

Information on Applying for the Course

Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Processes (NTRES 4300)

Dates:

November 5, 12, 19, 2008, Ithaca, NY (5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Ithaca)

January 5 - 13, 2009, Washington, DC

Feb. 24, 26, March 2, 4, 2009 (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Ithaca)

Overview

This course deals with the creation, implementation, and evaluation of environmental policy, at the federal level. Emphasis is on the policy process and the roles within that process played by the policy network of (1) congressional staffs and committees, (2) executive departments and agencies, and (3) advocacy organizations, interest groups, and lobbyists.

The course begins with an introduction to the study of public policy, focusing on policy process and actors, and then examines in detail several case studies. Past case studies include: risk assessment policy with a specific focus on mercury in fish; marine fisheries policy; endangered species policy; and invasive species policy. Students complete a guided (mostly independent) research project, and develop a paper on that topic. Topics are selected by students, but must have significant national environmental importance, and be approved by the instructor.

Students register for this as a spring term course, although meetings occur during Fall semester, January intersession, and Spring semester. See above for likely dates. We meet three times in Ithaca during fall semester, to help prepare for our full days in January in Washington, D.C.. We meet four times in Ithaca during Spring semester. We anticipate a very busy schedule while in Washington, but also plan some large segments of unscheduled time so students can conduct their research, visit agencies, tour Washington, etc. Fall meetings in Ithaca focus on preparing for the January experience, including the independent research. Spring meetings in Ithaca focus on student presentations. Instructors include Profs. Knuth and Kraft from the Department of Natural Resources, with several guest instructors from Washington-based environmental and natural resources agencies, interest groups, and Congressional staffs and committees. See <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/courses/NR4300/SCHE09.pdf> for a tentative schedule.

Our Fall meetings in Ithaca will cover important information on mechanics of the course and a substantive introduction to the course content. Meetings will also include an initial review of information sources for a paper topic. At the meetings we will finalize the details of registration, textbook and case study reading assignments and materials, possible car pooling, etc.

Housing and Fees

The group lives and meets for classes at the Cornell Center, 2148 O Street NW, just off Dupont Circle. Students will be housed in two- or three-person, fully-furnished apartments. Cooking facilities are available in the apartment. (It is possible, but not ideal, to live away from the Center during the course.) The course charge (for the apartment and use of the classroom facilities) will be *approximately* \$550 per person (\$250 deposit to hold your space, payable by Nov. 3; balance of \$300 is bursar-billed to spring account). *Please note the final fees may differ somewhat from these amounts.* Financial aid is available through a limited number of Course Assistant positions. Course Assistants (CA) work and take the course simultaneously, providing support to the instructors and guests. CA applications will be available to those accepted into the course. Note: Course fee amount is approximate -- not yet final.

Each student will be responsible for making personal arrangements for travel to and from Washington. Car parking in Washington is a horrendous problem; we encourage you to travel by

other means.

Applications

We often receive twice the applicants as there are spaces available. Therefore, you must submit a written application for the course. Applications are due in Room 122B Fernow by **4pm, Thursday, October 16 or to Margie Peech at map10@cornell.edu**. The application includes a form for the student to complete and a recommendation from a faculty member. Late applications will be considered only if space is available. Applications are available at <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/courses/NR4300/Applic09.pdf> or in Room 122B Fernow. Faculty recommendation form (a required part of the application process) is available at <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/courses/NR4300/Recomm09.pdf>

The class is limited to a maximum of 20 students with seniors and graduate students usually given preference, although some juniors may be accepted.

Students may check with Margie Peech (122B Fernow Hall, 255-5662) regarding the status of their application after October 20.

Course Assistants

Four Course Assistant (CA) positions will be available. Interested students should complete an application form after receiving notification they have been accepted into the course. Course Assistants will help acquire needed course and social materials, welcome guests, prepare the classrooms for daily use, set up for socials and other events, and other duties as requested. Most work will be performed while in Washington, D.C. but some help with course preparation may also be needed in Ithaca, particularly in Spring semester. The final course payment will be waived for Course Assistants.

Grading and Readings

The course is offered for 3 credits, letter grade only. Grades will be based on participation (approx. 30%), one exam (20%), and one term paper/presentation (50%).

By December 2, a 1-2 page outline must be turned in identifying your topic, identifying some involved stakeholders, and listing 2-3 references you have read on the topic. Each student is required to meet individually with Prof. Knuth in December (after 12/3) to discuss the proposed paper topic and approach.

The textbook for the course will be Howlett and Ramesh, "Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Subsystems." A set of separate readings will also be assigned.

Questions?

For additional information please contact Ms. Margie Peech, map10@cornell.edu (for application questions), or Prof. Barbara Knuth (bak3@cornell.edu) for content questions.