

Government (GOVT) 343A: Ecology and Political Thought

Fall 2008

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:40-2:10 P.M.

Hepburn Hall Room 105

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Office Location: Hepburn Hall Room 213

Office Hours: Tu/Th 3-4:30 P.M. and by appt.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course invites students to participate in the debates that animate environmental political theory. An emphasis is placed on examining how the implicit assumptions in the discourses of various actors influence their approaches to environmental politics. The goal of this course is to empower students to formulate their own position as well as analyze critically a wide variety of arguments that exist within environmental politics.

Course Requirements:

Attendance (5%): You are expected to attend each class session and arrive on time.

Reading and Discussion Questions (5%): You are expected to read all of the materials assigned for this course. In addition, I would like for you to submit a discussion question on the readings to the online discussion forum on ANGEL (go to the "Course Materials" tab) by midnight the day before each class meets. These questions will allow me to formulate an agenda for the next day's discussion.

Participation (15%): I intend to devote the majority of the class to discussion of the assigned texts, and expect active participation from all students. This includes listening attentively to other students when they are speaking.

Papers (20%, 25%, 30%): You will be responsible for writing three short papers (5-6 pages in length) over the course of the semester. In these papers you are expected to draw on the course readings to make an argument in response to a question. These questions will be handed out approximately 2 weeks in advance of the paper deadlines. The first paper will be due on Monday, September 29th at 4:30 P.M., the second paper will be due on Monday, October 31st at 4:30 P.M., and the final paper will be due on Monday, December 15th at 4:30 P.M.

Your papers should be typed using 12 point Times New Roman. The body should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins all around. Please don't forget to use page numbers.

Late papers will be penalized .25 grade points (on a 4 point scale) per day late. For the purposes of calculating this penalty, the day an assignment is due ends at 4:30 P.M.

Accommodation:

I am more than happy to grant accommodations to students with documented special needs. Please provide me with a note from John Meagher, the Director of the Office of Academic Services for Students with Special Needs, at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Dishonesty (adapted from the Student Handbook):

1. It is assumed that all work is done by the student unless the instructor gives specific permission for collaboration.
2. Dishonesty in writing assignments consists of handing in or presenting as original work which is not original, where originality is required.

The following constitute examples of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism: Presenting as one's own work the work of another person—words, ideas, data, evidence, thoughts, information, organizing principles, or style of presentation—without proper attribution. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment by quotation marks, footnotes, endnotes, or other indices of reference (cf. Joseph F. Trimmer, *A Guide to MLA Documentation*).
2. Supplying information to another student knowing that such information will be used in a dishonest way.
3. Submission of or presentation of work (papers, journal abstracts, oral presentations, etc.) which has received credit in a previous course to satisfy the requirement(s) of a second course without the knowledge and permission of the instructor/supervisor/mentor of the second course.
4. Knowingly making false statements in support of requests for special consideration or special timing in the fulfillment of course requirements.

Claims of ignorance and academic or personal pressure are unacceptable as excuses for academic dishonesty. Students must learn what constitutes one's own work and how the work of others must be acknowledged. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty by the Academic Honor Council may have a letter placed in his or her permanent file.

Required Texts:

Dryzek, John S. *The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses, Second Edition* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005). (PotE)

Dryzek, John S. and David Schlosberg, eds. *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader, Second Edition* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005). (DtE)

Additional readings will be available on the ANGEL course page in the "Additional Readings" folder on the "Course Materials" tab. Please print these readings and bring them to class.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

1. Thursday, August 28: Introduction to the Course
Syllabus
Chapter 1: "Making Sense of the Earth's Politics: A Discourse Approach," in PotE, pp. 3-23
2. Tuesday, September 2: Survivalism
Meadows et al, "The Nature of Exponential Growth," in DtE, pp. 11-24
Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," in DtE, pp. 25-36
Brown, "A Planet Under Stress," in DtE, pp. 37-48
Chapter 2: "Looming Tragedy: Survivalism" in PotE, pp. 27-50

