



## POLI-202 – Environmental Politics

University Arts and Science

**Effective Term & Year:** Fall 2023

**Course Outline Review Date:** 2028-03-01

---

**Program Area:** Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

**Description:**

Today, the environment has become one of the most pressing issues on the political agenda. Politicians are forced by many constituents to take a stand on environmental issues, risking electoral consequences if they do not. Is that fair? Do the arguments and positions of environmentalists need to be questioned? This course surveys the association between environmentalism and politics, seeking to inform students of the debates about the environment and to examine several of the associated political themes as well as the main analytical, legal, and ethical approaches used in creating environmental policy.

---

**Program Information:**

This course can be used as a Social Science elective in several University Studies and Bachelor of Business Administration: Sustainable Business Practices Programs at the College of the Rockies and other post-secondary institutions.

**Delivery Methods:** On-campus (Face-to-Face)

**Credit Type:** College of the Rockies Credits

**Credits:** 3

**Course type/s:** Social Sciences

**Instructional Activity and Hours:**

**Activity**

**Hours**

Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

### Course Requisites:

- Completed the following:
  - **POLI100** – Introduction to Politics and Government (3)

### Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

### Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

### Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date, the following textbooks were in use:

Dryzek, John. *The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses* 2nd ed. Toronto: ON: Oxford University Press, 2005.

*Canadian Environmental Policy and Politics The Challenges of Austerity and Ambivalence*

Fourth Edition ed. Debora L. VanNijnatten. Don Mills, Ontario.: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Olive, Andrea. *The Canadian Environment in Political Context* Second Edition Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2019.

*Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.*

---

### **Learning Outcomes:**

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

- apply principles and practices of sound political science inquiry through research, examination, and interpretation of sources;
  - research, evaluate, assess, construct, and properly document an academic argument and political science interpretation through various written assignments;
  - articulate a thoughtful and critical approach to the nature of environmental politics through class participation;
  - assess policy concepts, including ideologies put forward by environmental groups proposing policy restructuring and private sector firms attempting to reconcile economic and ecological values through discussions and lectures;
  - identify an overview of key environmental agents, including political organizations, institutions, and processes through discussions and lectures;
  - summarize and explain environmental legislation through discussions and lectures;
  - place particular environmental case studies in both the domestic and international context through discussions, lectures, and class presentations;
  - develop interpersonal/teamwork and oral communication skills through class presentation; and
  - use critical and analytical thinking to assess course content and themes through exams.
- 

### **Course Topics:**

- Environmental political culture: attitudes, beliefs, goals, and values
- Environmental themes, theories, and ideology
- Environmental social movements; interest groups, including Indigenous; and political parties
- Environmental law, regulation, and ethics
- Environmentalism in international foreign policy and development
- Potential solutions to the environmental crisis

### **OPTIONAL COURSE TOPICS:**

- Case studies on environmental policymaking, drinking water, nuclear waste, mining, oil/gas, and/or global warming

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities, and assignments.

## Evaluation and Assessments

### Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face)

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Class Participation	5%
Class Presentation	10%
Policy Analysis Literature Review	20%
Policy Analysis Paper	30%
Policy Analysis Executive Summary	5%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

### Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

**Evaluation Notes:** A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

### Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

### Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal

- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty
- 

**Course Changes:**

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.