

Ecological Policy FW620

Credit Hours: 3

Terms Offered: Fall, Spring

Course Objectives:

- Know and understand the basic principles of contemporary ecological policy and ecological policy analysis.
- Know and understand how contemporary natural resource management and environmental protection issues are analyzed from a policy perspective.
- Know and understand a range of perspectives and viewpoints on how science interfaces with ecological policy analysis and decision-making.

Course Content: Emphasis is on current and controversial North American and international ecological policy issues. Primary focus is exploring the role of scientists, technocrats, elected and appointed officials, the public, and interest/advocacy groups in ecological policy analysis and implementation. Specific topics and case studies considered are: (1) basic principles of policy analysis; (2) managing wildfire on public lands; (3) balancing competing demands for scarce water supplies; (4) managing large predatory wildlife, especially wolves, cougars, and grizzlies; (5) recovering and sustaining wild salmon runs; (6) determining appropriate use of genetically modified organisms; (7) resolving multiple use conflicts in managing public forests; (8) tackling human-caused climate change; (9) assessing the political clashes over whaling and other marine mammals; and (10) unscrambling conflict and controversy over marine protected areas and ecosystem management.

Prerequisites: This is a graduate level class. Students are expected to have an academic background and current understanding of natural resources, environmental science, ecological sciences, natural resource economics, ecological economics, marine resource management, geosciences, political science, or similar disciplines, or have the consent of the professor.

Text: There is no text book for this course, but a number of specified policy/science articles and “policy backgrounders” are required reading. Copies of the articles and backgrounders will be available online through Canvas.

Term Papers: Weekly analyses of policy case studies is required, as is regular and extensive participation in the Canvas Discussion Board.

Testing: None. Student performance will be assessed based on the weekly papers and participation in the Canvas Discussion Board.

Students for whom the course is intended: Graduate students in fisheries and wildlife, natural resources, environmental sciences, ecological sciences, natural resource and ecological economics, civil engineering, marine resource management, political science, environmental ethics, and other students with a background and interest in ecological policy, environmental protection, and natural resource management issues.