

# Ecological and Environmental Policy Seminar

LAA 6382

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2018

Tuesdays: 9:00-10:25am, Rinker 106

Thursdays: 9:00-10:25am, Arch 439

Instructors: *Michael Volk*  
438 ARCH, Email: [mikevolk@ufl.edu](mailto:mikevolk@ufl.edu)

Teaching Assistant: TBD

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.

The course will also combine at several points with URP 6421 Environmental Land Use Planning and Management, in order to relate environmental planning and policy considerations. The combination will also bring planning and design students together to share perspectives and interests.

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 environmental planning context for policy
- 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

Teaching Philosophy: 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.

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

### **Grading Policies:**

Primary Tasks and Evaluation: 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:

<b><i>Assignment</i></b>	<b><i>Percent of grade</i></b>	<b><i>Due</i></b>
Participation (come to class, be prepared, and participate in discussions and exercises)	15%	Each class
Mid Term examination	25%	October 15 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59pm
Case law presentation	20%	November 8 <sup>th</sup> or 15 <sup>th</sup> in class
Homework Assignment	15%	December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59pm
Final examination	25%	December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59pm

Grading Scale: 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

Schedule and Final Exam: Note that formal class meeting times or speakers may be subject to change. Students will be notified of any schedule changes in advance. Note that URP 6421 students on occasion will have additional class time on Thursdays until 12:35pm. LAA students are not required to attend these topics, but may do so if they desire. Up to three field trips may be scheduled in September and October to locations in Alachua County. Students may be asked to arrange their own transportation to these. Details will be provided at the start of the semester.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day/Location</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
Week 1 Aug 20	Thursday (RNK 106)	Course introduction Evolution of Environmentalism	Volk
Week 2 Aug 27	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Environmental ethics	Volk
	Thursday (ARC 439)	Icebreaker, and intro to environmental policy	Volk
Week 3 Sep 3	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Property Rights <b>Reading 1 discussion:</b> property rights and the commons	Volk
	Thursday (ARC 439)	Environmental planners, planning, and plans, and relation to policy and design	Frank

<i>Week 4 Sep 10</i>	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Basic Ecological Principles <b>Reading 2 discussion:</b> principles of ecology and biodiversity	Volk
	Thursday (TBD)	Landscape conservation ecology/possible field trip	Guest lecture
<i>Week 5 Sep 17</i>	No Class (Mike in Seattle)		
	Thursday (ARC 439)	Watersheds, surface water policy and planning, low impact design	Frank
<i>Week 6 Sep 24</i>	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Ecological Economics	Volk
	Thursday (ARC 439)	Aquifers and Wetlands, prepare for Sweetwater and Bat Cave field trips	Volk and Frank
	Saturday (TBD)	Sweetwater field trip	Frank and Volk
<i>Week 7 Oct 1</i>	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Environmental Law	Volk
	Thursday (TBD)	Caving field trip	Meneely, Frank, Volk
<i>Week 8 Oct 8</i>	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Midterm Review	Volk
		<b>Midterm exam</b>	Take home
<i>Week 9 Oct 15</i>	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Midterm Review Intro to global environmental policy	Volk
	Thursday (ARC 439)	Global environmental policy and climate change	Volk
<i>Week 10 Oct 22</i>	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Case study updates and questions	Volk
	Thursday (ARC 439)	Land resources	Volk
<i>Week 11 Oct 29</i>	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Intro to federal environmental policy and agency structure	Volk

	Thursday (ARC 439)	Integrated land use planning (Kathryn Frank)	Frank
Week 12 Nov 5	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Federal environmental policy continued	Volk
	Thursday (ARC 439)	Case study presentations	Volk and Frank
Week 13 Nov 12	Tuesday (RNK 106)	State agency structure and environmental policy	Volk
	Thursday (ARC 439)	Case study presentations	Volk and Frank
Week 14 Nov 19	Tuesday (RNK 106)	State agency structure and environmental policy	Volk
	Thanksgiving Break		
Week 15 Nov 26	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Local government structure and environmental policy	Volk
	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Human population <b>Reading 3 discussion</b>	Volk
Week 16 Dec 3	Tuesday (RNK 106)	Final exam review	Volk
		<b>Final exam (online)</b>	

### 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 Canvas, 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 Canvas 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 (Canvas, 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 Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto: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.*