

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

**NYU DC**

## ***History of American Environmental Policy***

**ENVST-UA 9423 or HIST-UA 9423 or  
POL-UA 9307 DC1**

**Blended (Online & In-person)**

**Fall 2020**

### **Instructor Information**

- Charles Herrick, Ph.D.
- Office location: Room 214
- Phone:
- Office hours: Monday, 5:00-6:00 or by appointment
- Email:

### **Course Information**

- ENVST-UA 9423/HIST-UA 9423/POL-UA 9307 DC1
- *History of American Environmental Policy*
- See “Course Overview and Goals”
- Co-requisite or prerequisites: None
- Meeting day and time: Thursdays, 6:15-9:15
  - Class location: B-205
- Virtual assemblies: Thursdays, 6:15-9:15

### **Course Overview and Goals**

This survey course will focus on the historical development and evolution of American governance over public lands and resources, including germination and expansion of the idea of a coherent public interest with respect to air, water, forests, landscapes, and other environmental attributes. The course will address American environmental policy through several lenses, including (1) a set of two introductory sessions in which students are introduced to key terminology, concepts, and orientations toward the

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

domain of environmental policy; (2) a series of chronologically ordered sessions through which we will survey the evolution of environmental policies and discuss how historical precedents have shaped contemporary environmental policies; and (3) selected explorations of important topics or events. As we work through the semester, we will also review contemporary, but still evolving, environmental policy topics (e.g., climate change, land management policies, environmental justice) in light of historical precedents.

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

- Appreciate how historical antecedents shape, constrain, and enable present-day environmental policy.
- Appreciate the variegated nature of American environmental policy.
- Appreciate how specific aspects of environmental governance have evolved over the course of U.S. history.
- Appreciate ways in which systemic cultural factors (e.g., racism, economic inequality) impact the formation and implementation of environmental and resource management policies.
- Exercise a critical attitude about historical frameworks and an ability to recognize and identify alternative historical orientations and/or narratives.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Class Participation**

You are expected to attend class in person or remote synchronously. Nearly every class session will begin with a series of student-led discussions dealing with an aspect of the day's assigned reading. Topics will be assigned prior to each class.

### **Short Written Assignment #1**

A one-page take-home essay dealing with a key topic from readings and class discussion. The essay topic will closely resemble those to be addressed in the mid-term essay exam, helping students to anticipate instructor expectations regarding written style, level of detail, and general format of a good essay.

### **Short Written Assignment #2**

A one-page take-home essay dealing with a key topic from readings and class discussion. The essay topic will closely resemble those to be addressed in the final essay exam.

### **Mid-Term and Final Essay Tests**

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

There will be two major essay tests, one at the mid-point of the semester and the other will serve as the final examination. In both cases, students will be given essay questions and topics at least one week before the administration of the exam. In each case, students will be allowed to select essay questions from among multiple options.

## Assigned Readings

The course will require between 30-60 pages of reading each week. Students will be expected to participate in class discussion of assigned readings each week. There is one major survey text (Andrews), supplemented by news and opinion articles and several academic journal essays. The instructor will provide all readings except the primary text.

## Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

| <b>Assignments/Activities</b> | <b>% of Final Grade</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Class participation           | 30%                     |
| Two short written assignments | 10%                     |
| Essay mid-term examination    | 30%                     |
| Essay final examination       | 30%                     |

## Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

| <b>Letter Grade</b> | <b>Points</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>A</b>            | 4.00          | 94-100         |
| <b>A-</b>           | 3.67          | 90-93          |
| <b>B+</b>           | 3.33          | 87-89          |
| <b>B</b>            | 3.00          | 84-86          |
| <b>B-</b>           | 2.67          | 80-83          |
| <b>C+</b>           | 2.33          | 77-79          |
| <b>C</b>            | 2.00          | 74-76          |

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

|           |      |          |
|-----------|------|----------|
| <b>C-</b> | 1.67 | 70-73    |
| <b>D+</b> | 1.33 | 67-69    |
| <b>D</b>  | 1.00 | 65-66    |
| <b>F</b>  | .00  | Below 65 |

## View Grades

All exercises will be graded within one week. Mid-term and final grades will be posted consistent with NYU policy.

## Course Schedule

### Topics and Assignments

| <b>Week/Date</b>        | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Reading</b>  | <b>Assignment Due</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|
| Session 1<br>3-Sept-20  | Course Introduction                                    | Andrews, Chapter 1  | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials and presentation of policy primer and historical methods PowerPoints |
| Session 2<br>10-Sept-20 | Concepts and Models of Environmental Policy            | Andrews, Chapter 2 and Fiorino Chapter 1 (handout)        | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials  |
| Session 3<br>17-Sept-20 | Introduction to Environmental Policy Tools and Regimes | Andrews, Chapter 3  | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials  |
| Session 4<br>24-Sept-20 | Constitutional Provisions                              | Andrews, Chapter 4 and Kawashima and Tone essay (handout) | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials; topic provided for short assignment #1                              |
| Session 5<br>1-Oct-20   | Early Policies   | Andrews, Chapter 5  | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials;   |

