



Introduction to Environmental Policy

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3 academic hours a week, 3 credits Undergraduate

OVERVIEW

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the policy options for addressing environmental challenges at the local, national, regional and global scale. Such options include planning, legal tools, command and control measures, economic incentives and disincentives, and environmental impact statements, among others. We first consider how environmental problems are defined as a product of both social and environmental conditions. We delve into a range of political and economic philosophies influencing environmental policy making and consider how our own background, experiences and political opinions influence whether we define environmental conditions as problematic and how we choose policy remedies. We then open the 'tool box' of policy types, consider how they are applied and analyze their strengths and weaknesses. We will use a variety of case studies from the Middle East, to deepen our understanding of each.

COURSE OBJECTIVES – At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

- cogently describe the environmental implications of social and economic development in general, and the environmental impact of specific development projects in particular,
- suggest quantitative measures to assess the environmental impact of an action or trend, as well as to assess the potential social and economic impacts of a given policy,
- integrate principles of social and economic equity to environmental policy analysis,
- describe and provide examples for the policies included in the tool box for responding to given environmental challenges, and articulate their strengths and weaknesses, and
- conduct a rudimentary environmental impact statement.

GRADING

Your performance in this class will be assessed through a mid-term policy brief, final oral presentation and a final exam. Try to display analytical, but also creative, thinking. Participate in class discussions – be skeptical, inquisitive, open-minded, courageous but humble and respectful. It is imperative that students arrive promptly to class and attend all classes unless an acceptable excuse is provided.

Grading:

Midterm policy brief	25%
Oral presentation	35%
Final exam	30%
Participation, attendance, and punctuality	10%
Total	100%

COURSE TEXT AND SYLLABUS

Required readings are listed under the lecture date. Those readings are meant to be read prior to coming to class that day.

Lecture One:

- Welcome and introduction
- Our environmental crisis: Armageddon or sustainability and/or resilience

Readings:

- Benson, M. H., & Craig, R. K. (2014). The End of Sustainability. *Society & Natural Resources*, 27(7), 777–782.
- McCormick, R., & Kapustka, L. A. (2016). The answer is 42 ... What is THE question? *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, 6(1), 208–213.

Lecture Two

- The management and regulation of natural resources or how to avoid conflict over resources

Readings

- Libecap, G. D. (2009). The tragedy of the commons: Property rights and markets as solutions to resource and environmental problems. *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 53(1), 129–144.
- Ostrom, E. (2008). Tragedy of the Commons. *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 360–362.

Lecture Three

- Introduction to Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)
- The policy framework for environmental impact statements
- Critique of EIS

Readings:

- Jay, S., C. Jones, P. Slinn, and C. Wood. (2007). Environmental impact assessment: Retrospect and prospect. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 27:287–300
- El-Fadl, K. and M El-Fadel. (2004). Comparative assessment of EIA systems in MENA countries: challenges and prospects. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*. 24:553–593

Lecture Four

- Cost- Benefit Analysis and other economic tools for environmental policy

Readings:

- Arrow, K. J., Cropper, M., Eads, G. C., Hahn, R. W., Lave, L. B., Noll, R. G., Stavins, R. N. (1996). Is There a Role for Benefit-Cost Analysis in Environmental, Health and Safety Regulation? *Science*, 272 (5259), 221–222
- Pearce, D., Atkinson, G., & Mourato, S. (2006). Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Environment: Recent Developments. *OECD*, (97), 15–27.

Lecture Five

- Environmental Risk Assessment

Readings:

- Gouldson, A., Morton, A., & Pollard, S. J. T. (2009). Better environmental regulation - contributions from risk-based decision-making. *Science of the Total Environment*, 407(19), 5283–5288.
- Linkov, I., Loney, D., Cormier, S., Satterstrom, F. K., & Bridges, T. (2009). Weight-of-evidence evaluation in environmental assessment: Review of qualitative and quantitative approaches. *Science of the Total Environment*, 407(19), 5199–5205.

