

POLS 195 A & D, US Environmental Politics

195A: Tuesday 2:50—4:05p Lafayette L207

195D: Monday 3:30—4:45p Votey Hall (bldg.) 205

Dr. Jonathan D. (Doc) Bradley

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Office: Old Mill, 5th floor, #513

Office Hours: 2pm-3:15pm T/Th or by appointment (or just drop by or email).

Teaching Assistants: Cat Jones (Catherine.A.Jones@uvm.edu)

Jamie Cull-Host (Jamie.Cull-Host@uvm.edu)

This course provides an overview of the political institutions, processes, and cultures in the United States. It also includes an examination of current political, economic, policies and social issues.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the political history and current political policies of environmental stewardship & policy (and lack thereof) in the United States. To achieve this purpose this course will familiarize students with the pertinent issues and institutions relating to the politics of the environment in the United States and to orient these elements within the greater context of public policy formation. The course will be broken into 4 sections:

- 1) history of environmental challenges & policy;
- 2) the institutions of the US government and the policy (and lack thereof) they produce concerning the environment;
- 3) policy, issues, & agencies;
- 4) local and international environmental politics.

Textbooks and Other Readings:

- 1) **Vig, Norman, M. Kraft, & B Rabe (2022) Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century (11th Edition)**, SAGE Publishing INC: Thousand Oaks.
 - a. *Referred to as "Vig et al" in the syllabus.*
 - b. This text is available at the UVM bookstore and various other retailers.
 - c. You will need the most recent edition. It covers the "Trump Administration," and that is important to the current state of Environmental Policy in the US.
- 2) **I will occasionally assign other readings throughout the semester.** These will be posted through Blackboard and you will be given notification and plenty of time to read them.

Requirements:

1. **Communications:** I believe most problems can be prevented by effective and clear communication. Expect me to be one of your most communicative professors. Never be afraid to ask me questions or request clarifications.
 - a. Email communications must be via UVM student email. Do not send an email via Google, Yahoo, or other commercial providers. I will not answer emails sent in any medium other than UVM's student email system. Use email for all communication other than face to face.

- b. Please avail yourself of my office hours. I am here to help you and teach you. I am thrilled by visits from students (honestly) who are seeking to learn and understand. My email address, office location, and office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus.
2. **Attendance:** I am not requiring attendance. Covid has broken me. I will control your participation by only placing a portion of my slides online, and those that I place online will be stripped down. About half the test comes from my slides. If you miss you will need to make arrangements with a fellow student to obtain notes. It will be hard for you to pass the class if you do not regularly attend, but every semester I have students who choose to not come to class and then fail the class. No sympathy. You volunteered to be here. Heck, you are paying to be here.
3. **Tardiness:** I loathe tardiness. Constant tardiness will not be tolerated. It is disrespectful to your fellow students, and much more importantly, it is disrespectful to me. I reserve the right to restrict access to the class if tardiness by any student(s) becomes an issue. If you have extenuating circumstances that will cause you to be consistently tardy, please contact me at the beginning of the semester about the situation. I am willing to make allowances for valid reasons.
4. **Examinations:** There will be two (2) exams, a midterm and a final. The midterm will consist of 50 multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. The final will consist of 60 multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. **The final will be comprehensive.** If you miss an exam, and have a valid reason for doing so, it is your responsibility to contact me to schedule a makeup exam.
 - a. The midterm will consist of 20% of your final grade.
 - b. The final will consist of 25% of your final grade.
 - c. You have only 72 hours from the end of the midterm to arrange a make-up exam if you have a valid reason for not completing the test in the allotted time.
 - i. No makeup is available for the final.
 - d. Each exam will be conducted via Blackboard. If you have any problems with Blackboard it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible. If you wait too long after the testing period to contact me (72 hrs for midterm, immediately for the final) I will not allow you to take a makeup.
 - e. The midterm exam will be conducted over a period of 5 days starting at the end of the last class and ending at midnight five days later.
 - i. You will be allowed 75 minutes for the midterm. Once you start the exam you cannot save your work and pause the time. Once you start the exam you will have only 75 minutes to finish. If you do not finish in the allotted time the unanswered questions will be marked with a zero score. When you take your exam make sure you have 75 minutes of undisturbed time.
 - ii. **One class period will be devoted to exam time, meaning that one class period per exam will be used for the testing period. You will not need to come to class for that time period. If you like, you may use that period to complete your exam, but you can take the test at any time in multiday window.**
 - f. The final will be open from the first day of finals week to the following Thursday at midnight.

