EVPP 361-DL2
Introduction to Environmental Policy
Spring 2022

Course and Contact Details

Course: EVPP 361- DL2 (Distance Learning)	Instructor: Dr. Younsung Kim
Semester: Spring 2022	Email: ykih@gmu.edu
Website (Link to Blackboard Learning Management System): https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu	Virtual Office Hours: Thursdays 9:00 -10:15 am by appointment (please email me)
Time: Thursdays 10:30-11:45 am (via Zoom)	

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the complex world of environmental politics and policy. During the course, we will assess efforts to manage natural resources effectively and mitigate the adverse effects of environmental pollution. We will consider environmental issues at the local, state, and national levels in the US and address global concerns such as biodiversity loss, energy demand and supply, and climate change. The overarching theme of sustainability will serve as a focus for our analysis and activities.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:
- identify important actors in environmental politics and policymaking;
- explain relevant scientific and policy controversies;
- demonstrate the ability to apply the essential tools of environmental policy analysis—i.e., to assess trade-offs, risks, costs, benefits, cost-effectiveness, political feasibility, and equity in developing policy recommendations;
- define sustainability, and identify and describe possible ways to overcome the social, political, economic, and technical constraints to achieving sustainability.

Course Delivery

The course will be conducted 100% online due to the COVID-19. The learning platforms will be both Blackboard and Zoom. Make sure you are able to log into the GMU Blackboard Learning Management System website. And download the Zoom app for the live class meetings on Thursdays.

Please make sure your official GMU email address is working as it is the officially sanctioned way to communicate with me in case you have questions.

Spring 2022 Note: Do not hesitate to email me at ykih@gmu.edu for assistance and any health-related concerns and assistance. Please do not wait until the final weeks of the course to ask for help as it will greatly impede my ability to provide assistance.

Readings

The main reading assignments will come from books, journal articles, and other sources relevant to the course topics. **For certain class topics, you might find supplementary readings on the course webpage.**

Assignments and Grading

The grading criteria includes the following items:

1. **Participation** includes discussion activities on Discussion Board as well as quizzes and reflective writing assignments. There are planned discussion activities on the Discussion Board, but there may be timely short news articles posted, and I may ask you to share your thoughts on Discussion Board. Class participation on Zoom is mandated and will be part of the participation grade.
2. The **midterm and final exams** will be based on course readings, lectures, and class discussions. For each exam, the guidelines will be given.
3. **Policy memo** is an individual writing assignment in which you identify an environmental policy and management issue and suggest a set of recommendations aimed at addressing the issue. Because of the need for quick, accurate information in the policy world, policy memos are written so that readers can efficiently access fact-based information in order to make an informed decision. The memo should, therefore, try to inform the audience in a concise, organized, and professional manner while still including the most relevant content. To illustrate what I'm looking for, I'll post memo-writing guidelines, and a detailed grading rubric.

The final grade will be assigned as follows:

Assignment Type	Percentage
Class Participation • Discussion activities, etc. (25%) • Zoom meetings (10%)	35
Individual Policy Memo • Draft 5%, Final 15%	20
Midterm Exam • Blackboard Lockdown Browser Needed	20
Final Exam	25

Further instructions regarding the way in which each assignment should be completed, the due date for assignments and the technology skills/software programs required to upload the assignment on Blackboard are provided at appropriate junctures in the course.

Grade Ranges:

A+ = 98 up	B+ = 88-89	C+ = 78-79
A = 92-97	B = 82-87	C = 73-77
A- = 90-91	B- = 80-81	C- = 71-72, etc.

Course Policies and Other Information

Late/Missed Assignments
Please note that I will enforce the deadlines for assignments strictly. If you submit your assignments within 72 hours after the deadlines, you will lose 30% of your grade. After one week past, your assignment will not be accepted. However, I will make an exception for students with genuine medical or personal problems that get in touch with me at least 3 days before the due date. The bottom line is to communicate with me as early as possible.

General Education Requirements and Learning Outcomes
All undergraduates seeking a baccalaureate degree at George Mason University must complete the University General Education requirements. Additional requirements for specific degree programs can be found in the University Catalog in each college or school chapter.

Technological Requirements
Since this course is completely online, there are certain logistical requirements that you must ensure in order to successfully complete it. First, you will need a relatively stable computer with access to a reliable internet connection. This is especially important as a significant component of the course includes watching documentaries on relevant issues. Second, you must have a good speaker (whether embedded in your laptop/headphone or external) to hear my lecture videos. Third, you will also need a good microphone in order for me to understand you during an online meeting. And fourth, you need a word processor (Windows, Open office, your choice really) to complete the writing assignments. Please do not submit papers in the pdf format as I find it difficult to insert comments.

Plagiarism Statement
Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving that person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes; a simple listing of books and articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in an academic setting. Student writers are often confused as to what should be cited. Some think that only direct quotations need to be credited. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers' own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge. What constitutes common knowledge can sometimes be precarious; what is common knowledge for one audience may not be so for another. In such situations, it is helpful, to keep the reader in mind and to think of

citations as being "reader friendly." In other words, writers provide a citation for any piece of information that they think their readers might want to investigate further. Not only is this attitude considerate of readers, it will almost certainly ensure that writers will never be guilty of plagiarism. (Statement of English Department at George Mason University)

Plagiarism and the Internet
Copyright rules also apply to users of the Internet who cite from Internet sources. Information and graphics accessed electronically must also be cited, giving credit to the sources. This material includes but is not limited to e-mail (don't cite or forward someone else's e-mail without permission), newsgroup material, information from Web sites, including graphics. Even if you give credit, you must get permission from the original source to put any graphic that you did not create on your web page.

Shareware graphics are not free. Freeware clipart is available for you to freely use. If the material does not say "free," assume it is not. Putting someone else's Internet material on your web page is stealing intellectual property. Making links to a site is, at this time, okay, but getting permission is strongly advised, since many Web sites have their own requirements for linking to their material.

Honor Code
This course will be conducted in accordance with the GMU Honor Code, and all students are expected to abide by it. The GMU Honor Code, as found in the University
Catalog, is as follows: To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

Details concerning the university's Honor System and Code can be found in the University Catalog (accessible online at the link above).

Students with Disabilities
Differently abled students should approach the instructor or the course coordinator through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474.

***Where to Get Help*:** Students encountering difficulties in the course can either approach the instructor or the Counseling Center at (703) 993-2380

Detailed Course Schedule
Refer to "Syllabus" tab at the Blackboard course.