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

|                         |   |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
|                         |   |   | short assignment #1 due  |
| Session 6<br>8-Oct-20   | Emergence of Federal Environmental Agencies   | Andrews, Chapter 6 and Watson essay (handout)   | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials   |
| Session 7<br>15-Oct-20  | Public Health and Urban Sanitation  | Andrews, Chapter 7  | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials   |
| Session 8<br>22-Oct-20  | Evolution of Environmental Mission Agencies: Progressivism and Reactions to Progressivism | Andrews, Chapters 8 & 9   | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials; and topics/questions provided for mid-term essay examination |
| Session 9<br>29-Oct-20  | Superpower and Modern Environmentalism  | Andrews, Chapters 10 & 11   | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials; and mid-term essay examination due                           |
| Session 10<br>5-Novt-20 | Nationalization of Pollution Control and Reactions  | Andrews, Chapters 12 & 13   | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials   |
| Session 11<br>12-Nov-20 | The Unfinished Business of U.S. Environmental Policy                                      | Andrews, Chapters 14 & 15   | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials   |
| Session 12<br>19-Nov-20 | Characterization of Evolving Environmental Policy Issues                                  | Andrews, Chapters 16 & 17; supplemental package of news and opinion articles (handouts) | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials; topic provided for short essay #2                            |
| Session 13<br>26-Nov-20 | Thanksgiving Break – No Class   |   |  |
| 3-Dec-20                | Characterization of Evolving Environmental Policy Issues                                  | Same as session #12   | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials; short essay #2 due   |

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

|                         |                         |                                 |   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Session 14<br>10-Dec-20 | Pulling it all Together | Fiorino, Chapter 7<br>(handout) | Class discussion of lecture and assigned reading materials; topics/questions provided for final essay examination |
| Session 15<br>17-Dec-20 | Finals Week             |                                 | Final essay examination administered  |

## Course Materials

### Required Textbooks & Materials

- *Managing the Environment, Managing Ourselves: A History of American Environmental Policy*. Richard Andrews. Second Edition, Yale University Press.
- The instructor will provide paper and electronic copies of other assigned reading materials.

### Optional Textbooks & Materials

- None

### Resources

- Access your course materials: [NYU Classes](https://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- Databases, journal articles, and more: [Bobst Library](https://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- Assistance with strengthening your writing: [NYU Writing Center](https://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- Obtain 24/7 technology assistance: [IT Help Desk](https://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

## Course Policies

### Hygiene/Physical Distancing Policies

- Students will be assigned/choose a seat on the first day of class. For NYU COVID-19 safety protocols, please use the same seat for the duration of the semester.

### Classroom Etiquette & Expectations

Things to consider:

- Please be mindful of your microphone and video display during synchronous class meetings. Ambient noise and some visual images may disrupt class time for you and your peers.

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

- If you are not using your cell phone to follow the lesson, cell phone should be turned off or in silent mode during class time.
- Make sure to let your classmates finish speaking before you do.
- Please do not eat during class and minimize any other distracting noises (e.g., rustling of papers and leaving the classroom before the break, unless necessary).
- If deemed necessary by the study away site (i.e., COVID-19 related need), synchronous class sessions may be recorded and archived for other students to view. This will be announced at the beginning of class time.
- Students should always be respectful and courteous to all participants in class. Consider using the “chat” or “raise hand” function to add your voice to class discussions especially if leaving the video on presents challenges.

## Attendance and Tardiness

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students' semester grades.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. At all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade (for courses that meet once per week; for courses that meet twice per week, it is a one percent reduction per missed class).

To seek an excused absence for medical reasons, students must use the online absence reporting form within 24 hours of their first missed class. Students may be required to produce a doctor's note with that day's date, especially if the student has missed any classes already that semester or if exams/presentations/papers occurred in the missed class.

Non-medical absences must be discussed with the Academic Staff at least 7 days before the missed date(s) in question. If faculty members do not receive notification of an excused absence, the student has not procured an excused absence.

NYU Washington, DC expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks), to be attentive, and to remain for the duration of the class. If full class attendance and participation becomes a problem, it is the prerogative of each lecturer to apply the rule for unexcused absences, which may include a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/ or office hour discussions to discuss any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave Washington, DC before the end of the finals week.

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion. Staff members may always be reached by cell phone for advice regarding public transportation.

## Late Assignment

- 1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
- 2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed.
- 3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.
- 4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.
- 5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.
- 6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.
- 7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

## Incomplete Grade Policy

An "incomplete" is a temporary grade that indicates that the student has, for good reason, not completed all of the course work. This grade is not awarded automatically nor is it guaranteed; rather, the student must ask the instructor for a grade of "incomplete," present documented evidence of illness, an emergency, or other compelling circumstances, and clarify the remaining course requirements with the instructor.

In order for a grade of "incomplete" to be registered on the transcript, the student must fill out a form, in collaboration with the course instructor and the academic administration at the site; it should then be submitted to the site's academic office. The submitted form must include a deadline by which the missing work will be completed. This deadline may not be later than the end of the following semester.

## Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." **Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.**



# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU Washington, DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the lecturer. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

## **Disability Disclosure Statement**

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu)) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

## **Religious Observances**

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

Students must notify their professor and the Washington, DC Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.