



**ERST-CAST-POST 3100Y
Public Policy and the Canadian Environment
Fall/Winter 2010-2011**

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Course time and location: Tuesday, 2 – 3:50, GCS 110

Description of the course:

This course provides an introduction to the practice of environmental politics and the policy that has emerged to deal with environmental problems, both in the Canada and on the global stage. The course has four main parts. We begin with by framing environmental policy, considering political actors, ideas, institutions, and policy instruments that have shaped policy in Canada. Part II examines various cases in Canadian environmental policy and politics, such as water, biodiversity management, Aboriginal land claims, and the Alberta Tar Sands. We think about the ways that the environment has become an issue of concern and what regulatory frameworks have emerged to manage it. Part III briefly moves into cross-border and global environmental politics. We consider how the Canada has been active (or not) in various international policy regimes. Finally, we conclude the course by thinking about alternative pathways for environmental policy.

Throughout the course, we must keep in mind the way the power works through the establishment of policy and the practice of politics. These are not neutral processes but define how we come to understand both the environment and its crisis in some ways -- and not others. As such, we must always be thinking of the following question: ***by and for whom is environmental policy made?***

Course Objectives:

- To learn the fundamental principles and theories of environmental politics and policy;
- To think through how different discourses present very different ways of conceptualizing environmental politics;
- To develop an understanding of how environmental policy is made on the local, national and international levels;
- To understand the possibilities and limitations of the Canadian approach to environmental issues.

Required texts:

There are two required texts, both available for purchase at the campus bookstore.

David R. Boyd. (2003). *Unnatural Law: Rethinking Canadian Environmental Law and Policy*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Debora L. VanNijnatten & Robert Boardman (eds.) (2009). *Canadian Environmental Policy and Politics: Prospects for Leadership and Innovation, 3rd edition*. Oxford: University of Oxford Press.

Other articles or reports are available on the internet or through e-resources at the library. They will also be posted on myLearningSystem (WebCT). These readings are marked in the syllabus.

Grading Scheme:

Attendance and Participation	10%	
Critical Reading Responses	20%	
In-Class Test	10%	
Policy Analysis Paper Proposal		10%
Policy Analysis Paper	25%	
Final Exam	25%	

Explanation of Assignments and Grading:

Attendance and Participation: A proportion of your grade will be based on your participation in the course seminars. Indeed, a goal of this course is to encourage a collaborative and creative working and learning environment—your engaged participation is therefore a vital component to its success. The following elements will be taken into account when determining the participation mark: attendance, familiarity with readings, active participation, and contribution to the learning of your peers.

Critical Reading Responses: In the Fall semester, you will be asked to write four 800-1,000 page critical reading response papers on an article or chapter of your choice. You are **not** meant to summarize the articles but to **comment** upon them. For example, you might answer some of the following questions: What is the reading's significance; what questions do they raise and/or attempt to address; how do they fit with, challenge, reflect/concur, and/or link with other readings and approaches taken in the course material; do you find the arguments and presentation of material compelling, convincing, persuasive and how so? Obviously, you will not be able to address all of these issues/questions in the word limit but the list is meant to give you some ideas and a guideline in preparing your short responses. These are not research papers and you should not need to consult any sources outside of the assigned course materials.

You can choose any four readings from any of the classes in between **September 21st** and **November 23rd**. Due dates vary based on the readings selected. The Critical Reading Responses will be due at the beginning of the lecture corresponding to the date you selected.

In-Class Test: The in-class test will be held on **December 7th** and will cover all required readings, lectures, guest lectures, and films from the first term. The exam will be comprised of essay questions.

Policy Analysis Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography: In an effort to get you thinking about your policy analysis paper early, you will be required to write a short proposal (500 words) outlining the question you will investigate in the longer paper. Consider the following questions as you craft your proposal:

- What is the topic that you plan to investigate?
- Which of the texts or course themes will you use to build a conceptual frame for discussing your topic?
- What is your preliminary argument for the paper?

