

Ecological and Environmental Policy Seminar

LAA 6382

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2024

Thursdays: 8:30-11:30am, FAC 208

Instructors: *Michael Volk*
438 ARCH, Email: mikevolk@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistant:

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: Readings to be provided throughout course

Course Fees: In addition to any required UF fees, up to two field trips may be scheduled between September and November to locations in Alachua County. Students may be asked to arrange their own transportation to these. Details will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

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 taught by Dr. Kathryn Frank, 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. Due dates will be provided at the start of the semester.

Assignment	Percent of grade
Participation	
- Normal Class Attendance	5%
- Readings	10%
- Field Trip Attendance	5%
Mid Term examination	25%
Homework Assignment	5%
Case law presentation	25%
Final examination	25%

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: Normal class meeting times or speakers may be subject to change. Students will be notified of any schedule changes in advance. An anticipated schedule is listed below. Sessions highlighted in tan will be jointly held with URP 6421 in **ARCH 439**. All other sessions will be held in **FAC 208**. Unique events, such as field trips, are shown in red.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
<i>Aug 22</i>	Course introduction Evolution of Environmentalism	Volk
	Evolution of Environmentalism cont.	Volk
<i>Aug 29</i>	Environmental ethics Reading 1: Evol of Enviro.	Volk
	Icebreaker. Introduction to environmental policy	Volk and Frank
<i>Sept 5</i>	Reading 2: Property Rights Property Rights	Volk
	Introduction to Environmental Planning: Environmental planners, planning, and plans, and relation to policy and design	Frank
<i>Sept 12</i>	Environmental Law Reading 3: Env. Law	Volk

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
	Watersheds, surface water policy and planning, low impact design.	Volk
<i>Sept 19</i>	Aquifers and Wetlands	Frank
<i>Sept 21</i>	Sweetwater Branch Watershed Tour	Frank and Volk
<i>Sept 26</i>	Ecological Economics	Volk
	Local Land Conservation Reading 4: Biodiversity	Alachua Conservation Trust
<i>Oct 3</i>	Case study group kickoff	Volk and Frank
	Landscape Ecology	Tom Hctor
<i>Oct 10</i>	Human population Reading 5: Population	Volk
	Midterm Review	Take home exam
<i>Oct 17</i>	<i>No class periods 2-3</i>	
	Post Mid-Term Review (TBD)	Volk
<i>Oct 24</i>	Alachua Conservation Trust Site Visit	Volk and Frank
<i>Oct 31</i>	Federal environmental policy: pollution, land protection, climate	Volk
	Group work time	Volk and Frank
<i>Nov 7</i>	Federal environmental policy: species protection	Volk
	State and regional government policy	TBD
<i>Nov 14</i>	State and local government policy	Volk
	Case study presentations	Volk and Frank
<i>Nov 21</i>	Final Exam Review	Volk

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
	Case study presentations	Volk and Frank
Nov 28	<i>No class (Thanksgiving holidays)</i>	
Nov 28	<i>No class (Reading Day)</i>	
<i>Week of Dec 9</i>	Final Exam	On your own

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy: Class attendance, including field trips, is mandatory. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester. 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>

Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

Getting Help:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, 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.