- i. You will be allowed 90 minutes for the final. Once you start the exam you cannot save your work and pause the time. Once you start the exam you will have only 90 minutes to finish. If you do not finish in the allotted time the unanswered questions will be marked with a zero score. When you take your exam make sure you have 90 minutes of undisturbed time.
- 5. Homework:** There will be six (6) homework assignments made throughout the semester. These will be assigned in class. Each homework is worth 5% of your final grade for a total of 30% of your final grade. I WILL NOT drop any grades.
- 6. Policy Paper:** You will write a 1,000 to 1,200 word policy paper advocating for environmental programs on the national and/or local level. More information will be provided in a supplemental document on Blackboard.
- 7. Grading:** Your course grade will be an average of the grades on the 2 exams, 6 homework assignments, and a policy paper.
 - a. Midterm = 20% of final grade,
 - b. Final = 25% of final grade,
 - c. 6 Homework Assignments (5% each) = 30% of final grade,
 - d. Policy Paper = 25% of final grade.
 - e. Letter grades will be assigned as follows:
 - i. 100% = A+; 99.9% - 93% = A; 92.9%-90% = A-; 89.9%-87% = B+; 86.9%-83% = B; 82.9%-80% = B-; 79.9%-77% = C+; 76.9%-70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; below 60% = F
- 8. Check your Grades:** Your test grades will be posted on the class Blackboard site after each exam. If you have a question about your exam, or if the grade is entered incorrectly in Blackboard, you must contact me within 72 hours after the posting of the grade to rectify the issue. **You must check your grades at least once a week.**
- 9. Final Grade:** Your final letter grade will be posted in Blackboard within 48 hours of the end of the final. It is your responsibility to review it. If there are any problems let me know and I can rectify it before posting it to UVM. After the grade is posted to UVM it is very hard to change it. I am more likely to make changes over the weekend than after Monday. Problems with the grade are things like “Dr. Bradley you didn’t do the math right,” or “Dr. Bradley, I think you missed an assignment.” You simply not liking your grade is not my problem. Your grade is entirely on you. If you want a good grade decide to work for it at the start of the semester as opposed to whining about a bad grade at the end of the semester.
- 10. Extra-Credit:** There will be no end-of-semester extra-credit opportunities. I have no sympathy what-so-ever for students who show up at the end of the semester begging for better grades. You are in complete control of your grade. If you want a good grade, then work for it. If you approach me at the end of the semester asking if there is anything you can do to improve your grade, I will tell you that the “anything” you need to do is invent a time machine, go back in time to the start of the class, and tell yourself to pay attention in class and do well on the test. If you want extra credit avail yourself of the opportunities provided throughout the semester.
 - a. I usually only offer extra-credit if the class average drops below a certain level, or there is some interesting aspect of politics that comes up throughout the semester.

- b. I occasionally award extra-credit points on days the class is emptier in usual to reward students for showing up like they are supposed to. Half of life is just showing up.
- c. **Twitter Extra-Credit:** At the start of the previous presidential administration, I created a Twitter account for students because things were happening so fast. I still use the account to share interesting local/state/federal government information. It is not required for the class.
 - i. **1 extra-credit point:** Sign up for my student Twitter account: “Jonathan Doc Bradley @PoliSciBasics.” Once you do send me a message on twitter with your real name and that you are in 195 Environmental Politics so I can mark your extra credit. If you don’t receive a reply from me then I have not gotten your message and not awarded the extra-credit.
 - ii. If you have had class with me before and have already done this, send me a message on Twitter to remind me that you are entitled to this extra-credit.

