

NRES 323: Natural Resource Policy

Spring 2020

Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:30 – 10:45

3 credits
Hardin Hall, Rm 107

Syllabus and Course Description

	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Teaching Assistant</u>
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Course Description

Welcome to Natural Resource Policy (NRES 323). This course is designed for undergraduate students in a variety of majors, including natural resources, natural resource and environmental economics, and environmental studies. Students from other disciplines who have an interest in environmental and natural resource policy are also encouraged to take this course.

As the human population, resource consumption, and land use pressure increase, the policies for management and protection become more important and more challenging. This course will introduce students to the political processes, participants, and programs involved in formulating natural resource policy in the United States.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of natural resources.
2. Develop an understanding of what policy is, and how it is created, adopted, and implemented.
3. Recognize and describe the role of diverse stakeholders.
4. Conceptualize the approaches to policy development, implementation, and evaluation.
5. Examine and evaluate current natural resource policies and develop and evaluate alternative natural resources policies.

Textbook and Other Reading Materials:

The required textbook is:

- F. Cabbage, J. O’Laughlin, and M. N. Peterson. Natural Resource Policy. Waveland Press, Long Grove, IL. ISBN-13: 978-1478629559

Additional assigned readings will be uploaded to Canvas. For convenience, the reading files are labeled with the date for which they are assigned.

Expectations:

Course Structure, Attendance, and Participation

This course will have asynchronous lectures (pre-recorded lectures that you can watch at any time of the preceding week.). The class will be randomly split in half, with one half meeting on Tuesday and the other half meeting on Thursday. If you are in the Tuesday group you will not need to attend Thursday, and vice versa. You can attend your Tuesday or Thursday class in person or via the class zoom link found in Canvas. Attending class in person is encouraged as we will be using this period for assignments and discussions.

Natural Resource Policy inherently is a reading and writing intensive class and there is no way around it. You will often have to read more than 50 pages a week from your textbook or from supplemental readings. There are approximately 16 weeks in a semester and there is a lot of material to cover. Pre-recorded lectures will synopsize the material from your readings but will not cover every important aspect of the readings, and so, keeping up to date with your reading will be extremely important.

Starting in Week 2 (Feb 2/4). It is imperative that you come to class having completed the assigned readings. When completing the reading, make sure to think about the material you are reading and to take notes. How does it connect to our class discussions? Is there anything that is unclear? This will be useful in your exams and for in class assignments and discussions. To ensure that you have engaged with the assigned readings, there will be quizzes due before your scheduled meeting day (i.e., Due on Tues or Thursday at 09:30 am).

I expect you to attend and pay attention in every class. Although attendance does not factor directly into your grade, your performance on assignments, discussions, and other small assessments, make up a significant part of your grade. You will have to be present and attentive to do well on these.

Please ask questions whenever you do not understand something or if I am not being clear. There is no such thing as a bad question and chances are that someone else was wondering the same thing.

Communication

You are responsible for keeping up to date with information on this class. This means that you will need to monitor your emails and the NRES 323 Canvas site. All of the class material (except the textbook) will be available on Canvas. The best way to navigate through the course is through the **Modules** tab.

If you need to get in touch with me, please do so via email.

Assignments and Preliminary Due Dates

There will not be a final exam for this class. Rather, your grade will be determined through your performance on 1) short (mostly in-class) quizzes and assignments; and 2) four take-home exams, with the last exam being comprehensive and covering the last week of class; All assignments will be graded within two weeks of the due date.

1. Weekly Quizzes (20% of final grade)

- We will have ~13 short quizzes during the course of the class. All quizzes will occur via canvas and will be due before your scheduled meeting day (i.e., Tues or Thursday at 09:30 am).
 - Each quiz/assignment will be out of 25 points unless otherwise specified.
 - I will drop the lowest quiz score for every student. (See also the **makeup policy section below**.)
2. Take-Home Exams (40% of final grade)
- The *tentative* dates of the exams are:
 - **Assigned week of 15-Feb, due week of 22-Feb**
 - **Assigned week of 15-Mar, due week of 22-Mar**
 - **Assigned week of 12-Apr, due week of 19-Apr**
 - **Assigned week of 26-Apr, due May 06 at 5:30 pm (Date and time of final exam)**
 - Note: These dates are tentative. They will depend on how we progress through the material. You will, however, receive at least a week notice in order to ensure that you are fully prepared for the upcoming exam.
 - Take-Home Exams Procedures:
 - There will be four take-home exams. Take home exams will be a few questions and will be in essay format. Exams will be open book and due one week after it is assigned at the start of class.
 - I will give you a printed copy of the exam at the end of the previous class session. I will also post an electronic version of the exam on Canvas after class.
 - The exam must be submitted via **Canvas by the due date and time**.
3. In-class assignments and discussions (40% of final grade)
- We will have weekly assignments and discussions revolving around the readings. The number of points assigned will vary by assignment. Some will be due in class; others will be due later.

Makeup Policy

Only under very exceptional conditions are you able to make up work that you missed for days you were not in class. I will drop your lowest quiz score. In the event that you are unable to come to class for more than two weeks at a time (and have appropriate documentation) get in touch with me immediately so we can discuss options.

Late work

All due dates are firm. Late work, without penalties, will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances, with my prior approval. Otherwise, I will deduct 5 percentage points from the score each day that it is overdue. For example, an exam is due Wednesday by 9am. You would have received 83 out of 100 on the exam, but you handed it in by 9am on Thursday, so you will receive 78 out of 100 (your grade for the exam will fall from a B to a C), and so on. Weekends are exempt from penalties (e.g., in the example above it would not make a difference whether you handed in the exam on Saturday or on Monday before 9am – you would receive 68 out of 100 in either case).

