy. Ch. 1 & 2 Vig & Kraft. Short essay due.

9/14 Week 3: Sustainability and Urbanization. Ch. 11 & 12 Vig & Kraft. Short essay due.

**Different Players, Different Interests**

9/21 Week 4: The roles of environmental advocacy groups. Ch. 3 Vig & Kraft.

*All students present on current events topic. Current events report due Fri 9/23 11:59 PM.*

10/5 Week 5: Presidents, Congress, & environment. Ch. 4 & 5 Vig & Kraft. Short essay due.

**Final Paper topic due.** REMEMBER: Presidential Debate Sunday Oct 9 @ 8 PM!

10/12 Week 6: The Courts and the EPA: the regulatory function. Ch. 6 & 7 Vig & Kraft.

*(Fall Break: Saturday Oct 15 through Tuesday Oct 18)*

10/19 Week 7: Ag Policy, Cost-Benefit Approaches. Ch. 9 & 10 Vig & Kraft. Short essay due.

**Global Impacts**

10/26 Week 8: Global climate change. Ch.13 & 15 Vig & Kraft. Short essay due.

11/2 Week 9: Population and Global Development. Ch. 14, Vig & Kraft, plus TBA.

**Final Paper outline due.** REMEMBER: Election Day is Tuesday November 8!

**Energy Strategies**

11/9 Week 10: Fossil Fuels; Election 2016 Impacts. Ch. 8 Vig & Kraft Short essay due.


*(Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday Nov 23 through Sunday Nov 28. No class 11/23.)*

11/30 Week 12: The Prospects for Renewable Energy. Reading TBA.

**Final Paper first draft due.**

12/7 Week 13: Where Does Water Fit Into the Story? Reading TBA. Short essay due.

12/14 Week 14: Last class. **Student presentations** (15 min. each). Ch. 16 Vig & Kraft.

No class meeting Week 15: **Final Paper due Monday 12/19 by 11:59 PM.**