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PSC 360.01: Environmental Politics

Robert P. Saldin

University of Montana, robert.saldin@umontana.edu

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Environmental Politics
University of Montana
Political Science 360
Tuesdays 4:10 – 6:30; LA 344
Spring 2010

Robert Saldin
robert.saldin@umontana.edu
(406) 243-4418

Office: Liberal Arts 354
Office Hours: TuTh 10-11
& 3:30-4:00

Course Description

This is a research/writing-intensive course offering students the opportunity to conduct a substantial research project on an environmental policy and political issue of their choice. In addition, students will gain an understanding of public land policy in the Western United States.

Required Texts and Other Readings

The following books are required:

- Timothy Egan, *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America* (Houghton Mifflin, 2009), available in local bookstores
- Roderick Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 4th edition (Yale University Press, 2001), available on Amazon.com (and possibly local bookstores)
- Martin Nie, *The Governance of Western Public Lands* (University Press of Kansas, 2009), available at the UM Bookstore

Other readings can be accessed on the internet at the addresses listed on this syllabus or will be posted on the course's Blackboard website. Blackboard readings are designated on the syllabus as: "(Blackboard)." Contact me if you are not familiar with Blackboard.

The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or alter course readings as needed.

Requirements and Grading

Paper:	50%
Policy Presentation:	25%
Participation (including reading responses):	25%

Paper: Select an environmental policy area. Research and write a 15 – 20 page report outlining the issue, proposed policy solutions, and your preferred solution. More information about the papers will be provided in class. Papers are due Thursday, April 29 at 5:00. Extensions will be

available only for illness or serious family circumstance, and then only with *advance* permission. Papers will be marked down one letter grade for each day they are late.

Policy Presentation: Each student will give an in-class, formal presentation based on their research. Details about the presentations will be discussed in class.

Participation: Most of our class time will be spent discussing the course readings and student research projects in a seminar setting. Consequently, both quantity and quality of class participation will be very important. Students are expected to do all of the assigned readings before each class meeting and come to class prepared to discuss the material. Daily attendance will be taken and factored into participation grades. *Students missing 3 or more of our scheduled class meetings will not pass the course.* In addition, several times during the semester and as scheduled, students will write a response paper to the week's readings. Response papers must be circulated via email by 9:00 AM the day of class.

Grades: Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

A 93-100	B+ 87-89.9	C+ 77-79.9	D+ 67-69.9	F below 60
A- 90-92.9	B 83-86.9	C 73-76.9	D 63-66.9	
	B- 80-82.9	C- 70-72.9	D- 60-62.9	

**** The Policy Paper and Policy Presentation must be completed in order to pass the course. ****

PSC 400 Writing Projects

Students may enroll in PSCI 400, Advanced Writing in Political Science (1 credit), in conjunction with this course. *This opportunity is strictly optional and has absolutely no influence on your performance in, or grade for, the larger course.* Students enrolled in this co-requisite option must meet with the instructor prior to starting their project to discuss its aim, scope, sources, and style.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available online at <http://life.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>. I take academic honesty very seriously, and will do my utmost to prevent, uncover, and penalize any form of cheating. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about academic honesty.

DSS Students

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations on exams, papers, or other course

requirements must contact Disability Services for Students (DSS) in order to arrange for and provide me with a letter of approval for accommodations at least one week prior to the first exam. DSS is located in Lommasson Center 154.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1, Jan. 26: Course Introduction

Approaches to Environmental Policy Making

Week 2, Feb. 2: The Rise of the Environmental Policy Regime, Part I

Egan, *The Big Burn* (all)

Week 3, Feb. 9: The Rise of the Environmental Policy Regime, Part II

Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind* (all)

Policy Paper topics due in class

Week 4, Feb. 16: CLASS WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK

First Individual Conference: Each student will meet individually with the instructor to discuss his/her policy paper. Prior to the conference, students will submit a one page research agenda to the instructor. A sign-up sheet for these sessions will be distributed in class on Feb. 9.

Week 5, Feb. 23: Public Lands and Wilderness 1

Wilderness Act (Blackboard)

RARE I (Blackboard)

RARE II (Blackboard)

selected wilderness bills and related writings (Blackboard)

Week 6, Mar. 2: CLASS WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK

Policy Paper outline and bibliography due by email, Tuesday, March 2 at 4:10 PM.

Week 7, Mar. 9: Public Lands and Wilderness 2

Nie, *The Governance of Western Public Lands* (all)

Week 8, Mar. 16: Public Lands and Wilderness 3

Nie and Fiebig, "Place-based Legislation as Method of Resolving Multiple-Use Conflicts on National Forests" (Blackboard)

Week 9, Mar. 23: Forest Jobs and Recreation Act

Forest Jobs and Recreation Act (Blackboard)

selected commentary on Forest Jobs and Recreation Act (Blackboard)

Week 10, Mar. 30: Spring Break

Week 11, Apr. 6: CLASS WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK

Second Individual Conference: Each student will meet individually with the instructor to discuss his/her policy paper. At least 48 hours prior to the conference, students will submit a hard copy of a working rough draft to the instructor. A sign-up sheet for these sessions will be distributed in class on March 23.

Week 12, Apr. 13: Policy Presentations 1-5

Presenters must circulate their polished rough drafts to the class by Thursday, April 8

Week 13, Apr. 20: Policy Presentations 6-10

Presenters must circulate their polished rough drafts to the class by Thursday, April 15

Week 14, Apr. 27: Policy Presentations 11-15

Presenters must circulate their polished rough drafts to the class by Thursday, April 22

******Final Draft of Policy Paper due Thursday, April 29 at 5:00******

Week 15, May 4: CLASS WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK