Course Description

This is an introductory graduate-level course on the fundamental concepts and issues that confront environmental policy makers and planners in practice. The term “environmental planning” encompasses a wide array of planning techniques and institutional settings. Rather than focusing on one particular type of planning (e.g., cost-benefit analysis, impact assessment, site design), the course is designed to address recurrent value-based and analytical conflicts that cut across those various environmental policymaking and planning activities. Although we will focus in some detail on site planning and impact assessment at the end of the term, the course is not designed as a studio-oriented course.

Contemporary environmental policymaking and planning debates typically appear at the surface to hinge on disagreements about scientific questions and appropriate policymaking and planning techniques. These debates, however, often mask at their core hidden (and unquestioned) disagreements over fundamental philosophical values and analytical assumptions. One goal of the course will be prepare students to be competent environmental policy analysts and planners. The principal goal, however, will be to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need in order to be thoughtful and creative professionals, capable of recognizing the key disconnects in communication and analysis that often hinder effective and satisfying environmental policy and planning solutions. Specifically, the course is designed to:

- provide students the ability to recognize and tease apart the competing values and analytical assumptions made by various stakeholders in environmental policy-making and planning debates;
- consider how those debates are shaped by and play themselves out within the political, legal, and administrative processes that characterize environmental policy-making and planning in the U.S.; and
- familiarize students with the various forms of contemporary environmental policy-making and planning practice they will likely encounter in their professional work.
The focus of this course will be on environmental planning and policymaking in the United States. This class will not address in great depth the concept of sustainable development, but has been designed as a foundational course for the sustainable development course that will be offered during the winter term. This course should also provide a good complement to a variety of other planning and natural resource management courses that focus on particular topics or analytical techniques, such as land use planning and design, landscape planning, watershed planning, dispute resolution, and analytical tools for environmental policy.

**Course Format**

Because of the nature of the topics to be addressed by this class—topics that lend themselves to healthy debate—I hope to conduct the class as part recitation and part seminar, with as little lecturing by me and as much discussion by all as possible. You will be expected to **participate actively in class** discussions and **write several papers and other short assignments** that present synthetic analyses of a selection of the topics covered. There will be no mid-term or final exam.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

The final grade for the course will be based on the following distribution:

- In-class participation: 15%
- Short papers/journal: 30% (5 journal entries, worth 6% each)
- Short Research Paper: 25% (5–10 page paper)
- Final Research Paper: 30% (10–15 page paper)

**Note regarding written assignments:** As graduate students, I expect you to turn in papers that are well organized and that do not require extensive copy-editing. Papers that are not well written will be downgraded accordingly. If you are concerned about your writing skills, avail yourself of the Sweetland Writing Center’s services: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/swc/mainmenu.html. If you turn in a paper that requires substantial editing, I will require a re-write and refer you to the writing center.

**Required Texts**


**Course Reader**
Recommended Texts (on reserve at the Media Union)


Summary Outline

Course Introduction

Part I: Environmental Policy-Making and Planning: Overview and Institutions

- Historical context and debates
- Overview of environmental protection, planning, and law
- Environmental policy analysis described and critiqued
- Pollution control and wildlife protection
- Recent trends: development dispute resolution

Part II: *The Environment: Pulp for Paper, Paradise, or … What?*

- Environmental planning conflicts as wicked dilemmas
- Is there an environmental crisis?
- Private property and public welfare
- The economics view defended and critiqued
- What value nature?
- Alternative visions: anthropocentrism, extensionism, and ecocentric (holistic) ethics
- Environmental problems: pollution and environmental justice
- Environmental problems: growth and development
- Deep Ecology, Social Ecology, and Ecofeminism

Part III: Environmental Planning and Management in Theory and Practice

- Planning for biodiversity / habitat conservation planning
- Impervious surfaces / site design for urban stream protection
- Conservation by design
- Development management planning / land suitability analysis / buildout analysis
- Watershed planning and urban sprawl in Washtenaw County
- Open-space protection / land trusts
- Environmental impact assessment
Reading Assignments

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates required readings; additional readings are noted throughout that are recommended but not required.

PART I: Environmental Policy-Making & Planning: Overview and Institutions

Wednesday, September 3
Introduction and course overview
Course themes
Argumentation

Monday, September 8
Historical roots of current environmental problems
Land policy in the U.S.
The conservationist v. preservationist debate

*Reader: Hughes, in Armstrong & Botzler 167-171
*DeJardins: 46-52 (White)
*Reader: Udall (1963), 13-24, 39-82
*DeJardins: 327-328 (Pinchot)
*DeJardins: 138-44 (Muir)

Wednesday, September 10
Institutions: Overview of environmental protection, planning, and law

*Buck: 1-33, 61-88 (Chapters 1, 2, and 4)

Monday, September 15
Environmental policy analysis described and critiqued

*Buck: 34-60 (Chapter 3)
*Reader: Cost-Benefit Analysis, in VanDeVeer and Pierce 324-339

Wednesday, September 17
Pollution control and wildlife protection

*Buck: 89-154 (Chapters 5 and 6)

Monday, September 22
Recent trends: development dispute resolution

*Reader: Margerum 459-475
*Reader: Godschalk 368-378
*Reader: Campbell and Floyd 235-247
*Reader: McCloskey 36-37
SKIM: Godschalk et al. 11-72 – On reserve at the Media Union
PART II: The Environment: Pulp for Paper, Paradise, or ...What?

