POLICY & ECONOMICS OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Online and on demand via Canvas/e-Learning

Course Syllabus

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Phone: 352-846-0872

Office hours: TBA

Course Website: http://lss.at.ufl.edu. We will actively use the UF e-Learning in Canvas website, through which you can send e-mails to classmates or to me, check your grades, check class announcements, access the syllabus, etc. Check the Canvas website before every class meeting.

Course Communications: The Canvas email system is the best way to get in touch with me about any class-related questions, concerns, etc. during the semester.

Course Description: Factors in evolution of forest, range, wildlife and related natural resources administration and policies in the United States. Course includes policy components, policy formation implementation, change processes and economic criteria for evaluating policy effectiveness.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Explain the key provisions of major natural resource policies and dynamics of natural resource policy development
- Identify factors that influence the success of resource policy implementation
- Critically evaluate natural resource policies using basic economic tools (e.g., graphical welfare analysis), and by applying ecological, social, and political criteria

Forests and other natural resources serve many economic, social, and environmental needs of people around the world. The patterns of use and management of natural resources can have a profound impact on the economy and the environment. However, public policies largely dictate the patterns of use and management of natural resources thereby influencing the lives of diverse stakeholders including future generations. Therefore, it is critical for resource professionals to understand concepts, administration, and economic and environmental impacts of resource policies.

The specific goals of Natural Resource Policy & Economics are to help you:

- Develop an understanding of concepts and theories of natural resource policy and economics,
- Further your knowledge of major natural resource policies and public policy processes,
- Advance your ability to critically evaluate natural resource policy issues from economic, policy, environmental, and social perspectives

Required Text and Additional Readings:
Required text:

Additional readings (Available through Canvas):

**Section I: Resource policy definition, process, and analytical framework**


**Section II: Economics of natural resource policies**


Section III: Review of specific policies


**Class Format:**

Lectures covering the assigned readings will be posted on the Canvas website and will be accessible throughout the semester. Typically, the lectures for the week will be available on the date listed in the syllabus. Please be patient if technical difficulties arise, and let me know as soon as possible if you cannot access lectures or other course materials.

- **Reading reviews:** To facilitate critical analysis and thoughtful comments on assigned readings, I will ask you to submit reviews of the readings throughout the semester (*starting with the 2nd week of class*). Reviews should be 1-3 pages, single spaced, and provide a very brief summary and then offer a critical synthesis of the readings assigned that week. Generally, reviews should identify key points and critically assess the work (and make relevant connections to other readings and concepts discussed in class). Reviews are due in Canvas by 5pm on the dates listed in the syllabus. Collectively, your readings reviews will be worth 20% of your final grade.

- **Online discussions:** To encourage broad discussion of the course readings and concepts, I will ask each student to participate in online discussions each week (in a Canvas discussion forum). At a minimum, students should post at least two comments and/or responses to comments related to the readings each week. Your participation in online discussions is worth 15% of your final grade.

- **Application assignments:** To provide an opportunity to apply concepts learned in class and via readings, I will ask you to complete three application assignments (together worth 35% of your final grade) that function as analytic exercises. For these assignments, you will be asked to: engage in and describe the public policy process using a specific public meeting as a context; assess a specific public policy issue using economic principles; and create an argumentative position paper on a specific issue.

- **Exams:** In addition to the readings reviews, online discussions, and application assignments, you will also be assessed via two take home exams (a midterm and a final exam), which will be open-notes/open-book. These are meant to test your knowledge and understanding of the key concepts covered in the class. Together, these exams are worth 30% of your final grade.

**Course Policies:**

*Participation:* You are expected to fully engage all lectures in a timely way, stay current with all assigned readings, and actively participate in online discussion. Participation helps synthesize material, improves critical social skills (important regardless of career path), and allows you to draw from other people’s diverse experiences, backgrounds, and insights. Active participation includes sharing thoughts, asking relevant questions, summarizing information in a way that informs discussion, and engaging in a professional manner.
Late submissions: Unless otherwise agreed, late submissions will be penalized as follows:
- 10% if between 1 minute and 24 hours late
- 20% if 24 to 48 hours late
- 30% if 48 to 72 hours late
Not accepted if more than 72 hours late

UF Policies:
University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php.

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, discussions and chats. http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

Getting Help:
For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning, please contact the UF Help Desk at:
- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help for:
- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints to submit a complaint.
Evaluation of Student Learning (Grades):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Reading reviews (best 8), due each week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Online discussions (best 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Application assignments*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A1: Public policy process description (5%), due 2/8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A2: Economic assessment of a policy issue (15%), due 3/29</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• A3: Policy analysis and argumentation (15%), due 4/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Exams (taken in Canvas)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• E1: Midterm exam (15%), on 2/22</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• E2: Final exam (15%), on 5/2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

100%  Total

* Details of each assignment can be found on the Canvas website under the Assignments tab. All assignments are due online by midnight of the due date.

Grading Scale (NOTE: minus grades are not assigned):

- 90-100%: A
- 87-89.9%: B+
- 77-79.9%: C+
- 67-69.9%: D+
- 0-59.9%: E
- 80-86.9%: B
- 70-76.9%: C
- 60-66.9%: D
### Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section I: Resource policy process and analytical framework</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/11</td>
<td>1 - Course introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>2 - Overview of natural resource policy; Social welfare; Collective action</td>
<td>Ellefson (1st half); Peterson; Stokey and Zeckhauser; Rosenbaum ch. 1; Ostrom</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/25</td>
<td>3 - The study of policy; Policy issues and formation; Policy implementation, evaluation, and analysis</td>
<td>Ellefson (2nd half); Cubbage et al.; Rosenbaum ch. 2 and ch. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>4 - Local government and the policy process; Public support and policy pragmatism</td>
<td>Robbins; Brody; Hayes and Persha</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Section II: Economics of natural resource policies</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>5 - Valuing and categorizing goods and services; Welfare economics and policy evaluation</td>
<td>Letson; Segerson; de Groot et al.; Daily et al.; Costanza et al.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15</td>
<td>6 - Economics of ecosystem services; Valuation methods</td>
<td>Tietenberg and Lewis; Hanley et al.; Ferraro et al.; Kubiszewski et al.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/22</td>
<td>7 - Midterm exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>8 - Policy design and economic incentives</td>
<td>Bowles; Boardman et al.; Rosenbaum ch. 5; Schlager and Ostrom; Dudley et al.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>9 - UF Spring Break (3/12-16)</td>
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<td>3/15</td>
<td>10 - Ethical considerations in public policy; Environmental justice</td>
<td>VanDeVeer and Pierce; Rosenbaum ch. 4</td>
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<td>3/22</td>
<td>11 - Ecological economics and system complexity</td>
<td>Jordan; Chee; Lui et al.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Section III: Review of example natural resource policies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>12 - Forest management and policies in the US and beyond</td>
<td>Weyerhauser and Gilmier; Rosenbaum ch. 9; Banerjee et al.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>13 - Climate change policies</td>
<td>Rosenbaum ch. 6 (pp. 198-219); Rosenbaum ch. 10; Tol; Fisher and Le; Greenstone et al.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>14 - Invasive species and endangered species policies</td>
<td>Anderson; Feldman and Brennan; Jenkins; Edwards; Keller and Perrings</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/19</td>
<td>15 - Fisheries management policies</td>
<td>Weber; Yandle and Dewees</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
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**Disclaimer:** The syllabus represents current plans and objectives, which may change to enhance learning opportunities. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.