Classroom Behavior: Every student is entitled to a distraction-free classroom. Students may not behave in any manner that interferes with the learning of another student or my teaching. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. You must arrive and be prepared to begin class on time. I loathe tardiness.
2. Cell phones must be turned off and stored out of sight. Texting, accessing the internet, or reading email during class is absolutely prohibited and will result in your being asked to leave.
3. Laptops and tablets are allowed in class ONLY to take notes. You are not to access the internet (unless I request you to do so), check email or perform any other function on your computer that is not class related. I reserve the right to discontinue the use of all or individual electronic devices in class if they disrupt the learning environment.
4. No “side-bar” conversations or passing notes. Ignoring this rule will result in your being asked to leave. I do not tolerate students who are disruptive or inconsiderate of other students.
5. Do not do another class’s homework in this class.
6. Recording devices are permitted with permission. Any recording made of the class needs to be converted to an mp3 format or some other easily playable format and emailed to the instructor before the next class.
7. No food or beverages (except water in a sealable container) are allowed in the classroom.
8. Mask are allowed and encouraged.
9. Classroom behavior should always be courteous, respectful of others, and consistent with the expectations set forth by the university.

Schedule and Readings: You are responsible for reading all the assigned material for each lecture. You will not pass this class without reading the assigned material. You will not graduate from college without reading copious amounts of boring stuff so you might as well start now.

Section 1: History of American Environmental Policy

Week 1, Aug 29th: Introduction, Syllabus, begin history section.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 1.

Week 2, Sep 5th: History of Environmental Policy in the US.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 1

1st Homework due midnight, Thursday Sep 8.

Sep 5: Labor Day

Week 3, Sep 12: Changing Public Opinion.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 3.

Sep 12: Last day to add/drop

Section 2: American Institutions of Environmental Policy

Week 4, Sep 19: Presidential Powers on US Environmental Policy.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 4.

2nd Homework due by midnight, Thursday Sep 22.

Week 5, Sep 26: What once was Congressional powers on environmental policy.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 5.

Week 6, Oct 3: The growing power of the Courts, state and federal.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 6.

Oct 10 & 11 MIDTERM: This exam will be conducted on **Blackboard**. It will begin as soon as you leave class on the 6th of October and end at midnight on the 11th of October. There is no class on the 10 for POLS 195D and no class on the 11th for POLS 195A. Those are the exam days, **do not come to class**. The exam will be **75 minutes** long. Make sure you will not be disturbed for the 75 minutes it takes to complete the test. If you have problems taking the exam, contact me as soon as possible. **DO NOT PUT THE EXAM OFF TILL THE LAST MINUTE.**

Section 3: Policies, Issues, & Agencies

Week 7, Oct 10: The EPA.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 7.

3rd Homework due by midnight, Thursday Oct 14.

October 14: Fall Recess

Week 8, Oct 17: Energy Policy.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 8.

Week 9, Oct 24: Natural Resource Policy.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 9.

4th Homework due by midnight, Thursday Oct 27.

Section 4: Local Environmental Politics; US Role in International Environmental Politics.

Week 10, Oct 31: Local and state government work on the environment.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 2.

Oct 31: Last day to withdrawal.

Week 11, Nov 7: Local and state government work on the environment.

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 11.

5th Homework due by midnight, Thursday Nov 10.

Nov 11: Veteran's Day. I am a veteran, and every day is my day.

Week 12, Nov 14: US involvement on the global environmental issues

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 12 & 13.

Thanksgiving Break 21-25

Week 13, Nov 28: Sustainable future

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 14.

Policy Paper due by midnight, Thursday Dec 1.

Week 14, Dec 5: Conclusions

Read: Vig et al, Chapter 15.

6th Homework due by midnight, Thursday Dec 8.

Final Exam Week: Dec 12-16

Final Exam. The Final Exam is comprehensive. The test will be conducted on Blackboard from Sunday (11 Dec) morning till 11:59PM Thursday (15 Dec) night. There is no make up for the final.

Remember to review your final letter grade in Blackboard after the final test. You have till Monday 5pm (19 May) to contest your final letter grade.

