

Graduate Course on Environmental Policy
GEOGRAPHY-9334 - POLITICAL SCIENCE-9720

Lectures – Mondays 1pm to 4pm in Pleva Room, next to Geography Office, Social Sciences Centre

First lecture - 19 September -1-4pm. Lectures every Monday until 5 December, 2011

A graduate course on Environmental Policy will be given in the fall of 2011, as a lecture-discussion-reading course. The course description is: Environmental issues, especially climate and environmental change as dealt with through science, controversy and assessment; the role of the media and science-to-policy considerations; impacts on humans and ecosystems; international and national policy considerations; environmental hazards and environmental organizations.

Prerequisites

Graduate student in social, natural and engineering sciences. Prospective students are requested to contact Professor McBean at email gmcbean@uwo.ca (strongly preferred) or telephone at 519-661-4274, for further information.

Instructor Information:

Professor Gordon McBean, CM, OOnt, FRSC, of the Departments of Geography and Political Science and Director, Policy Studies, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction. Professor McBean has played a major role in the science and policy of climate change, environmental hazards, air pollution and related “air issues”. There will be a small number of guest lecturers during the course.

Course Syllabus

The course content is intended to be flexible, responding to students’ interests and topics of concern. Students will be required to submit a course essay on a topic of mutual agreement and to participate in classroom discussion. The course content will include:

1. Introduction - types of environmental issues - Scales - History of environmental issues
2. Climate change - science, the controversies, processes of assessment, role of media, science-to-policy - impacts; international and national policy considerations
3. Environmental hazards
4. International environmental organizations – UNCED; UNFCCC; ICSU, UNISDR,
5. Clean air - acid rain- ozone depletion
6. Other topics – to be decided

Course Materials

Students can start by reading articles in two special issues of policy journals that are available on the web. Policy Options, the journal of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, had special issues on climate change and related topics in Dec-2005-Jan-2006, October 2006 and May 2007. Go to www.irpp.org/po/, then to back issues. Other readings will be assigned with each lecture. Students will be expected to conduct reading outside of classes and join for sessions for discussions of ideas and concepts.

Method of Evaluation

Essay	45%
Oral final Exam	45%
Class Participation	10%