



**EVPP/PUAD 642
Spring 2021
Environmental Policy**

Place and time: Synchronous Online, Thursdays 4:30-7:10 pm
Instructor: Dr. Younsung Kim, ykih@gmu.edu
Course website: Blackboard: log in at <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>
Zoom: <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/3845961853>
Office hours: Tues 3-4 pm or by appointment (please email in advance).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the complex world of environmental politics and policy. We begin with a detailed exploration of policymaking in the environmental arena, considering economic, ecological, and ethical aspects. We assess efforts to manage natural resources effectively and mitigate the adverse effects of pollution and other forms of environmental degradation. We examine environmental issues at the local, state, and national level in the US and also address global concerns such as climate change, energy demand and supply, biodiversity loss. We explore conflicts, and possible synergies, between economic growth and environmental protection. Finally, we close by looking a big-picture thought experiment about what global social and environmental conditions may be like by the middle of the 21st century, exploring ways to achieve green economy and urban sustainability.

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- apply the essential tools of environmental policy analysis, including the assessment of trade-offs, benefits, risks, costs, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and political feasibility;
- describe the history and current trends of environmental policy in the US and globally;
- identify the roles and strategies of important players in environmental politics;
- explain relevant scientific and policy controversies; and
- analyze the social, political, economic, and technical constraints to sustainability and green economy and develop possible ways to overcome these constraints.

Books

The main reading assignments will come from the following required books:

- 1. Kraft, M. 2018. *Environmental Policy and Politics*, 7th edition. Routledge.**
- 2. Worldwatch Institute. 2016. *Can a City Be Sustainable?* Island Press.**

Kraft's book is available from the campus bookstore and various online booksellers. I've assigned the books in recent semesters, so used copied should be available. The electronic

version of the Worldwatch Institute’s “Can a City Be Sustainable?” is available via Mason’s e-library.

I’ll post additional readings in the Supplementary Readings folder. Also check out the following sites frequently: <http://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment>; <http://www.nytimes.com/section/science>; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/>;

GRADING

Class participation/attendance:	10%
Online assignments	15%
Written assignments	15%
Midterm exam	20%
Research paper	40% (5% outline, 30% final, 5% presentation)

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.

Comments about the main graded assignments

Participation during synchronous Zoom sessions includes attendance and participation. Students who miss a class will need to explain their absence. If you know that you are going to be absent ahead of time, please let me know. More than two missed classes will jeopardize your grade.

Participation in class is a vital part of this course. Full participation includes:

- Completion of all assigned readings before class
- Active engagement during class. You will be evaluated on both the frequency and quality of your contributions to class discussion
- Participation on the class discussion board. Oftentimes you are asked to participate in class discussion on the course website
- Group discussion leader. During the semester, you will work with a small group of students to lead class discussion

This is not a free 10% and you will be graded weekly on the quality of your participation.

The *midterm* will be based on based on course readings, lectures, and discussions. As the exam dates approach, the form and content of the exam will be explained.

There are written assignments and a research paper that are research-based. The research paper is intended to deepen your interest in a specific environmental issue and its regulatory approaches taken so far, while help you explore important environmental policy theories and concepts. More detailed guidelines will be explained in class.

COURSE POLICIES

- I rely on "...@gmu.edu" email addresses for communicating with students. To set up your "gmu.edu" email account, see http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/memo/memo_www.htm. To forward "gmu.edu" messages to a different email address, see http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/memo_forward.htm. Also please be sure to keep track of your gmu email account to make sure it doesn't go over quota.
- For emergency information, please consider signing up for the Mason Alert system, <https://alert.gmu.edu>.
- Students are responsible for verifying enrollment. Please see the add and drop deadlines for the semester: <http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/>. After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.
- If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474, or <http://ods.gmu.edu/>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.
- George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of Mason community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. Also see: <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>.
- University Libraries "Ask a Librarian" <http://library.gmu.edu/ask>.
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): (703) 993-2380; <http://caps.gmu.edu>.
- University Policies: The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.
- Please contact me right away if personal circumstances arise that may interfere with class participation or completion of assignments.
- **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.

HONOR CODE & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"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 has set forth this:"

Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely

on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. For more detailed information, see <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode>.

DIVERSITY

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

The reflection of Mason's commitment to diversity and inclusion goes beyond policies and procedures to focus on behavior at the individual, group and organizational level. The implementation of this commitment to diversity and inclusion is found in all settings, including individual work units and groups, student organizations and groups, and classroom settings; it is also found with the delivery of services and activities, including, but not limited to, curriculum, teaching, events, advising, research, service, and community outreach.

Acknowledging that the attainment of diversity and inclusion are dynamic and continuous processes, and that the larger societal setting has an evolving socio-cultural understanding of diversity and inclusion, Mason seeks to continuously improve its environment. To this end, the University promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment regarding diversity. The aim is to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group and organization, and to make improvements as needed.

OTHER USEFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES

- University Libraries "Ask a Librarian" <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>.
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): (703) 993-2380; <http://caps.gmu.edu>.
- University Policies: The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.