

University of Rochester

PSC243
Professor Rothenberg

Environmental Politics
Spring 2006

Course Purpose: This course provides an explicitly political perspective on issues concerning the environment—however there is a fair amount of economic reasoning as well. The result should be a substantive understanding of environmental politics specifically and public policy generally. The course is principally intended for committed, upper-level, undergraduate students.

Patience Required: I hope that students will be patient if some of the material covered is remedial (i.e., they know it) as this class may attract a diverse set of participants. Some may know nothing of political science or economics, while others may be ignorant of relevant scientific issues. It is my job to make things understandable for everyone.

Office Hours: Formal office hours are on Friday from 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. in Harkness 108. I will be available at most other times. My phone is x34903 and my e-mail is lrot@mail.rochester.edu; feel free to use either as a means of contact. My teaching assistant is Navine Murshid, and her e-mail is nmurshid@mail.rochester.edu and her office is Harkness 309.

Requirements and Grading: Students will be graded on a midterm exam (25 percent), a *group project*, which includes a 15-20 page paper and a presentation (35 percent), and a final exam (40 percent).

Readings: The following books are in the bookstore:

Lawrence S. Rothenberg. *Environmental Choices: Policy Responses to Green Demands*

Norman Vig and Michael Kraft. *Environmental Choices: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century*

J. Clarence Davies and Jan Mazurek. *Regulating Pollution: Does the U.S. System Work?*

Other additional reading materials will be available through links on the syllabus and the library. All readings are **required** and should be read before class to enhance the value of both the lectures and the discussion. Please note that dates are subject to change.

I. PUBLIC POLICY

I. Introduction and Grounds for Political Intervention (1/18-1/23)

Readings:

Garrett Hardin. (1968) "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*. Available at:
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/162/3859/1243.pdf>

Ronald Coase. (1960) "The Problem of Social Cost," *Journal of Law & Economics*
Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00222186/ap020005/02a00010/0.pdf?backcontext=table-of-contents&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=809733ed@rochester.edu/01cc99333c1ca5108a18c7145&0.pdf>

Robert G. Hansen and John R. Lott. (1993) "Regulating IAQ: The Economist's View,"
EPA Journal. Available at:
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=33&did=1633488&SrchMode=3&sid=3&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1137426255&clientId=17941&aid=1>

and Rep. Henry A. Waxman, "The View from Congress."
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=39&did=1633492&SrchMode=3&sid=3&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1137426255&clientId=17941&aid=1>

Rothenberg, Ch. 2

II. Policy Determinants and Solutions (1/25-1/30)

Readings:

Terry M. Moe and Scott Caldwell, "The Institutional Foundations of Democratic Governments—A Comparison of Presidential and Parliamentary Systems," *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 150: 171-195.

Rothenberg, Ch. 1

Paul Portney. 2003. "Market-Based Approaches to Environmental Policy," *Resources*. Available at: <http://www.rff.org/rff/Documents/RFF-Resources-151-Marketapproaches.pdf>

Richard Morgenstern and Winston Harrington. 2004. "Economic Incentives versus Command and Control: What's the Best Approach for Solving Environmental Problems?" *Resources*. Available at: http://www.rff.org/rff/Documents/RFF_Resources_152_ecoincentives.pdf

Michael Sandel, 1997. "It's Immoral to Buy the Right to Pollute," *New York Times*. Available at: <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=1&did=23839206&SrchMode=1&sid=2&Fmt=3&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1136927866&clientId=17941#fulltext>

James N. Sanchirico and Richard G. Newell . 2003. "Catching Market Efficiencies: Quota-Based Fisheries Management," *Resources*. Available at: <http://www.rff.org/rff/Documents/RFF-Resources-150-catchmarket.pdf>

Cary Coglianese and Laurie K. Allen. 2004. "Does Consensus Make Common Sense," *Environment*. Available at: <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=1&did=525231951&SrchMode=1&sid=3&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1137005367&clientId=17941>

NOTE: 2/1 will be group organization day!!!!

III. *Past and Present Demand for Environmental Protection* (2/1-2/8)

Readings:

Rothenberg, Ch. 3.