Wednesday, September 24
Environmental planning conflicts as wicked dilemmas
Review of traditional philosophical ethics

*Reader: Rittel and Webber 155-69
*DesJardins: 3-24 (Chapter 1)

Additional:

Monday, September 29 Journal Due
Is there an environmental crisis?

*Reader: Hardin 1243-1248
*Reader: Ehrlich and Ehrlich 91-105

Additional:

Wednesday, October 1 Journal Due
Private property and public welfare

*DesJardins 97-107 (Stroup et al.)
*DesJardins: 337-48 (Hargrove)
*Reader: Locke, in VanDeVeer and Pierce 430-33
*Reader: Shrader-Frechette, in VanDeVeer and Pierce 433-34

Additional:

Monday, October 6 Journal Due
The economics view defended and critiqued

*DesJardins: 108-115 (Freeman)
*Reader: Sagoff, in VanDeVeer and Pierce 315-324
*Reader: Edwards, in Armstrong & Botzler 231-237
*Reader: Sagoff, in Armstrong & Botzler 238-244
*DesJardins: 116-26 (Sagoff)
*DesJardins: 126-36 (Daly, Discussion Cases)
Wednesday, October 8  Journal Due
What value nature?
Aesthetic and spiritual values
Wilderness preservation

*DesJardins: 145-56 (Krieger)
*DesJardins: 156-63 (Elliot)
*DesJardins: 177-78 (Discussion Cases)
*DesJardins: Chapter 11 (Nelson, Cronon, Rolston and Discussion Cases)

Additional:

Monday, October 13
NO CLASS – Fall Break

Wednesday, October 15  Journal Due
Alternative visions: from anthropocentrism and extensionism to ecocentric (holistic) ethics

*DesJardins: 179-80 (Intro to Chapter 6)
SKIM DesJardins: 181-95 (Feinberg, Singer, Regan)
*DesJardins: 203-14 (Stone and Discussion Cases)
*DesJardins: 217-45 (Intro to Chapter 7, Leopold, Callicott, Marietta)
*DesJardins: 246-55 (Worster)
*DesJardins: 256-57 (Discussion Cases)

Monday, October 20  Journal Due
Environmental problems: Pollution and Environmental Justice

*DesJardins: 259-60 (Introduction to Part III)
*DesJardins: 261-62 (Introduction to Chapter 8)
SKIM DesJardins: 262-74 (Misch)
*DesJardins: 274-86 (Baxter, Steidlmeier, Discussion Cases)
*DesJardins: 437-57 (Introduction to Chapter 13, Bullard, Wenz)
*DesJardins: 473-74 (Discussion Cases)

Wednesday, October 22  Journal Due
Environmental problems: growth and development

*DesJardins: 394-436 (Chapter 12)

Monday, October 27  Journal Due
Deep Ecology, Social Ecology, and Ecofeminism
Section wrap-up

*DesJardins: 523-54 (Chapter 15)
PART III: Environmental Planning in Theory and Practice

**Wednesday, October 29**
Planning for Biodiversity

*Peck: Introduction and Chapters 1, 2 and 3

**Monday, November 3**
Planning for Biodiversity (continued) / habitat conservation planning

*Peck: Chapters 4 and 5
*Reader: Beatley 35-74

**Wednesday, November 5**
Planning for Biodiversity (continued)

*Peck: Chapters 6 and 7

**Monday, November 10** FIRST RESEARCH PAPER DUE
Impervious surfaces / site design for urban stream protection
*Guest Speaker: Professor Elizabeth Brabec, SNRE

*Reader: Arnold and Gibbons 243-258
*Reader: Brabec et al. 499-519
*On reserve: Schueler

**Wednesday, November 12**
Conservation by design
*Guest speaker to be announced

*Reader: Arendt Chapters 14-17

**Monday, November 17**
Development management planning
Land suitability analysis / buildout analysis

*Reader: Porter 83-115
*Reader: Kilpatrick and Wyckoff 5-13

**Wednesday, November 19**
Watershed planning and urban sprawl in Washtenaw County
*Guest Speaker to be announced

**Monday, November 24**
Open-space protection / land trusts
*Guest Speaker to be announced

*Reader: SEMCOG 1, 8-20
Monday, December 1 through Wednesday, December 10
Environmental impact assessment

*Readings will be drawn from Bass et al. (TBA)

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE December 10

References


