

# SYLLABUS

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**Code:** POLI 228

**Title:** Environmental Politics and Policy

**Institute:** Business and Social Science

**Department:** Political Science

**Course Description:** This course will introduce students to the field of environmental politics and policy, or the connections and interactions between environmental concerns and the political process. Students will be exposed to a number of environmental problems and the political and legislative responses government has taken to address those problems. This course will focus primarily on environmental politics and policy in the USA.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Corequisites:** None

**Prerequisites or Corequisites:** None

**Credits:** 3

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab/Studio Hours:** 0

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**Required Textbook/Materials:**

Instructor will inform students on Day 1 of class.

**Additional Time Requirements:**

For information on Brookdale's policy on credit hour requirements and outside class student work refer to [Academic Credit Hour Policy](#).

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Classify and summarize different types of environmental thought including conservation, preservation, sustainable development, and deep ecology;
- Describe the origins and present-day impacts of a number of environmental problems;
- Recognize and differentiate environmental interest groups and explain how these groups influence the political and legislative process;
- Describe the legislative process in the United States and how Congress passes laws to protect the environment;
- Recognize and evaluate how the executive and judicial branches of the U.S. government affect the implementation of environmental laws passed by Congress
- Summarize and evaluate environmental policies such as the National Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act
- Identify the differences between domestic and international environmental policy.

**Grading Standard:**

0-64=F 65-69=D 70-76=C 77-79=C+ 80-82=B- 83-86=B 87-89=B+ 90-92=A- 93-100=A

Please see individual instructor addendums for additional grading standards and/or policies.

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## **Course Content:**

### UNIT 1: Environmental Thought

- Prometheans
- Doomsdayers
- Origins of Environmentalism
- Preservation
- Conservation
- Sustainable Development
- Economic Rationalism
- Deep Ecology
- Holism
- Earth First!

### UNIT 2: Political and Institutional Setting, Regulatory Environment

- Environmental Policy in the US Congress
- Laws, Funding, Politics
- Elections
- Environmental Policy in the Executive Branch
- Regulatory Agencies
- Standards, Regulations, Enforcement
- Environmental Impact Statements
- Presidential influence
- Environmental Policy in the US Courts
- Injunctions
- Civil judgments
- Criminal charges
- Geographic jurisprudence
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

### UNIT 3: Case Studies: Air Pollution, Water Pollution

- The science of air pollution
- Climate change
- The causes of air pollution
- The health impacts of air pollution
- Clean Air Act: content
- Clean Air Act: implementation
- Clean Air Act: compliance
- Clean Air Act: effectiveness
- The science of water pollution
- The causes of water pollution
- The health impacts of water pollution
- Clean Water Act: content
- Clean Water Act: implementation
- Clean Water Act: compliance
- Clean Water Act: effectiveness

### UNIT 4: Case Studies: Energy, Hazardous and Toxic Waste, Land Management

- The science of energy
- The economics of energy
- Types of energy: non renewables
- Oil
- Coal

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- Natural Gas
- Nuclear
- Types of energy: renewables
- Solar
- Wind
- Geothermal
- BioMass
- Hydro
- The science of hazardous and toxic waste
- Health effects of hazardous and toxic waste
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund)
- Public Lands
- Private Lands
- National Parks
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Zoning ordinances
- Single-use management plans
- Mixed-use management plans
- Politics of land use

## UNIT 5: International Environmental Policy, Environmental Justice

- Domestic Policy vs. International Policy: what are the differences?
- Crafting of international environmental policy
- How a treaty is made
- Treaty implementation
- Treaty compliance
- Treaty enforcement
- Lowest common denominator
- Montreal Protocol
- Kyoto Protocol
- Global warming
- Definition of environmental justice
- Domestic environmental justice (USA)
- International environmental justice (developed vs. developing world)

### **Department Policies:**

- Attendance is mandatory and being on time is imperative.
- Lateness and/or early departure are not acceptable behaviors and will be penalized.
- Cheating and/or plagiarism are unacceptable and will be dealt with accordingly, including severe penalties and disciplinary action.
- Electric devices are not permitted during class.
- Students are expected to be *attentive* and *courteous* to everyone in the class. Rudeness and other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Rude behavior includes inappropriate talking, sleeping, reading unrelated material, texting, etc. If a student is engaging in rude conduct, they will be dismissed from class and further penalties will follow.
- Reading the textbook is required. Supplemental readings may be required.
- Paying close attention to relevant current events is necessary.
- Students are supposed to be fully engaged in all aspects of the course.

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## **College Policies:**

As an academic institution, Brookdale facilitates the free exchange of ideas, upholds the virtues of civil discourse, and honors diverse perspectives informed by credible sources. Our College values all students and strives for inclusion and safety regardless of a student's disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, country of origin, immigration status, religious affiliation, political orientation, socioeconomic standing, and veteran status. For additional information, support services, and engagement opportunities, please visit [www.brookdalecc.edu/support](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/support).

For information regarding:

- ◆ Brookdale's Academic Integrity Code
- ◆ Student Conduct Code
- ◆ Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [BCC STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BCC CATALOG](#).

## **NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Disabilities Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability, and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS:**

See the Tutoring Center for information <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-tutoring/tutoring-center/>.

## **MENTAL HEALTH:**

- Mental Health Crisis Support: From a campus phone, dial 5555 or 732-224-2329 from an external line; off-hours calls will be forwarded to BCC police (2222 from a campus phone)
- Psychological Counseling Services: 732-224-2986 (to schedule an appointment during regular hours)

*The syllabus is intended to give student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the faculty member reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as the need arises.*