GEOGRAPHY 9107
ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
FALL 2014

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Isaac Luginaah
SSC 1409
661-2111, ext. 86944
iluginaa@uwo.ca

OBJECTIVES:
• Examine conceptual frameworks for environmental health research and policy analysis.
• Appraise methods of deriving and substantiating evidence in environmental health.
• Review approaches to environmental health policy formulation.
• Examine the uses of evidence in the environmental health policy arena.
• Carry out critical research and analytic policy projects.

CLASS TIME: Tuesdays 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

ROOM: SSC 2322E

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>TOPIC (Case Study topics may change depending on the interest of the students in the course)</th>
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>Design, Measurement and Evaluation I</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Evidence, Policy and Policy Learning</td>
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<td>Policy Narratives and Policy Framing</td>
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EVALUATION:

- There will be two written papers worth 45 percent each. The first, due on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, will emphasize research and the second, due on Friday, December 12, 2014, will focus on policy.
- Participation in class will be worth 10 percent, it is expected that all students will be fully prepared for class and will participate fully in class discussion.

PROCEDURE:
A reading list for each session will be distributed a week in advance (see attached for sessions).

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES:

- The statement: “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

- Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Other policies:
- Retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and graded assignments.
- Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments should discuss their commitments with the instructor.
- Mobile telephones and any similar devices should be switched off during class. If you bring one to class, be sure to turn it off or you will be asked to leave.
The population health perspective which maintains that many factors - including environment - are associated with health and well-being. We begin with Evans and Stoddart who were among the first to provide rigorous argument for health being produced by more than the availability of medical care. Such arguments have shaped both the clinical and epidemiological as well as the social scientific examination of what causes health and illness as the readings by Krieger, Mordacci and Wilkinson attest.


In these next two sessions we shall look at design, measurement and evaluation issues. This week we concentrate on designs utilized for environment and health research. First, we review basic epidemiologic research strategies. Morgenstern reviews the ecologic method while Hennekens and Buring outline individual respondent-based designs. Engel calls for the need for a new medical model, Brown makes a case for qualitative environmental health research. Wakefield and colleagues study air pollution from the point of view of community action, risk perception, social capital and attachment to place.


In this second session on design, measurement and evaluation, we will examine how different methods lead to different types of evidence and assess the ways of enduring the validity or trustworthiness of that evidence. We begin broadly with Hage and Meeker who address 'causality' in 'social' research which has relevance for environment and health. We then turn to Bradford Hill who established criteria for assessing the association between environment and health, while Baum, writing from the point of view of public health practitioners, points out that nature of different sorts of evidence and their philosophical and practical bases. The remaining two papers are concerned with the interpretation and interpretability of epidemiologic evidence more directly and point out the specific "biases" of various study designs for making health to environment links - Frank et al. and Ozonoff.


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SESSION 4
Environmental Exposure and Hazards


Pedersen et al. (2007) used qualitative methods to explore how people perceive and are affected by wind turbines in their local environments. An evaluation of the prevalence of perception and annoyance due to wind turbine noise among people living near the turbines is presented by Pedersen and Waye (2007). Jobert et al. (2007) used five case studies in France and Germany to describe the factors for winning acceptance, of success in developing a wind-energy projects and how policy frameworks influence local acceptance. Wolsink (2000) questions frequent findings that there is public support for wind power while other projects suffer from NIMBY syndrome. Wolsink argues that other barriers to wind power implementation exist beyond attitudes among the population. The argument is made that institutional factors have a greater impact on wind energy facility siting.


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SESSION 6
MATERNAL HEALTH/ GENDER AND VIOLENCE


Readings


POLICY ANALYSIS AND POLICY ARGUMENT

With this week’s readings we leave the treatment of research as research and confront the nature of the policy-making process. Pal (chapter 2 and 3) provides a basic outline of policy analysis from a theoretical and evaluative standpoint. Torgerson extends the argument by arguing that there is not one but three types of policy analysis, all being based on a different relationship between knowledge and politics. Dunn identifies different types of policy argument. A policy argument is the way in which information is transformed into policy claims. But information can be treated in different ways by different stakeholders leading to conflicting definitions and explanation.

   Chapter 2
   Chapter 3

   Chapter 3
   Chapter 8

Throughout the course, we have often found reference to equivocal evidence and decision-making under uncertainty. In this session, we examine the problematic relationship between science and politics. Harrison discusses this in the context of dioxin risk as seen by Canada and the United States. Aronson sees science as a claims-making activity. Sabatier takes a slightly different, and somewhat more optimistic, approach to policy analysis than many in his advocacy coalition framework which emphasizes the idea of policy learning. Flueler provides an example of how that framework relates to the issue of radioactive waste disposal, an issue with provide environment and health implications.


In this session, we explore the issues of contextualizing policy arguments and analyses through narrative and framing. Roe provides a structure for seeing policy debates as narratives, exemplified by global warming. This is taken on by Garvin and Eyles in their analysis of claims made to produce a sun safety metanarrative. Cook et al. demonstrate how context frames policy responses while Jasanoff extends the argument through highlighting cross-national differences in policy implementation.


SESSION 11
NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL POLICIES

In this session, we shall look at source documents that try to formulate … policies at the national and international levels. To interrogate these documents, the tools and ideas obtained in Session 8-10 will be useful. First we examine the Canadian Federal government’s strategic plan (2003-2008) for pesticides management, and the government’s response to a report by the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development. Harrison presents an elaborate account of climate change policy in Canada and United States.


Pesticides: Making the Right Choice for the Protection of Health and the Environment


Government Response to the Report of the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development