In addition to the essay proposal, you will also submit an annotated bibliography of no less than **seven** sources that you have consulted in your preliminary research. An annotated bibliography is a list of books, articles, documents, films, websites, etc. that you will use in preparing your research statement. Each citation is followed by a paragraph that describes and evaluates the text for your research purposes. You might ask yourself the following questions when preparing your annotated bibliography:

- What are the main arguments?
- What topics are covered?
- If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?
- Is it a useful source?
- How does it compare to other sources you have looked at?
- Has it changed your thinking about this topic?

Date Due: February 15th

Policy Analysis Paper

Put yourself in the position of a senior policy analyst for a major political party. As the key policy analyst, the candidate asks you to produce a platform that addresses an important environmental issue of today.

Drawing on the course materials as well as at least 7 outside sources that you outlined in your proposal, write an 8-10 page (2,000-2,500 words) paper that addresses the following questions:

- i. Why is this an important environmental issue?
- ii. How is this issue caused and what are its effects?
- iii. What policy decisions and implementation practices would you recommend to address this issue?

Date Due: March 22nd

Final Exam: The final exam covers both the required readings and the lectures for the entire course, but will place an emphasis on the Winter term material (25% Fall material and 75% Winter material). All readings, lectures, films, or guest lectures are included. The exam tests mastery of the material covered, ability to synthesize overarching patterns and relationships, and ability to respond to the central debates. The format for the final exam will include short answer questions and essay questions. While other material may be useful, you will be assessed for understanding and using ideas drawn from lectures and readings from this course.

General Information:

Due dates and late papers: Late assignments will be penalized at 5% of the value of the assignment per weekday late. Weekends will be treated as a single weekday. *Deadlines are non-negotiable.*

Extensions will only be granted with appropriate documentation (i.e. for medical reasons [supported by a doctor's note] or upon the written recommendation of Counseling Services).

Assignments are due in lecture. Late assignments may be dropped off in the appropriate slot of the drop box outside of Rob Loney's office (ESC A204). Please note that only late assignments should make use of this option – assignments that are to be considered as being submitted on time must be handed in during the lecture period (unless accompanied by appropriate documentation, as above).

Environmental Policy: We like to minimize the use of paper in this course. Accordingly, we encourage you to hand in assignments and essays double-sided or on re-used paper (i.e. that has something already on the other side).

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a 0 grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's Academic Integrity Policy. You have a responsibility to educate yourself – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more – www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

Access to Instruction: It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (BL Suite 109, 748- 1281, disabilityservices@trentu.ca) as soon as possible.

In-Class Behaviour: Students are expected to come to lecture and seminar prepared for the class (i.e. having read the assigned readings). Questions are permitted during lecture provided that they do not disrupt the rest of the students' ability to take in the material presented. Students are expected to treat each other with the utmost respect; disruptions to the class will not be permitted. Active listening is encouraged.

Course Schedule and Readings

Part I: Framing Canadian Environmental Policy-making

September 14 – Course Introduction

- No reading

September 21 – Canada and environmental values

- Boyd – Chapter 1

September 28 –The environmental policy cycle

- Howlett, Michael, and M. Ramesh. "Policy Science and Policy Cycles," In *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*. 2nd ed. 2-19. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2003. [I recommend you read this first.] Available on MyLearningSystem.
- Hoberg, George. "Policy Cycles and Policy Regimes: A Framework for Studying Policy Change" In *Search of Sustainability: British Columbia Forest Policy in the 1990s*. 3-30. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press, 2001. Available on MyLearningSystem.

October 5 – Policy tools

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 5

October 12 – What is the appropriate scale for environmental politics?

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapters 8, 9 & 10

October 19 – Greens and the environmental movement

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 1 & 2

October 26 – Reading Week

November 2 – Science and policy

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 5 & 16

Part II: Case Studies in Canadian Environmental Policy

November 9 – Water

- Boyd – Chapter 2
- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 15

Clips from *Flow: For love of water*

November 16 – Fisheries

- Hoogensen, Gunhild. 2007. "The Canadian Fisheries Industry: Retrospect and Prospect." *Canadian Political Science Review*, 1(1): 42-56. You can access this article through the library e-resources or on myLearningSystem.
- Irvine, James. 2009. "The successful completion of scientific public policy: Lessons Learned While Developing Canada's Wild Salmon Policy." *Environmental Science & Policy*, 12(2): 140-148. You can access this article through the library e-resources or on myLearningSystem.
- Wiber, Melanie & Milley Chris. 2007. "After Marshall: Implementation of Aboriginal Fishing Rights in Atlantic Canada." *Journal of Legal Pluralism & Unofficial Law*, 55: 163-186. You can access this article from <http://www.jlp.bham.ac.uk/volumes/55/wibermilley-art..pdf> or on myLearningSystem.