3. Thursday, September 4: *Bill McKibben on Campus*
 McKibben, Introduction and Chapter 1 of *Deep Economy*, on ANGEL

 McKibben events on campus today
 10:10-11:40 A.M. @ Gulick: Talk on “Deep Economy: Economics as if the Earth Mattered”
 2:00-3:00 P.M. @ Gulick: Public conversation on climate change (class will end early)
 8:00 P.M. @ Sykes Common Room: Reading from essays in *The Bill McKibben Reader*
4. Tuesday, September 9: *The Promethean Response to Survivalism*
 Simon and Kahn, “Introduction to The Resourceful Earth,” in DtE, pp. 51-73
 Lomborg, “The Truth About the Environment,” in DtE, pp. 74-79
 Burke, “Ten Pinches of Salt: A Reply to Bjorn Lomborg,” in DtE, pp. 80-88
 Chapter 3: “Growth Forever: The Promethean Response” in PotE, pp. 51-71
5. Thursday, September 11: *Administrative Rationalism*
 Kraft and Vig, “Environmental Policy from the 1970s to the 21st Century,” on ANGEL
 The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on ANGEL
 Bartlett, “Rationality and the Logic of the NEPA,” in DtE, pp. 93-103
6. Tuesday, September 16: *Administrative Rationalism cont.*
 Sabel et al, “Beyond Backyard Environmentalism,” in DtE, pp. 116-134
 Andrews, “Risk-Based Decision Making,” on ANGEL
 O’Brien, “Replace Risk Assessment with Alternatives Assessment,” in DtE, pp. 135-144
 Chapter 4: “Leave it to the Experts: Administrative Rationalism,” in PotE, pp. 75-98
7. Thursday, September 18: *Liberal Democracy*
 Sagoff, “The Allocation and Distribution of Resources,” in DtE, pp. 147-162
 Paehlke, “Democracy and Environmentalism,” in DtE, pp. 163-179
8. Tuesday, September 23: *Liberal Democracy cont.*
 Wissenburg, “Sustainability and the Limits of Liberalism,” in DtE, pp. 180-190
 Ophuls and Boyan, “The American Political Economy II” in DtE, pp. 191-206
 Chapter 5: “Leave it to the People: Democratic Pragmatism,” in PotE, pp. 99-120
9. Thursday, September 25: *Market Liberalism*
 Anderson and Leal, “Rethinking the Way We Think,” in DtE, pp. 211-228
 Stavins and Whitehead, “Market-Based Environmental Policies,” in DtE, pp. 229-238
 Goodin, “Selling Environmental Indulgences,” in DtE, pp. 239-256
 Chapter 6: “Leave it to the Market: Economic Rationalism,” in PotE, pp. 121-142

FIRST PAPER DUE ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH AT 4:30 P.M.

10. Tuesday, September 30: Sustainable Development
 WCED, "From One Earth to One World," in DtE, pp. 259-266
 Meadowcroft, "Sustainable Development," in DtE, pp. 267-284
 Carruthers, "From Opposition to Orthodoxy," in DtE, pp. 285-300
 Chapter 7: "Environmentally Benign Growth," in PotE, pp. 145-161

11. Thursday, October 2: Ecological Modernization
 Barry, "Ecological Modernisation," in DtE, pp. 303-321
 Hawken et al, "The Next Industrial Revolution," in DtE, pp. 322-338
 Chapter 8: "Industrial Society and Beyond: Ecological Modernization," in PotE, pp. 162-180

12. Tuesday, October 7: Deep Ecology
 Naess, "The Shallow and the Deep," in DtE, pp. 343-347
 Forman, "Putting the Earth First," in DtE, pp. 348-354
 Dodge, "Living By Life: Some Bioregional Theory and Practice," in DtE, pp. 355-363
 Eckersley, "Ecocentric Discourses," in DtE, pp. 364-381
 Chapter 9: "Changing People: Green Consciousness," in PotE, pp. 183-202