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UVM's Department of Political Science Classroom Protocol:

- a) Students are expected to attend and be prepared for ALL regularly scheduled classes.
- b) Students are expected to arrive on time and stay in class until the class period ends. If a student knows in advance that the student will need to leave early, the student should notify the instructor before the class period begins.
- c) Students are expected to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. For example, students must not disrupt class by leaving and reentering during class, must not distract class by making noise, and must be attentive to comments being made by the instructors and by peers.

Academic Integrity:

Remember the University of Vermont's motto: *Studiis et Rebus Honestis* ("For honorable studies and pursuits"). The University strives to provide an environment that encourages all students (undergraduate, medical, graduate, and continuing education) to learn, create, and share knowledge responsibly. As society entrusts our students and faculty to pursue knowledge and report their discoveries truthfully, any deliberate falsehood or misrepresentation undermines the

stature of the University. These standards are also necessary for evaluating the quality of student work in a fair manner. The policy addresses plagiarism, fabrication, collusion, and cheating.

<https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Policies/policies/acadintegrity.pdf> (PDF link)

Athlete Student & Academic Absences

If you are the member of a UVM recognized sports team and you need to miss class for a University sanctioned event please provide me with the relevant documentation before your absence. A simple “hey, I got a game next Monday” will not cut it. If you need to miss class for a University sanctioned academic event please provide me with the relevant documentation before your absence. A simple “hey, I got a thing next Monday” will not cut it.

Counseling & Psychiatry Services (CAPS)

Phone: (802) 656-3340

If you are concerned about a UVM community member or are concerned about a specific event, we encourage you to contact the Dean of Students Office (802-656-3380). If you would like to remain anonymous, you can report your concerns online by visiting the Dean of Students website at <https://www.uvm.edu/deanofstudents>.

Counseling and Psychiatry Services: <https://www.uvm.edu/health/CAPS>

There is honor in seeking help and fools refuse it when they need it. And hopefully you will never need this, but it is better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it: The Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-8255.

Course Evaluation

All students are expected to complete an evaluation of the course at its conclusion. These evaluations are anonymous and confidential. They are important for faculty to consider when 5 designing and improving courses, and for the annual review and promotion considerations of faculty.

FERPA

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the rights of students regarding access to, and privacy of their student educational records as provided for in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. <https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/ferpa.pdf> (PDF link)

Grade Appeals:

If you would like to contest a grade, please follow the procedures outlined in this policy:

<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/gradeappeals.pdf> (PDF link)

Physical Health:

The University of Vermont’s number one priority is to support a healthy and safe community. College is stressful. The professor wants you to pay attention to your physical and mental health. If you feel that either one of them are in jeopardy in any way, please contact the UVM Center for Health & Wellbeing.

If a student will not be able to attend in-person classes for qualifying health reasons, Student Health Services (SHS) will send a notification to the appropriate student services office or designated staff member informing them of this along with the dates the student is unable to attend. The SHS notification will specify whether the request for flexibility is only around in-person class attendance or includes additional flexibility for assignments and tests because the student is too ill to participate.

Students are responsible for working with their faculty to make up class content and work they miss due to a documented illness.” You can also add your own expectations or plans regarding how students who miss class will be able to make up missed work. According to the Center for Disease Control and the university health policy, if you have been exposed to covid19 you are to wear a mask but continue with your normal daily routine. Please refer to the chart at the end of the syllabus if you have symptoms or have had close contact.
<https://www.uvm.edu/health>

Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

In keeping with UVM policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing ADA accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS), the office of Disability Services on campus for students. SAS works with students and faculty in an interactive process to explore reasonable and appropriate accommodations, which are communicated to faculty in an accommodation letter. All students are strongly recommended to discuss with their faculty the accommodations they plan to use in each course. Faculty who receive Letters of Accommodation with Disability Related Flexible accommodations will need to fill out the Disability Related Flexibility Agreement. Any questions from faculty or students on the agreement should be directed to the SAS specialist who is indicated on the letter. For more info see: <https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/disability.pdf> (PDF link)

Religious Holidays Policy – Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first two weeks of classes, of his/her/their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess.

