

*Point Loma Nazarene University*  
*Department of History and Political Science*

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 490: DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY (ISSUES IN PUBLIC POLICY)**

Course Time: Various  
Location: Colt 115  
Instructor: Dr. Lindsey Lupo  
Office: Colt Hall 115  
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30 or just stop by  
Email: [lindseylupo@pointloma.edu](mailto:lindseylupo@pointloma.edu)  
Office Phone: 619.849.7589



**Course Description:**

This directed independent study course is designed as an introduction to the study of environmental public policy in the United States. Broadly, “public policy” is what we get after we’ve conducted elections and inaugurated representatives; under the most common definitions, policy is what Congress writes, the President approves, and the courts interpret. In this course, we will discuss theories of public policy, approaches to the policymaking process, and some of the present-day environmental problems that political leaders are struggling to address with substantive policy initiatives.

**Course Readings (provided by the instructor):**

1. Vig, Norman J. and Michael E. Kraft. 2013. *Environmental Policy* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Sage: Los Angeles.
2. Rosenbaum, Walter A. 2011. *Environmental Politics and Policy* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). CQ Press: Washington, DC.
3. Various other readings (copies provided by the instructor)

**Course Format and Expectations:**

This course will meet eight times throughout the semester: six class sessions and two exams. In between these meetings, the student is expected to stay on top of the readings and complete a number of short assignments (see schedule below).

**Examinations/Writing/Assessment Requirements:**

Midterm and Final Exams – Both exams will consist of 2 short answer questions and 1 mini-essay. You will have a choice as to which short answer questions or essay to answer.

Reflection Pieces – The reflection pieces should be 2-5 pages (double-spaced) and should answer the following questions: What two big ideas do you find most interesting in the readings? What two small details do you think you’ll remember even five years from now? And finally, how do these readings relate to your major or to your chosen field of study for graduate school?

Policymaking in the News - Another goal of this class is to familiarize the student with how environmental public policy is actually practiced. This activity provides the student the opportunity to check their learning, understanding, and ability to apply course concepts to events outside of the books. Specifically, you will be writing some analyses of public policymaking as it is currently happening in the United States. You may write about a specific policy or about the policymaking process (for instance, any of the stages of the policy process). These analyses should be 2-5 pages (double spaced) and they must be an analysis of a current (within the last 30 days) news article. The purpose of asking you to analyze a story from the last month is that I want you to be reading

quality news articles *throughout this course*, continuously analyzing how the course relates to current events. In other words, I want to *avoid* you going to a news website and typing a phrase into the newspaper's search field to find a relevant article.

Your write-up should link the news story to any of the course's topics and should analyze (*not* summarize) the article, drawing on lessons from lecture, the readings, and class discussions. For instance, what concept is this story an example of? Does the article support or contradict what you have read in the textbooks? The article must come from one of the following approved sources: *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *Newsweek Magazine*, or *Time Magazine* (why these sources? Because I would like to see you reading high-quality, in-depth, analytical news – not the fluff that permeates our society). Please attach the article to your analysis.

**Grading:**

Midterm Exam	75 Points
Reflection Papers	60 Points (15 Points Each)
Policymaking in the News	45 Points (15 Points Each)
Final Exam	100 Points
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE</b>	<b>205 Points</b>

**Schedule:**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic of Class Session</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
Weds, September 9 from 7:00-8:15am	Introduction to Public Policy	Read: Rosenbaum, chapter 1; Vig and Kraft, chapters 1-2  Write: Reflection paper
Mon, September 21 from 2:45-4:00pm	Making Public Policy	Read: Rosenbaum, chapters 2; Vig and Kraft, chapters 4-5; Layzer, chapter 2  Write: Reflection paper and "Policymaking in the News"
Mon, October 5 from 2:45-4:00pm	Environmental Justice	Read: Rosenbaum, chapter 4; <i>CQ Researcher</i> , chapter 5 ("Genetically Modified Food"); Layzer, chapter 4  Write: Reflection paper  Research: A current issue in environmental policy (for instance, "fracking") and come ready to have an informal discussion about the topic.
Weds, October 21 from 7:00-8:15am	Midterm Exam	No reading
Weds, November 4 from 7:00-8:15am	Policy Regulation	Read: Rosenbaum, chapters 5-6; Vig and Kraft, chapter 9; Layzer, chapter 15  Write: Reflection paper and "Policymaking in the News"

<p>Weds, November 18 from 7:00-8:15am</p>	<p>Public Land and Urban Development</p>	<p>Read: Rosenbaum, chapter 9; Vig and Kraft, chapter 11; Layzer, chapter 6</p> <p>Write: Reflection paper</p> <p>Research: Your member of Congress's position on environmental sustainability and protection.</p>
<p>Mon, November 30 from 2:45-4:00pm</p>	<p>Global Environmentalism</p>	<p>Read: Rosenbaum, chapter 10; Vig and Kraft, chapters 12-14</p> <p>Write: Reflection paper and "Policymaking in the News"</p>
<p>Weds, December 9 from 7:00-8:15am</p>	<p>Final Exam</p>	<p>No reading</p>