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 1

Dorothy Lynn Guber. 2001. "Voting Preferences and the Environment in the American Electorate," *Society and Natural Resources*. Available at:
<http://www.uvm.edu/~dguber/research/SNR01.pdf>

PIPA. "Americans on Climate Change: 2005." Available at:
http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/ClimateChange/ClimateChange05_Jul05/ClimateChange05_Jul05_rpt.pdf

IV. *Contemporary Environmental Politics and Policy* (2/13-2/15)

Readings:

Davies

Rothenberg, Chs. 7-8

Cary Coglianese and Gary Marchant. 2004. "The EPA's Risky Reasoning," *Regulation*. Available at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/regulation/regv27n2/v27n2-1.pdf>

Ted Gayer and Robert Hahn. 2005. "The Political Economy of Mercury Regulation," *Regulation*. Available at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/regulation/regv28n2/v28n2-4.pdf>

V. *Enforcement: Adversarial or Consensual?* (2/20 – 2/22)

Readings:

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 12

Rothenberg, Ch. 5

Matthew Potoski and Aseem Prakash. 2004. "The Regulation Dilemma: Cooperation and Conflict in Environmental Governance," *Public Administration Review*. Available at:
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=26&did=587307821&SrchMode=3&sid=1&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=11368>

[18003&clientId=17941&aid=2](http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=15&did=788053361&SrchMode=3&sid=6&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1136818426&clientId=17941&aid=2)

Peter May. 2005. "Regulation and Compliance Motivations: Examining Different Approaches," *Public Administration Review*. Available at:
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=15&did=788053361&SrchMode=3&sid=6&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1136818426&clientId=17941&aid=2>

PART II. INSTITUTIONAL ACTORS

VI. *Mobilization of Interests* (2/27 – 3/1)

Readings:

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 4.

Rothenberg, pgs., 62-79.

Forrest Reinhardt. 2005. "Environmental Protection and the Social Responsibility of Firms: Perspectives from the Business Literature," from *Environmental Protection and the Social Responsibility of Firms*, edited by Bruce Hay, Robert Stavins, and Richard H.K. Vietor.

MIDTERM 3/6

VII. *Congress and Distributive Politics* (3/8-3/20)

Readings:

Rothenberg, pp. 79-88

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 6

VIII. *The President and the General Interest* (3/22 – 3/27)

Readings:

Rothenberg, pp. 84-88

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 5

Soden, Dennis L., and Brent S. Steel. 1999. "Evaluating the Environmental Presidency," in *The Environmental Presidency*, edited by Dennis L. Soden. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

National Resources Defense Council. 2005. *Rewriting the Rules: The Bush Administration's First-term Environmental Record*.
<http://www.nrdc.org/legislation/rollbacks/rr2005.pdf>

White House. 2005. *Key Bush Environmental Accomplishments*, Available at:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/environment/key_bush_environmental_accomplishments.pdf

Margaret Kirz. 2004. "A Pro-Industry Tilt," *National Journal*, Available at:
<http://nationaljournal.com/members/news/2004/04/0402nj4.htm#>

IX. *The Courts as Arbitrator* (3/29)

Readings:

Rothenberg, 88-101

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 7, 11

Richard J. Lazarus. 2001. "The Greening of America and the Graying of United States Environmental Law: Reflections on Environmental Law's First Three Decades in the United States," *Virginia Environmental Law Journal* Available at:
<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/faculty/rl/pics/GreeningofAmerica.pdf>

X. *The Agencies and the Interaction of Institutions* (4/3)

Readings:

Rothenberg, 95-101

Vig and Kraft, Chs. 8, 14

X. *States and Localities-The Sins and Virtues of Federalism* (4/5-4/10)

Readings:

Rothenberg, Ch. 6

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 2

Wallace Oates. 2002. "The Arsenic Rule: A Case for Decentralized Standard Setting?"
Resources Available at: <http://www.rff.org/Documents/RFF-Resources-147-arsenicrule.pdf>

XI. *The U.S. in the Larger World: Is International Cooperation Possible?* (4/12 - 4/17)

Readings:

Vig and Kraft, Chs. 13, 15, and 16.

James R. Kahn. 2005. *The Economic Approach to Environmental and Natural Resources*, Ch. 7.

J.W. Anderson, *et al.* "Where Do We Go From Here [after Kyoto]?" *Resources*
<http://www.rff.org/rff/Documents/RFF-Resources-157-Kyoto.pdf>

Robert N. Stavins. 2004. "Forging a More Effective Global Climate Treaty,"
Environment Available at:
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=5&did=761299911&SrchMode=3&sid=1&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1136824830&clientId=17941&aid=1>

XII. *Student Presentations* (4/19 - 5/1)

XIII. *Conclusions: Is the System Sustainable?* (5/3) **GROUP PAPERS DUE**

Reading:

Rothenberg, Ch. 9

Robert Solow, "Sustainability: An Economist's Perspective," in *Economics of the Environment*, edited by Robert Stavins.

Arrow, Kenneth, *et al.* 2004. "Are We Consuming Too Much?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Available at (open the pdf file):
<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/aea/jep/2004/00000018/00000003/art00008>

Vig and Kraft, Ch. 17