Tutoring

UVM provides you with a tutoring center.

https://www.uvm.edu/academicsuccess/tutoring_center

However, remember my office hours. If you are needing extra understanding of the material in this course please come to my office hours or make an appointment with me at both our conveniences.

UVM Writing Center

Need some help with your writing? We all do from time to time. UVM provides and undergraduate writing center to help you start, work-on, and complete your writing assignments. Please avail yourself of this service: <https://www.uvm.edu/undergradwriting>

Final Examinations:

The University final exam policy outlines expectations during final exams and explains timing and process of examination period.

<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/academicinfo/examsandgrading/>

Statement on Alcohol and Cannabis in the Academic Environment

As a faculty member, I want you to get the most you can out of this course. You play a crucial role in your education and in your readiness to learn and fully engage with the course material. It is important to note that alcohol and cannabis have no place in an academic environment. They

can seriously impair your ability to learn and retain information not only in the moment you may be using, but up to 48 hours or more afterwards. In addition, alcohol and cannabis can:

- Cause issues with attention, memory and concentration
- Negatively impact the quality of how information is processed and ultimately stored
- Affect sleep patterns, which interferes with long-term memory formation

It is my expectation that you will do everything you can to optimize your learning and to fully participate in this course.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE UVM COMMUNITY⁽¹⁾

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|  <p>TESTING REQUIREMENTS</p> |  <p>MASK USE</p> |  <p>IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT⁽²⁾</p> |  <p>SYMPTOMS</p> |  <p>TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19⁽²⁾</p> |
| <p>No requirement for routine testing.</p> <p>The Vermont Department of Health recommends getting tested if you develop symptoms at any time.</p> <p>Students: Schedule an appointment through the Center for Health and Wellbeing and follow the instructions under the Symptoms column.</p> <p>Employees/Affiliates: Follow the instructions under the Symptoms column. You should contact your primary healthcare provider or visit the Vermont Department of Health for testing options.</p> | <p>Optional in most areas.</p> <p>With the exception of vaccines, masks remain one of the best ways to protect you and the people around you from getting or spreading COVID-19.</p> <p>Use of masks is optional in most areas. You may choose to wear a mask at anytime, especially before important events, when traveling, and other times when the risks are elevated. For more information, see UVM's face covering guidance.</p> <p>REQUIRED: After completing isolation, whenever you are around others, wear a mask for an additional 5 days.</p> | <p>Regardless of your vaccine status, if you are a close contact, should consider wearing a mask whenever you are around others.</p> <p>Watch for symptoms.</p> <p>If you develop symptoms at any time, get tested and follow guidelines in the SYMPTOMS column.</p> <p>Even if you do not develop symptoms, if you are identified as a close contact but are not fully vaccinated: (1) test on day 4 or later with two antigen tests (rapid self-tests) taken at least 24 hours apart; OR (2) test on day 5 or later with a PCR or LAMP test.</p> | <p>Stay home/in your room and get tested. Do not come to work, to class, or to a UVM facility or location. Wear a mask whenever you are around others.</p> <p>Students: Contact the Center for Health and Wellbeing online or call 802-656-3350 to schedule an appointment for a test.</p> <p>Employees, Affiliates, Visitors, Vendors, and Others: Contact your primary healthcare provider to arrange for a test.</p> <p>Immediately call 9-1-1 if you have trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or changes in color on your lips, gums, face, around the eyes, or nails.</p> | <p>Isolate as soon as you receive your positive result.</p> <p>Students: If your test was not done through Student Health Services, notify Student Health Services and isolate. You will need to isolate in your on-campus room or in your off-campus residence for at least 5 days⁽³⁾.</p> <p>Employees & Affiliates: Regardless of where your test was taken, notify your supervisor and isolate. You will need to isolate at home for at least 5 days⁽³⁾</p> <p>Visitors, Vendors and Others: Isolate. Do not come to a UVM facility or location until you have completed your isolation⁽³⁾.</p> <p>Once you have completed isolation, wear a mask for an additional 5 days whenever you are around others,</p> |

