

Course Information:
Environmental Policy Processes (NTRES 4300)

[Link to application materials](#)

Course Dates: November 1 (Th), 7 (W), 13 (Th), 2018; G01 Fernow Hall,
(6:30– 8:00 p.m.)
January 2 – 12, 2019, Washington, D.C.
Feb. and March dates TBD, 2019 (7:00 – 9:00 p.m.; Ithaca)

Course Instructors: Drs. Clifford Kraft and Bruce Lauber

Overview

This course explores the creation, implementation, and evaluation of environmental policy at the federal level. It emphasizes the policy process and the roles within that process played by the policy network of (1) congressional staffs and committees, (2) executive departments and agencies, and (3) advocacy organizations, interest groups, and lobbyists.

The course begins with an introduction to the study of public policy, focusing on the policy process and actors, and then examines in detail several case studies. Past case studies have included: Arctic Ocean offshore oil drilling; invasive species policy; coal ash disposal policy, and clean water policy. Students complete a guided (mostly independent) research project and develop a policy brief on that topic. Topics for policy briefs are selected by students and developed in consultation with the instructors. Recent student topics have focused on such issues as high-level civilian radioactive waste management, regulation of lead in ammunition, regulation of genetically-modified crops, expanded natural gas exploitation and export, endangered species, urban environmental issues, electronic waste regulation, environmental policies in the Farm Bill, and marine fisheries management, among others.

Students register for this as a spring 2019 term course, with course meetings taking place during fall semester, January intersession, and spring semester. See above for currently scheduled dates. We anticipate a very busy schedule while in Washington, but also plan substantial segments of unscheduled time in which students will conduct research and meet with Washington policy-makers.

We meet four times in Ithaca during fall semester to help prepare for our full days in January in Washington, D.C., three times as a group and one individual meeting for each student with Professors Kraft and Lauber. Our fall meetings in Ithaca will cover important information about course mechanics and an introduction to course content. Meetings also will include an initial review of information sources for policy brief topics and preparation for the policy analysis research to be completed in Washington.

We also meet four times in Ithaca as a group during spring semester. Spring meetings in Ithaca focus on student presentations. The timing of these will be determined after the D.C. sessions.

In addition to the two full-time instructors, the course also benefits from participation by several guest instructors from Washington-based environmental and natural resources agencies, interest groups, and Congressional staffs and committees.

Housing and Fees

The group lives and meets for classes while in Washington, D.C. at the Wolpe Cornell Center, 2148 O Street NW, near Dupont Circle. Students will be housed in two- or three-person, fully-furnished apartments with a kitchen. The course charge (for the apartment and use of the classroom facilities for ten days) will be approximately \$800 per person. A deposit of approximately \$150 will be required to hold your space in the course, payable by October 29, 2018; the balance of payment will be billed by the bursar along with your spring semester charges. Note that you will not be able to stay at the Wolpe Cornell Center any dates other than January 2nd through 12th. So if you need to arrive in D.C. a day early or stay a day longer, you will need to find other overnight accommodations.

Each student will be responsible for making personal arrangements for travel to and from Washington. Note that on-street parking near the Cornell Center in Washington is not available and that other parking alternatives are expensive.

Applications

The class is limited to a maximum of 20 students with seniors and juniors given preference, although others may also apply. We usually receive applications from more students than the number of available spaces. Applications are due via email to Brian Hutchison (bah246@cornell.edu), the course assistant, **by 4:00 PM on Friday, October 12, 2018**. The application requires information from each applicant and requires a recommendation from a faculty member that should be submitted by e-mail. Late applications will be considered only if space is available. Applications and faculty recommendation forms are available at [this link](#).

Students may check with Brian Hutchison (111 Fernow Hall; bah246@cornell.edu) regarding the status of their application beginning October 19th.

Grading and Readings

The course is offered for 3 credits, letter grade only. Grades will be based on attendance and participation (15%), one exam (20%), a short advocacy brief and presentation (15%), and a longer objective policy brief (50%).

A two-page outline must be turned in by December 3rd that identifies the topic that will be the focus of your policy research, identifying relevant stakeholders and listing three sources of information providing background information about the topic. Each student is required to meet individually with Professors Lauber and Kraft **during the week of December 5-12th** to discuss the proposed topic and approach for your policy research. Appointments should be made through Brian Hutchison (bah246@cornell.edu).

The textbook for the course is "Environmental Politics and Policy" (10th Edition) by Walter Rosenbaum, published by Congressional Quarterly Press, which you will be expected to have read before we begin our D.C. sessions on January 2nd. These chapters provide an excellent overview of environmental policy processes, as well as insight into a number of central issues in environmental policy-making.

Code of Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

Personal Well-being

If you are experiencing undue personal or academic stress at any time during the semester or need to talk with someone about a personal problem or situation, both Cliff and Bruce encourage you to seek support as soon as possible. Each of us is available to talk with you about any stresses related to your work in this class. One of the advantages of this course is that both Bruce and Cliff will be living in the same building as you during our time in Washington D.C. This will provide an opportunity for students and faculty to get to know each other personally and professionally, making it particularly easy to talk about a range of issues. You will not be anonymous in this course.

However, if you are concerned about talking directly with us about any concerns, we can assist you in reaching out to a wide range of campus resources, including:

- Your college's Academic Advising or Student Services Office
- Cornell Learning Strategies Center at 255-6310, <http://lsc.cornell.edu/>
- Gannett Health Services at 255-5155, www.gannett.cornell.edu
- Let's Talk Drop-In Consultation and Support
<http://www.gannett.cornell.edu/services/counseling/caps/talk/index.cfm>
- Peer Support provided by Empathy Assistance and Referral Service at 255-EARS

DISABILITY-RELATED CONCERNS: Students with either an ongoing or short-term disability are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services (SDS) for a confidential discussion of their need for academic accommodations. SDS is located in 420 CCC building; phone number is 254-4545.

Questions?

For additional information please contact Brian Hutchison (bah246@cornell.edu) for application questions, or Professors Lauber (TBL3@cornell.edu) and Kraft (cek7@cornell.edu) for course content questions.