

FNR6669:

Policy & Economics of Natural Resources

1. Course Overview

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-1:30pm EST and by appointment (Zoom, phone, or in-person)

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Course description. Natural resources serve many economic, social, and environmental needs of people around the world. The patterns of use and management of natural resources can have a profound impact on the economy, human well-being, and our environment. Public policies dictate the patterns of use and management of these natural resources, therefore influencing the lives of diverse user groups both in the present and future. It is critical for resource professionals and general citizens to understand the key concepts of policy and economics, policy administration and actors in the policy environment, and how to evaluate resource policies through an economic lens.

- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester offered: Spring 2024
- Format: Asynchronous online

Course website. We will actively be using the UF E-learning in the Canvas website: <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. Here, you will send emails to me or classmates, check your grades, check class announcements, access the syllabus, turn in assignments, watch lectures, etc. I highly recommend turning on notifications for all course announcements.

Prerequisites. No prerequisites required.

Contact instructions. The Canvas email system is the best way to get in touch with us about any class-related questions, concerns, etc., during the semester. If you have not received a response in a timely manner, please email me at kklizentyte@ufl.edu.

Required textbook(s) and/or readings. There is only one required textbook for this course. It is usually available on Amazon or the UF library system. If purchasing the required textbook, you can purchase the 11th edition instead of the 12th edition if cost is a barrier.

Rosenbaum, W.A. 2023. *Environmental Politics and Policy*, 12th Edition. CQ Press: Washington, DC.

There will be several required readings that are peer reviewed journal articles, opinion pieces, or website articles. All readings are available on Canvas under each respective module.

The full reading list is available at the end of the syllabus.

2. Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, each student will be able to:

- Explain the key processes, principles, and dynamic environments of natural resource policy development,
- Identify factors that influence the success of resource policy implementation and longevity,
- Understand the economic tools and valuation methods used to evaluate natural resource policies, and
- Critically evaluate natural resource policies across scales and contexts using ecological, social, and political criteria.

3. Course Logistics

Students will have access to weekly modules that contain the lectures, assignments, readings, and other supporting materials for the week. Lectures covering the weekly module topic will be available on the date listed in the syllabus. Please be patient if technical difficulties arise and let me know if you have any issues accessing any materials.

Because this is an asynchronous, online course, we require the following technological requirements:

- A computer with high-speed internet connection.
- A headset or speakers to listen to lectures.
- Latest version of a web browser. Canvas supports only the two most recent versions of any given browser.

3.1 Description of Course Format

Discussions: 10%, due in Canvas. To encourage discussion of the weekly readings with your peers, we ask for weekly participation in online discussions via Canvas discussion forums. At a minimum, students should post at least two comments and/or responses to comments related to the readings each week. Your participation in the online discussions is worth 10% of your final grade. Half credits will be assigned if a discussion was posted with no comments. **Discussions will be thoroughly graded for synthesis of material, asking relevant questions, summarizing information in a way that informs discussion, and engaging with your peers in a professional manner.**

Application Assignments (4): 15% for each assignment. To provide an opportunity to apply concepts learned in class, we will ask you to complete four assignments (together worth 60% of your grade). For these assignments, you will be asked to complete a legislative one-pager on a pertinent policy, a critical analysis of a case study on an environmental justice issue, an argumentative analysis of a policy, and an economic assessment of a policy issue.

Midterm 10%, due in Canvas. Midway through the course, you will be asked to complete a midterm exam. The midterm will be open note/open book and will contain short answer questions. There will be a time limit enforced (120 minutes).

Final exam 15%, due in Canvas. To assess your understanding of course concepts, we will ask that you complete a final exam. This will be in the form of a ‘grand synthesis’ paper of course concepts and readings. You will be asked to use specific readings and concepts to propose and initially evaluate a new natural resource related policy. In Week 6, you will be asked to submit a few ideas for a new policy to the instructor for approval. Because this final exam is all encompassing, there will be no lectures the last two weeks of the course to ensure that students have ample time to produce a high-quality synthesis.

Extra Credit 10%, due in Canvas. There will be one opportunity for extra credit. The extra credit assignment contains two parts: a multiple choice and short answer assessment due in the beginning of the course, and the same assessment due at the end of the course. To get extra credit points, you must submit **both parts of the extra credit assignment on time (by 11:59pm on 1/19 and 4/19)**. There will be no partial credit given.

