Course description: The political setting in which environmental policymaking occurs. The course will focus on grassroots and top-down policymaking in the United States with some comparative examples. Topics include the conservation movement and national agenda politics, pollution control and iron triangle politics, alternative energy policy and subsidy politics, climate change and issue networks, and transnational environmental issues and the negotiation of international policy regimes.

Degree and Major Requirements (Barnard students): This course satisfies the general education requirement for social analysis, the American Politics subfield course for the Political Science Major, and the overall course requirements for the major or minor in Political Science. It may be used for Part C, Decision-making Foundation, in the Environmental Policy major (consult chair of Environmental Science at Barnard).

Prerequisites: None. Some knowledge of American politics and government (i.e. prior high school or college coursework or equivalent) is recommended but not required.

Requirements: attendance at all classes and completion of two take-home essays and a final research paper. Each essay will be approximately 10-12 printed pages (300 words per page), on assigned topics based on readings and lectures. The final paper (10-12 pages) will involve political analysis for a “client” (an environmental policy organization) and will involve one of the policy areas studied in the course. It will require additional readings developed in consultation with the instructor. Each take-home essay counts for 30 percent of the grade, and the final paper counts for 30 percent. An in-class presentation of political strategy recommendations in the final research paper counts for 10 percent. Class discussion is encouraged but does not count toward the grade. (Students in need of special accommodations involving health or learning disabilities should see me during office hours or by appointment.)


Contact Information: Office Hours: Wednesday 4-6, 408 Lehman Hall (Barnard Library Building). E-mail: rpious@barnard.edu.

Topics and Readings (Readings due on date indicated)

I. Models of Governance

**January 20** Overview: Politics and Processes of Governance


Norman Vig and Michael Kraft, ed. *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century* Washington DC CQ Press 2005, Ch. 1: Environmental Policy From the 1970s to the Twenty-First Century

**January 25** Corporatism, Private Power and Interest Groups

Lehman JK467 B744 2007, Ch. 1: Analyzing the Role of Business in Environmental Policy; ch. 3: Business, Elections and the Environment. E-Book

**January 27** Federalism and Decentralization


**February 1** Presidential Politics


**February 3** Congressional Politics


**First Midterm Essay Handed Out Covering Part I, Due February 15**

**February 8** Judicial Decisionmaking


**February 10** Citizen Participation


II. Conservation and Environmental Protection: Prerogative Power, Iron Triangles and Issue Networks

**First Midterm Covering Part I Due February 15**

**February 15** National Parks and Forests
(Do the readings for this class after handing in the first midterm)


**February 17** Public Lands


**February 22** Dams and Rivers


**February 24** Wetlands


**March 1**: Hazardous and Toxic Wastes


Optional: Dianne Rahm, ed. *Toxic waste and environmental policy in the 21st century*, chs. 1,2. Lehman TD 1040 T687 2002

III. Pollution Control: Regulatory Politics

March 3  Industrial Air Pollution

Walter Rosenbaum, *Environmental Politics and Policy*. ch. 5: More Choice; Ch. 6: Command and Control: Air and Water Pollution (pp. 174-195 on air pollution).

March 8: Industrial Waterway Pollution

Walter Rosenbaum, *Environmental Politics and Policy*. Ch. 6: Command and Control: Air and Water Pollution (pp. 196-213 on water pollution).


IV. Energy: Subsidy Politics

March 10: Oil and Natural Gas


March 22 Second Midterm Covering II, III, and IV Handed Out, Due April 7

March 22 Big Coal

Jeff Goodell, *Big Coal*. Houghton Mifflin, 2006  (on regulating power plants) Ch. 2 Coal Colonies; Ch. 8 Reversal of Fortune; Ch. 9 The Coal Rush

March 24 Alternative Energy Sources


March 29 Energy Conservation


March 31 The Environment and Job Creation

No readings for this class.
V. Climate Change Politics: Negotiating International Policy Regimes

April 5 Domestic Climate Change Politics


Second Midterm Exam Due April 7
(Do April 7 readings afterwards)

April 7 U.S. Foreign Policy

Walter Rosenbaum, *Environmental Politics and Policy*, ch. 10: United States and Climate Diplomacy

Michael A. Levi, “Copenhagen’s Inconvenient Truth” Foreign Policy, September/October 2009, pp. 92-104

April 12 Business and Global Governance


April 14 International Institutions


Chapter 1: Introduction: Governing the International Environment

Chapter 4: Global Environmental Policy: Governance Through Regimes

Chapter 6: Global Climate Change Policy: Making Progress or Spinning Wheels?

April 19, 21, 26, 28, May 3. Class Presentations.

May 6 Political Analysis for “Client Organization” Due
(Papers should be e-mailed to rpious@barnard.edu by 11:00 pm. Hard copies should be placed under the door, 408 Lehman Hall (Barnard Library) as of May 11. After the May 5 deadline, late papers are penalized 1 point per hour, up to five points per 24-hour cycle.

Useful Websites:

Policy Archive  https://www.policyarchive.org/
Sponsored by the Center for Governmental Studies (CGS) and the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Library, the Policy Archive site brings together thousands of full text documents, reports, videos, and multimedia material generated by these various think tanks and institutions. Use topic quick links, which include everything from agriculture to technology.

Appendix A: Historical Background

Consult any or all of these works for background on the history of policymaking in the area you choose for your third paper.


**Appendix B: Perspectives on our Continent**