13. Thursday, October 9: Social Ecology
 Bookchin, "Society and Ecology," in DtE, pp. 385-398
 Bookchin, "Social Ecology versus Deep Ecology," on ANGEL
 Gundersen, "Bookchin's Ecocommunity as Ecotopia: A Constructive Critique," on ANGEL
 Chapter 10: "Saving the World through New Politics," in PotE, pp. 203-227

14. Tuesday, October 14: Ecological Socialism
 Foster, "Ecology against Capitalism," on ANGEL
 Albo, "The Limits of Eco-Localism: Scale, Strategy, Socialism," on ANGEL
 Kovel, "Ecosocialism," in DtE, pp. 408-423

15. Thursday, October 16: No Class (Mid-Semester Break)

16. Tuesday, October 21: Ecofeminism
 Merchant, "Ecofeminism," on ANGEL
 King, "Toward an Ecological Feminism and a Feminist Ecology," in DtE, pp. 399-407
 Kheel, "Direct Action and the Heroic Ideal: An Ecofeminist Critique," on ANGEL

17. Thursday, October 23: Critical Theory and Ecology
 Dobson, "Critical Theory and Green Politics," on ANGEL
 Mills, "Feminism and Ecology: On the Domination of Nature," on ANGEL

18. Tuesday, October 28: The Social Construction of Nature
 Cronon, Introduction to *Uncommon Ground*, on ANGEL
 Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness," on ANGEL

19. Thursday, October 30: *Responses to the Social Construction of Nature*
Lease, "Nature Under Fire," on ANGEL
Soulé, "The Social Siege of Nature," on ANGEL

SECOND PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 AT 4:30 P.M.

20. Tuesday, November 4: *Environmental Justice*
"Principles of Environmental Justice," in DtE, pp. 429-430
Bullard, "Environmental Justice in the 21st Century," in DtE, pp. 431-449
Krauss, "Women of Color on the Front Line," in DtE, pp. 450-460
LaDuke, "All Our Relations," in DtE, pp. 489-496
21. Thursday, November 6: *Perspectives from the Global South*
Guha, "The Environmentalism of the Poor," in DtE, pp. 463-480
Shiva, "Poverty and Globalization," in DtE, pp. 481-488
Bayet, "Overturning the Doctrine: Indigenous People and Wilderness," in DtE, pp. 497-504
22. Tuesday, November 11: *The Green Movement*
Torgerson, "Farewell to the Green Movement?" in DtE, pp. 509-524
Wapner, "Politics Beyond the State," in DtE, pp. 525-549
23. Thursday, November 13: *The Green Movement cont.*
Schlosberg, "Networks and Mobile Arrangements," in DtE, pp. 550-572
Poguntke, "Green Parties in National Governments," in DtE, pp. 573-583
24. Tuesday, November 18: *Ecological Democracy I*
Beck, "Politics of a Risk Society," in DtE, pp. 587-595
Dobson, "Ecological Citizenship," in DtE, pp. 596-607
25. Thursday, November 20: *Ecological Democracy II*
Plumwood, "Inequality, Ecojustice, and Ecological Rationality," in DtE pp. 608-632
Dryzek, "Political and Ecological Communication," in DtE, pp. 633-646
Chapter 11: "Ecological Democracy," in PotE, pp. 231-236
26. Tuesday, November 25: *No Class (Thanksgiving Break)*
27. Thursday, November 27: *No Class (Thanksgiving Break)*
28. Tuesday, December 2: *Recent Contributions to Environmental Political Theory I*
Cannavo, Excerpts from *The Working Landscape*, on ANGEL
29. Thursday, December 4: *Recent Contributions to Environmental Political Theory II*
Smith, Excerpts from *African American Environmental Thought*, on ANGEL
30. Tuesday, December 9: *Recent Contributions to Environmental Political Theory III*
Vanderheiden, Excerpts from *Atmospheric Justice*, on ANGEL

31. Thursday, December 11: *The Death of Environmentalism?*
Shellenberger and Nordhaus, "The Death of Environmentalism," on ANGEL
Meyer, "Does Environmentalism Have a Future?" on ANGEL

FINAL PAPER DUE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 4:30 P.M.