Critical dates. Below are the critical dates for all discussions, application assignments, midterm, final exam, and extra credit in sequential order.

Task	Due Date
Discussions	Each week beginning 1/16 No discussion for the week of 3/4, 3/11, 4/15, or 4/22
Extra Credit Assignment Part 1	Due 1/19 by midnight
Application Assignment 1: Legislative One-Pager	Due 1/26 by midnight
Application Assignment 2: Critical analysis of an Environmental Justice Case Study	Due 2/9 by midnight
Send in Final Exam Policy for Approval	Due 2/16 by midnight (no grade points assigned)
Application Assignment 3: Policy analysis and argumentation	Due 2/23 by midnight
Midterm	Available 3/4-3/8; due by 3/8 midnight
Application Assignment 4: Economic assessment of a policy issue	Due 4/5 by midnight
Extra Credit Assignment Part 2	Due 4/19 by midnight
Final Exam	Due 4/26 by midnight

3.2 Grades & Grading Scale

Online discussions	10%
Application assignment 1	15%
Application assignment 2	15%
Application assignment 3	15%
Application assignment 4	15%
Mid-term	10%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale (%)

A	100% to 94%
A-	93.99% to 90%
B+	89.99% to 87%
B	86.99% to 84%
B-	83.99% to 80%
C+	79.99% to 77%
C	76.99% to 74%
C-	73.99% to 70%
D+	69.99% to 67%
D	66.99% to 64%
D-	63.99% to 61%
E	60.99% to 0%

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/#text>

Late submissions. Late submissions will be penalized as follows:

- -5% if between 1 minute and 24 hours late
- -10% if 24 to 48 hours late
- -15% if 48 to 72 hours late
- -20% if 72 to 96 hours late

Submissions beyond 96 hours late will not be accepted unless otherwise arranged.

4. Learning Content

Schedule			
Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Part 1: The Policy Environment and Analytical Frameworks			
1	1/8-1/12	(1) Course Introduction	
2	1/16-1/19	(*) Holiday (2) Overview of policy	Extra credit assignment due
3	1/22-1/26	(3) Social welfare and collective action (4) The study of policy	A1: Legislative one-pager
4	1/29-2/2	(5) Policy actors (6) Policy issues and formation (7) Guest lecture: Local policy making in action!	
5	2/5-2/9	(8) Ethics and policy (9) Environmental justice	A2: Critical analysis of an environmental justice case study
Part 2: Economics			
6	2/12-2/16	(10) Valuing goods and services (11) Welfare economics	Send in final exam policy for approval
7	2/19-2/23	(12) Economic ideologies and theories (13) Ecosystem services	A3: Policy analysis and argumentation
8	2/26-3/1	(14) Valuation methods (15) Valuation methods cont.	
9	3/4-3/8	Midterm	
10	3/11-3/15	<u>! Spring Break !</u>	
11	3/18-3/22	(16) Market instruments for policy design (17) Carbon market and natural capital accounting	

Continued on next page.....

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Part 3: Review of Selected Natural Resource Policies			
12	3/25-3/29	(18) Forest management and policies (19) Climate change policies	
13	4/1-4/5	(20) Invasive species and endangered species policies	A4: Economic assessment of a policy issue
14	4/8-4/12	(21) Fisheries management policies	
15	4/15-4/19	Work on final exam	Extra credit assignment due
16	4/22-4/26	Final Exam	

5. Policies and Requirements

This course plan and syllabus are subject to change in response to student and instructor needs. Any changes will be clearly communicated in advance through Canvas.

5.1 Attendance, Late Submissions, and Make-up Requests

It is the responsibility of the student to access on-line lectures, readings, quizzes, and exams and to maintain satisfactory progress in the course. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

If you feel like you are falling behind for any reason, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I want you to be successful in this course and am generally flexible if there are extenuating circumstances.

Computer or other hardware failures, except failure of the UF e-Learning system, will not excuse students for missing assignments. Any late submissions due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Helpdesk 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 consideration.

For computer, software compatibility, or access problems call the HELP DESK phone number—352-392- HELP = 352- 392-4357 (option 2).