Lecture Six

- Environmental justice
- Environmental and land conflict in Israel: The Case of the Negev Bedouin

Readings

Havatzel, Y. (2006), "Land Disputes between the Negev Bedouin and Israel", in: *Israel Studies* 11(2), pp: 1-22.

Meir, A. (2005). "Bedouin, the Israeli State and Insurgent Planning: Globalization, Localization or Glocalization?", in: *Cities* 22(3), 201-215.

Yiftachel, O. (2003), "Arab-Bedouins and the Israeli Settler State. Land Policies and Indigenous Resistance", in: Al-Sayyad, N. & Roy, A. (eds), *Urban Informality in the Era of Liberalization: A Transnational Perspective*. Boulder: Lexington Books, pp: 111-133.

Lecture Seven

- Population and environment dynamics: The Case of the Demographic threat in Israel

Readings

Garb, Y. *Population Dynamics and Sustainability in the Israeli Context: Navigating between Demographic Warfare and Malthusianism*

Orenstein, D.E. (2004). *Population Growth and Environmental Impact: Ideology and Academic Discourse in Israel*. *Population and Environment*. 26(1):41-60.

Lecture Eight

- Policies and management for global climate change

Readings

Arvai, J., Bridge, G., Dolsak, N., Franzese, R., Koontz, T., Luginbuhl, A., Thompson, A. (2006). Adaptive management of the global climate problem: Bridging the gap between climate research and climate policy. *Climatic Change*, 78(1), 217–225

Huntjens, P., & Nachbar, K. (2015). *Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier for Human Disaster and Conflict Policy and Governance: Recommendations for Advancing Climate Security*

Tal, A. (2006). *Hot Times in the Holy Land: The Effects of Global Climate Change on Israel*. Zeek.

Lecture Nine

- Global corporations and environmental sustainability

Readings

Dahlsrud, A., & Dahlsrud, A. (2008). How Corporate Social Responsibility is Defined: An Analysis of 37 Definitions. *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*, 13(November 2006)

Dyllick, T., & Hockerts, K. (2002). Beyond the Business Case for Corporate. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 11(2), 130–141.

Lecture Ten

- Policies and management for energy and renewable energy

Readings

Gawdat Bahgat (2015). *Israel's Energy Security: Regional Implications*. Middle East Policy Council: Journal Essay

P. E. Hodgson (2008). *The Energy Crisis*.

Jefferson, M. (2006). Sustainable energy development: Performance and prospects. *Renewable Energy*, 31(5), 571–582.

Sachs, N., & Boersma, T. (2015). *The Energy Island : Israel Deals with its Natural Gas Discoveries*.

Lecture Eleven

- Defining Water Scarcity: Definitions, Perceptions and Projections
- Overview on Conflict Negotiation and Cooperation over Shared Waters

Readings

Loftus, Alex (2009) Rethinking Political Ecologies of Water, *Third World Quarterly*, 30: 5, 953 — 968

Postel, S.L. and Wolf, A.T. (2001). “Dehydrating Conflict.” *Foreign Policy*, September/November 2001: 60-67

UN Water (August 2006) *Coping With Water Scarcity*. UN-Water Thematic Initiatives: A strategic issue and priority for system-wide action.

Lecture Twelve

- Cooperation over water and environment: The Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty and the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo Accords

Readings

David B. Brooks and Julie Trottier (2010) *Confronting Water in an Israeli-Palestinian Peace Agreement*. Association for Israel Studies Conference, University of Toronto: 21-22 May 2010

Feitelson, Eran and Fischhendler, Itay (2009) Spaces of Water Governance: The Case of Israel and Its Neighbors. *Annals of the Association of America Geographers*, 99:4, 728 — 745

Neda A. Zawahri (2010) Attempts to Govern the Jordan River System. *Journal of Transboundary Water Resources*, Vol.1

Lecture Thirteen

- Student presentations

Final Exam