Film: *Taking stock*

November 23 – Land and pesticides

- Boyd – Chapter 4
- Sandberg, Anders and Jennifer Foster. 2005. "Challenging Lawn and Order: Environmental Politics of Lawn Care Reform in Canada". *Environmental Politics*. 14(4): 478-494. You can access this article through the library e-resources or on myLearningSystem.

November 30 – Forests and Aboriginal co-management

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 13
- Blakes, Supreme Court of Canada Decisions in Haida and Taku River, November 19, 2004. You can access this decision from <http://www.blakes.com/english/view.asp?ID=121> or on myLearningSystem.
- Holly Mabee and George Hoberg, "Equal partners? Assessing co-management of forest resources in Clayoquot Sound." *Society & Natural Resources* 19 (2006): pp. 875-888. You can access this article through the library e-resources or on myLearningSystem.

December 7 – In Class Test

January 11 – Energy and the Tar Sands

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 12

- Nikiforuk, Andrew. "The First Law of Petropolitics." *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*. 152-166. Vancouver, BC: Greystone/David Suzuki Foundation, 2008. Available on MyLearningSystem

January 18 – Food, agriculture, and livestock

- Ramsay, Heather. "Can't Slaughter Like You Used To." You can access this at: <http://thetyee.ca/News/2006/02/08/SlaughterUsedTo/> or on myLearningSystem.
- Kootenay Coop Radio. "Slaughterhouses on the Butcher's Block?" [Series: Deconstructing Dinner] Available at <http://www.cjly.net/deconstructingdinner/050406.htm> or on myLearningSystem.
- Laidlaw, Stuart. (2004). Saving agriculture from itself. In E. Solomon and A. Heintzman (Eds.) *Feeding the Future*, pp.11-35. Available on myLearningSystem.

January 25 – Animals and Biodiversity Management

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 14
- Boyd – Chapter 5

February 1st – Toxic Environments: Science vs. Politics

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 16
- Bethany Haalboom, Susan J. Elliott, John Eyles, Henry Muggah. (2006). "The risk society work in the Sydney Tar Ponds." *Canadian Geographer*, 50 (2): 227-241. You can access this article through the library e-resources or on myLearningSystem.

February 8 – Assessing Canadian Environmental Policy

- Boyd – Chapters 6, 7

February 15 – Weaknesses and Obstacles in Canadian Environmental Policy

- Boyd – Chapters 8, 9, 10

February 22nd – Reading Week

Part III: Cross-border and Global Concerns

March 1 – US-Canada Relations

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 7
- George Hoberg, (1991). "Sleeping with an elephant: The American influence on Canadian environmental regulation." *Journal of Public Policy* 11, (1): 107-132. You can access this article through the library e-resources or on myLearningSystem.

March 8 – Global Environmental Leadership

- Warner, Rosalind (Winter 2004). "Canadian Environmental Diplomacy and the Organizing Principle of Globalization." *Canadian Foreign Policy*, 11 (2): 131-148. You can access this article through the library e-resources or on myLearningSystem.

March 15 – Case Study: Climate Change

- VanNijnatten & Boardman – Chapter 11
- Harrison, Kathryn (2007). "The Road not Taken: Climate Change Policy in Canada and the United States." *Global Environmental Politics*, 7 (4): 92-

117. You can access this article through the library e-resources or on myLearningSystem.

Part IV: Pathways to change

March 22 – New Directions in Canadian Environmental Policy

- Boyd – Chapters 11 & 12

March 29 – Reducing Consumption and Sustainable Development

- Boyd – Chapter 13 & 14

April 5 – Course Wrap-up and Exam Review

Final Exam During Exam Period