5.2 Communication Courtesy and Professionalism

Just as in any professional environment, meaningful and constructive dialogue is expected in this class and requires a degree of mutual respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing

points of view. **Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be maintained in this class at all times.** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy, decency, and civility in all interactions. Failure to do so will not be tolerated and may result in loss of participation points and/or referral to the Dean of Students' Office.

5.3 Semester Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning.

At approximately the mid-point of the semester, the School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences will request anonymous feedback on student satisfaction on various aspects of this course. These surveys will be sent out through Canvas and are not required but encouraged. This is not the UF Faculty Evaluation!

At the end of the semester, 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/>.

5.4 Academic Honesty Policy

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."*

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct or appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic

integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated.

Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

5.5 ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence Chatbot Policy

ChatGPT and other Artificial Intelligence programs are increasing in use and popularity across disciplines. There have been several incidences of plagiarism and academic misconduct through the use of these programs. Intellectual honesty is absolutely vital to an academic environment and for me as an instructor to facilitate your learning to the best of my ability. I am also aware of the usefulness of these chatbots and programs both in the classroom and in future careers.

Therefore, **I support the responsible and ethical use of ChatGPT and other chatbots but have specific guidelines for their use:**

- Use of ChatGPT (or other similar tools that generate text) in Application Assignments and the Final Exam is allowed in this class. I highly encourage you to not let ChatGPT write for you. First, it's bland to read and just does not sound like you. Second, obtaining an education is not a small feat and usually comes with an expense. I encourage you to fully immerse yourself in graduate school and learn as much as you can! Learning includes forming your own thoughts, making your own mistakes, and growing from them. ChatGPT significantly changes that effective learning process. However, I understand there is a lot of writing in this course and many of you are taking other courses, working full-time, or have other responsibilities and may not feel as creative or inspired as you should. It is okay to use ChatGPT **as a writing tool to help you synthesize your thoughts**. If you utilize ChatGPT for any part of the assignment, like writing assistance or editing, you **must properly cite ChatGPT**. I expect you to clearly attribute what text was generated by the AI tool (i.e., different colored font, direct quote, in-text citation). If you use ChatGPT to summarize your thoughts and you end up just summarizing ChatGPT's outputs, I expect you to cite the statement/paragraph, or provide a statement for each page ChatGPT was used. Failure to cite ChatGPT is considered a **violation of the University of Florida Honor Code**. Violations will result in a failure of the assignment or the Final Exam or failure of the course and a notation on your transcript. We will be using a variety of Artificial Intelligence detection tools to check your work.
- Use of ChatGPT (or other similar tools) in Discussion assignments and the Midterm **is strictly prohibited**. Detection of AI tools in any discussions or Midterm responses will result in the failure of the discussion or midterm and a notification to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action.

5.6 Inclusive Learning Environment

This course embraces the University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads,

The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.

If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see the instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: <http://multicultural.ufl.edu>.

5.7 Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, disability.ufl.edu

5.8 Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

6. Campus Helping Resources

For issues with technical difficulties for e-learning in Canvas, please post your question to the Technical Help Discussion in your course, or contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu | (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 | <http://elearning.ufl.edu>
- Library Help Desk support <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- SFFGS Academic Hub <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/303721>

6.1 Student Life, Wellness, and Counseling Help

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- Counseling and Wellness resources <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
- U Matter, We Care <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>
- Career Connections Center <http://career.ufl.edu/>
- Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for online students.

6.2 Student Complaint Process

The School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences cares about your experience and we will make every effort to address course concerns. We request that our online students complete a course satisfaction survey each semester, which is a time for you to voice your thoughts on how your course is being delivered. You can also [submit feedback anytime](#).

If you have a more urgent concern, your first point of contact should be the Academic

Coordinator or the Graduate/Undergraduate Coordinator for the program offering the course.
You may also submit a complaint directly to UF administration:

- <https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/>
- <https://registrar.ufl.edu/complaint.html>

6.3 Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry

The Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry is a free resource to support UF undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff experiencing any level of food insecurity. Experiencing food insecurity may mean you have faced challenges to meeting your needs in quantity and nutritional quality of food. For example, food insecurity may look like skipping meals or eating smaller meals because you cannot afford healthy or size-appropriate meals for yourself.

