Ecological and Environmental Policy Seminar

LAA 6382

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2016
Tuesday/Thursday, 9:00-10:25am, Rinker 106

Instructors: *Michael Volk*
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Teaching Assistant: Belinda Nettles: bbnettles@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment via email or as arranged during class

Course Website: http://lss.at.ufl.edu

Course Communications: Questions regarding this course may be submitted via email or during class sessions.

Required Text: To be announced

Course Description: This course will provide a survey of major environmental policy and law with particular reference to Florida case studies. It is a designated core course. Our society attempts to provide environmental protection through the articulation of public policy codified in the form of laws and regulations. This course explores the basic ethical, legal, scientific, and economic principles that underlie environmental policy. Specific examples of federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations are examined as a vehicle for understanding the intent and scope of current environmental policy.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills: None

Purpose of Course: To provide students with a general working knowledge of federal/state/local environmental policies and their purposes, especially as they relate to the practice of landscape architecture and planning.

Course Goals and/or Objectives: The primary objectives of this course are for students to develop an understanding of the following topics:
• The history of US environmentalism as a basis for understanding policy
• Ecological principles as a basis for policy
• Economic theories as a basis for policy
• Legal principles as a basis for policy

- Federal environmental policy
- State environmental policy
- Local environmental policy
- Current topics in environmental policy

<u>Teaching Philosophy:</u> In this course we hope to foster a dynamic and interactive learning environment for both students and instructors. Our goal is to provide students with the basic information and background necessary to understand environmental policy in the US, while fostering analytic discussion, student participation, and student-led learning opportunities within the classroom.

<u>Instructional Methods:</u> Course instruction will be primarily based on lectures, class discussions, assigned readings, and student presentations of assigned work.

Grading Policies:

<u>Primary Tasks and Evaluation</u>: Students are required to read assigned materials prior to the class period in which the readings are to be discussed (refer to class schedule). Evaluation will be based on the following anticipated assignments/assessments:
- Reading 1 (Book Report)   15%
- Readings 2-5 (includes participation)   10%
- Homework Assignment   5%
- Current topics paper and presentation   20%
- Mid Term examination   25%
- Final examination   25%

<u>Grading Scale:</u> According to Departmental Policy, Landscape Architecture majors must receive a C or better to move forward. Any grade lower than a C will require that the course be taken over again. Grading will adhere to the University of Florida Grade Policy:

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

Course Schedule

<u>Schedule and Final Exam:</u> A detailed schedule for this course will be provided at the beginning of the semester and will be updated as needed. *Formal class meeting times may be subject to change and will be discussed at the beginning of the semester.*

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy: Attendance to class is mandatory. One unexcused absence is permitted. Each additional absence will lower the student's grade by 4%. Students are requested to contact an instructor if they will not be attending the discussion session. *Cell phone use is not acceptable in class except for emergencies and should be conducted outside of the studio.*

Assignment Policy: Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely fashion, as well as actively participate in class discussions. Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late work will be penalized 4% per day unless there is an acceptable excuse for the late submittal. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted.

Course Technology: All course content will be available through SAKAI, UF's online learning portal unless otherwise specified. Students may access this site at https://lss.at.ufl.edu/ by logging in with their UF credentials. All assignments are to be submitted to Sakai unless otherwise indicated.

All student work may be retained and used by the Department of Landscape Architecture. Digital Copies of student work for this course must be turned in at the completion of each assignment. No grades will be computed into the final course grade until digital submissions have been turned in as requested. Please follow the directions given by the instructor as to how they will be submitted (Sakai, CD, PDF, word file, etc.). However, all files must be named as follows:

> **course# name project student name. dwg/pdf/jpg/**
> Example: 3352PlantDesAssig10Smith
>   4ch 8ch   8ch   6ch
> Use caps for separation
> No spaces, hyphens, or underscoring
> In cases of models and other 3-D work, digital JPG photographs should be submitted.

UF Policies:

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php.

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. [Describe what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior – http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

Getting Help:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:
- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

** Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help for:
- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints to submit a complaint.

Disclaimer: *This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.*