Face masks

You are required to wear a face mask when in Hardin Hall and during our class. If you need further information about UNL's face mask policies, please visit: <https://covid19.unl.edu/face-covering-policy>.

Grading and Grading Policy:

I will not grade assignments on a curve. Your grade will be determined using a standard grading scale:

A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: < 60%

Plus/minus grades will not be used. The above percentages may be adjusted downward; however, only by attaining these percentages can you be assured of receiving a desired grade.

Note: I will round up final grades to the nearest whole number. Therefore, a final score of 89.5 will earn you a final grade of A, but a score of 89.4 will not. Although this can be very frustrating if one happens to receive a grade just below the cut off, I must draw the line somewhere.

If, for whatever reason, you are required to maintain a certain grade-level and it seems that you are unlikely to receive the necessary grade in my class come speak with me immediately. I will not bump up your grade, under any circumstances, but I will be able to give feedback on written work and suggestions on how to improve your class performance. With hard work, if it is still early enough in the semester, you may be able to improve your grade to the necessary extent. Do not wait until receiving your final grade at the end of the semester. These grades are final.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to adhere to guidelines concerning academic dishonesty outlined in Section 4.2 of University's Student Code of Conduct (<http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code>). Students are encouraged to contact the instructor for clarification of these guidelines if they have questions or concerns. The SNR policy on Academic Dishonesty is available at <http://snr.unl.edu/employeeinfo/information/employeehandbook.asp>

Students with Disabilities. The School, College, and University endorse PL 101-336, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to request necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process.

Emergency Response

- **Fire Alarm** (or other evacuation): In the event of a fire alarm: Gather belongings (Purse, keys, cellphone, N-Card, etc.) and use the nearest exit to leave the building. Do not use the elevators. After exiting notify emergency personnel of the location of persons unable to exit the building. Do not return to building unless told to do so by emergency personnel.
- **Tornado Warning:** When sirens sound, move to the lowest interior area of building or designated shelter. Stay away from windows and stay near an inside wall when possible.
- **Active Shooter**
 - **Evacuate:** if there is a safe escape path, leave belongings behind, keep hands visible and follow police officer instructions.

- **Hide** out: If evacuation is impossible secure yourself in your space by turning out lights, closing blinds and barricading doors if possible.
- **Take action:** As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter.
- **UNL Alert:** Notifications about serious incidents on campus are sent via text message, email, unl.edu website, and social media. For more information go to: <http://unlalert.unl.edu>.
- Additional Emergency Procedures can be found here: http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf

Course Schedule and Reading List

Important:

- The following course schedule is tentative. Depending on how we progress through the material, I may adjust the schedule throughout the semester. You will receive notice of any changes at least one week before change.
- Unless specified otherwise, reading is to be completed before each class period. The course schedule lists reading from the assigned textbook. **These reading assignments will be supplemented with newspaper and academic articles.** I will provide these (and post them to Canvas) as the semester progresses. This allows me to adjust readings as is necessary. You will receive plenty of notice of upcoming supplementary readings.
 - Note: Supplementary readings are *not* optional. You are expected to complete *all* (textbook and supplementary) readings as assigned. The reading load of this class will not be excessive – but this means that you are expected to have completed the readings and thought about them carefully.
 - A word on page numbers: They are inclusive – i.e., when the assignment is: pp. 12-46 this means that you will have to read both p. 12, p. 46, and everything in between.

Tentative Schedule. Subject to change.

Week	Topic to discuss	Assignments due
1 (Jan-25)	Introductions Syllabus	Read: Klyza and Souza 2008, Chapter 1 & 2 Module: No pre-recorded lecture Due: Nothing due
2 (Feb-01)	US Environmental Policy 1990-2018	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 1 & 2 Module: 01_PolicyIntro Due: Trump Env. Policy, Biden Env. Plan
3 (Feb-08)	Introduction to NR Policy	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 3 Module: 02_PolicyIssues Due: To be determined (TBD)
4 (Feb-15)	Policies, Issues, and Agenda Setting	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 4 & 5 Module: 03_PolicyEvaluation_Implementation Due: TBD
5 (Feb-22)	Decision Criteria, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 11; US Constitution & Amendments Module: 04_PolicyImplements Due: Take Home Exam 1
6 (Mar-01)	Policy Instruments and the U.S. Constitution	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 7 Module: 05_Budgets Due: TBD
7 (Mar-08)	Legislative Branch	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 8 & 9 Module: 06_Judiciary_Law Due: TBD
8 (Mar-15)	Executive Branch, Judiciary, and Law	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 13 Module: 07_Env._Law_Regulation (2 lectures) Due: TBD
9 (Mar-22)	Environmental Laws, Regulations, Takings, and Contracts	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 15 Module: 08_PrivateIndustry Due: Take Home Exam 2
10 (Mar-29)	Technical and Financial Assistance for Private Landowners	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 14 Module: 09_WildlifePolicy Due: TBD
11 (Apr-5)	Wildlife Laws and Programs	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 6 Module: 10_Ethics Due: TBD
12 (Apr-12)	Ethics & Professionalism	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 12 & 16 Module: 11_PublicLands Due: TBD
13 (Apr-19)	Public Lands, Partnerships, Collaboration	Read: Cabbage et al. Chapter 10 Module: 12_InterestGroups Due: Take Home Exam 3
14 (Apr-26)	Interest Groups and The Media	Read: None Module: None Due: TBD
15 (May 07)	Last exam: Due by 5:30pm am on Thursday, May 6	Read: None Module: None Due: Take Home Exam 4