You only need to bring your UFID and will not be required to prove need. The Pantry does not discriminate based on income, class, race, ethnicity, gender, student status, ability, or housing situation. The Pantry offers fresh, seasonal produce, frozen meat, milk eggs, vegan options, menstrual products, and select toiletries. They are happy to accommodate requests if you cannot find what you need the first time.

The Pantry assures guests that accessing emergency services like the Pantry is not a reflector of one's self worth, nor are they taking resources from someone "more deserving" than themselves. You can visit the Pantry website (pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu) for more information, including current hours. The Pantry is located between Marston Science Library and McCarty Hall, behind the HUB, on the University of Florida Gainesville campus.

7. Reading List

Week	Readings
2	Rosenbaum Chapter 1
3	Rosenbaum Chapter 2
4	Rosenbaum Chapter 3 Gilens, Martin, and Benjamin I. Page. 2014. "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens." <i>Perspective on Politics</i> 12(3):564-581 https://paulcainey.wordpress.com/tag/policy-cycle/
5	Rosenbaum Chapter 4 Malin, S. A., Ryder, S., & Lyra, M. G. (2019). Environmental justice and natural resource extraction: intersections of power, equity and access. <i>Environmental Sociology</i> , 5(2), 109-116. Stenmark, M. (2002). The relevance of environmental ethical theories for policy making. <i>Environmental Ethics</i> , 24(2), 135-148.
6	Letson, D. (2002). Principles of economic valuation. <i>FLORIDA COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</i> , 7. De Groot, R. S., Alkemade, R., Braat, L., Hein, L., & Willemen, L. (2010). Challenges in integrating the concept of ecosystem services and values in landscape planning, management and decision making. <i>Ecological complexity</i> , 7(3), 260-272.
7	Gómez-Baggethun, E., De Groot, R., Lomas, P. L., & Montes, C. (2010). The history of ecosystem services in economic theory and practice: From early notions to markets and payment schemes. <i>Ecological economics</i> , 69(6), 1209-1218. Posner, S.M., McKenzie, E., & Ricketts, T.H. (2016) Policy impacts of ecosystem services knowledge, <i>PNAS</i> 113(7), 1760-1765.
8	Onofri, L., & Nunes, P.A.L.D. (2020) Economic valuation for policy support in the context of ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change: An indicator, integrated based approach, <i>Heliyon</i> , 6(8): e04650. Ozdemiroglu, E., & Hails, R. (eds), (2016) Demystifying economic valuation, Valuing nature paper VNPO4.
11	Boughton, E. H., Quintana-Ascencio, P. F., Jenkins, D. G., Bohlen, P. J., Fauth, J. E., Engel, A., ... & Swain, H. M. (2019). Trade-offs and synergies in a payment-for-ecosystem services program on ranchlands in the Everglades headwaters. <i>Ecosphere</i> , 10(5), e02728. https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast/aug16/mw137-wetlands-bluecarbon.html (Bringing wetlands to market: The power of coastal blue carbon in a changing climate)
12	Rosenbaum Chapter 9

	Rosenbaum Chapter 10
13	<p>Herrick, C. N. (2019). A review of the US invasive species policy mix: Questioning the prospect of an integrated regime. <i>Environmental Policy and Governance</i>, 29(4), 262-278.</p> <p>Lamb, C. T., Willson, R., Menzies, A. K., Owens-Beek, N., Price, M., McNay, S., ... & Ford, A. T. (2023). Braiding Indigenous rights and endangered species law. <i>Science</i>, 380(6646), 694-696.</p>
14	<p>Cohen, P. J., Allison, E. H., Andrew, N. L., Cinner, J., Evans, L. S., Fabinyi, M., ... & Ratner, B. D. (2019). Securing a just space for small-scale fisheries in the blue economy. <i>Frontiers in Marine Science</i>, 6, 171.</p> <p>https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2020/07/rules-and-consequences-how-to-improve-international-fisheries (Rules and Consequences: How to Improve International Fisheries)</p>

Readings that are not from the required text are all available directly through Canvas under the module. Note that readings are subject to change depending on student and instructor needs.