

POL 108: Policymaking in the Public Sector – Focus on Environmental Policy
UC Center of Sacramento
Winter 2021

The Environmental Policy course has three main objectives 1) to introduce the basics of environmental policy tools, approaches and issues, 2) to creatively and critically examine case studies of environmental policy, and 3) to develop skills in investigating, writing, and speaking about environmental policy issues. The course will utilize an active learning approach and will center on case studies to examine cross-cutting themes.

Instructor: Hannah Palmer

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Class schedule: Fridays 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM, online, hosted on Zoom

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this class will be offered online only. There will be no in person meetings.

Office Hours: TBD on Zoom

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change- final schedule will be announced at a later date.

Week	Date	Topic
1	01/08/21	Introduction to course goals and objectives; introduction to environmental policy at multiple levels of governance
2	01/15/21	Environmental justice – framing environmental policy in a context of social and cultural issues
3	01/22/21	Environmental policy case study 1 – climate change
4	01/29/21	Environmental policy case study 2 – air pollution
5	02/05/21	Midterm examination
6	02/12/21	Environmental policy case study 3 – water policy
7	02/19/21	Environmental policy case study 4 – wildfire
8	02/26/21	Environmental policy case study 5 – ocean and coastal policy
9	03/05/21	Class activity
10	03/10/20	Presentation of research project
10	03/12/21	Final exam and final paper due

Grading

Course will require *weekly reading, class attendance and participation, weekly knowledge check quizzes, midterm examination, final examination, and a Policy Research Proposal and Paper*. The paper will be worth approximately 50% of the overall course grade. Formal grading policy will be announced at a later date.

Attendance and participation

Students are expected to attend all class sessions (Fridays, 10 am-12 noon) and Speakers Series talks (Wednesdays, 12-1pm). Students should come to class having read the assigned readings and with all assignments completed.

Policy Research Proposal and Paper

Policy research proposal and research paper: Like the parallel course (Special Studies in American Politics, POL 195), this course requires a policy research project in two parts: a 3-5 page double spaced policy research *proposal* and a 12-15 page double-spaced *policy research paper* including Background, Methods, Results, and Discussion/Implications.

This assignment is designed to provide students with a critical learning experience as well as an opportunity to engage in active public health policy research. The policy research project will require students to gather, analyze, and report on an important public health policy issue relevant to California.

The environmental policy research paper [12-15 double-spaced pages, plus tables and figures] is meant to summarize the results of a environmental policy research project undertaken by the student during the term. The project can either be in the form of a *systematic literature review* or an *empirical study*.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

I am committed to creating a community that respects each person as an individual. I promote diversity, equity, inclusion, creativity, and rigorous intellectual inquiry for all members of my classroom, research group and the University community as a whole, through excellence in research, teaching, mentoring, and service. Diversity and excellence – in perspectives, scientific approaches, and contributions to society – are the cornerstones of our success as an institution. As part of this course, I am especially committed to increasing the representation, expertise, and voices of populations that have been historically excluded from participation in US higher education and the research enterprise. You may observe this commitment in our course readings, in the way in which discussions are moderated and facilitated, and in the design of the course. If there is any way that I can additionally improve the inclusion of members of this course please bring your ideas to the teaching staff.