

**San José State University
Department of Political Science
Political Science/Environmental Science 135 Fall 2022**

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Garrick L. Percival
Office Location:	Clark Hall 471
Telephone:	(408) 924-5553
Email:	garrick.percival@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm; Wednesday 2-3:30pm and by appt.
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday 12:00-1:15
Classroom:	DMH 160

Course Format

This is a course with in-person instruction. Class will meet in-person twice a week at the designated class time. Assignments and selected readings will be posted on the course Canvas page unless directed. Students must have access to a computer and reliable internet connection to be successful in this course.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System (login at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>). You are responsible for regularly checking with the Canvas messaging system to learn of any updates (also automatically forwards to your email – make sure your preferred email is listed on MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu>).

Course Description

This course focuses on state of the environment, public attitudes toward the problem, interest groups involved in formulation of policy, the response of government leaders to the problem and what the future outlook is for addressing the agenda.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1 Apply social science theories to understand forces behind the adoption and implementation of environmental law and policy in the U.S. **(Assessed by midterm, final, quizzes, and the paper assignment)**

CLO2 Demonstrate the ability to critically think about the costs and benefits of environmental policy choices made at the national, state, and local level (**Assessed by midterm, final, quiz #3, and paper assignment**)

CLO3 Develop a deeper understanding of environmental regulatory policy and the political and economic tensions between environmental protection and economic growth (**Assessed by midterm, final, quizzes, and environmental policy debate**)

CLO4 Demonstrate knowledge of public attitudes toward environmental policy and the degree to which government actors and institutions are responsive to public and interest group demands in the U.S. governing system. (**Assessed by analytical group assignments, midterm, final exam, and paper assignment**)

Required Texts/Readings

There is one required textbook for this course.

Norman J. Vig, Michael E. Kraft, and Barry G. Rabe (eds). *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21st Century*. CQ Press.

Additional Readings

“Important Issues in the 2020 Election” (Canvas)

“Several Issues Tie as Most Important in 2020 Election” (Canvas)

David Leonhardt, “The Problem with Putting a Price on the end of the World” (Canvas)

David Roberts, “At last: A climate plan that can unite the left” (Canvas)

Adam Liptak, “Supreme Court Limits EPA’s Ability to Restrict Power Plan Emissions”

Yarna Serkez and Ian Leahy, “Since When have Trees Only Existed for Rich Americans?” (Canvas)

“California Plans to Reduce Greenhouse Emissions by 40% by 2030” (Canvas)

“San Jose Pathway Carbon Neutrality by 2030” (Canvas)

Dino Grandoni and Juliet Eilperin, “California Sues Trump Administration over Revoking Authority to Limit Car Pollution” (Canvas)

Kelsey Piper, “Is Climate Change and ‘Existential Threat’ —or Just a Catastrophic One?” (Canvas)

Chris Buckley, “The Rock Standing in the Way of China’s Climate Ambitions: Coal” (Canvas)

Angel Hsu, “Don’t be So Quick to Doubt China’s Climate Change Dedication.” (Canvas)

Robert Keohane, “The Global Politics of Climate Change: Challenge for Political Science” (Canvas)

Other technology requirements /equipment

You will need a computer or tablet and reliable access to the internet to complete readings, complete and upload assignments, access the syllabus, class announcements, and course updates on Canvas. Computer access is available in the campus library and in Clark Hall 102, and laptops may be checked out at no cost from Student Computing Services (<https://library.sjsu.edu/scs>).

Library Liaison

The library liaison for Political Science, Essy Barroso-Ramirez, is available to answer questions and provide one-on-one help using the library for research. She can be reached by telephone (408) 808-2042 or by email Essy.Barroso-Ramirez@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Quizzes

A total of three quizzes (30 points each for a total of 90 points) will be taken over the course of the term. Quizzes are designed to test your knowledge and understanding of the course material and assigned readings as we go through the semester. These quizzes, typically 15 multiple choice/true false questions each, **will be taken on Canvas** and will be due by 11:55pm on selected days (please see the course schedule below for the exact due dates). ****Students who fail to submit a quiz on time will be afforded 1 make-up quiz during the semester for half credit.** Beyond that, missed or late quizzes will not earn credit unless covered under the university make-up policy.

Analytical Group Activities

A total of three analytical assignments (30 points each for a total of 90 points) will be required. **These will be in-class small group assignments** (see the course schedule for assignment posting and due dates). The nature of these assignments will vary, but they will ask you critically analyze a short news article, video, or survey (often before class) and then answer related assignment questions or complete a small project during class. Please see the course schedule for assignment due dates.

Midterm Exam

A midterm exam consisting of multiple choice, true false and short answer questions will be given in-class on **October 12th**. The exam will test students' knowledge of assigned reading, lecture, and discussion material up through week 8 of the semester. A study guide will be distributed one week prior to the exam date. The exam is worth 120 points.

Paper Assignment

A 7-8 page paper asking students to research and analyze an environmental policy (and the politics surrounding it) of your choice is due on **December 2nd**. A more detailed memo outlining the requirements of the paper will be posted on Canvas by the end of the third week of the semester. This assignment is worth 120 points.

Environmental Policy Debate

Students will be assigned to a debate team to participate in an in-class debate on a specific environmental policy issue or controversy. Debate issues and teams will be assigned in week 7. A more detailed memo outlining the requirements of this summer will be distributed in week 7. A limited amount of in-class time will be given for students to plan and organize their debate strategy and presentation. Additional work will need to be done outside of class time. This assignment is worth 60 points.

Final Exam

University Policy S06-4 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course.” The final exam (200 points), covers material and assigned readings over the course of the semester. Students will not be allowed to take the final exam early for any reason. The exam, scheduled for **Wednesday December 14th 9:45am-12:00pm** will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. A study guide will be posted on Canvas 1 week before the final exam.

Grading Information:

Students’ grades will be calculated using the following assignments (with corresponding points and percentages)

Assignment	Points
Online Quizzes (3 @ 30 points each)	90
Analytical Group Activity (3 @ 30 points each)	90
Midterm Exam	120
Paper Assignment: Environmental Politics	120
Environmental Policy Debate	60
Final Exam	120
Total	600

Your final grade will be calculated by dividing your total points by 600. For example, consider the following: Total points = 520; so $520/600 = .866 = 87\%$. Using the scale below, this individual would be assigned a B+. Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale.

Course Letter Grades will be assigned using the following scale:

Grade	Percentage
A plus	98 to 100%
A	93 to 97%
A minus	90% to 92%
B plus	87% to 89%
B	83% to 86%
B minus	80% to 82%
C plus	77% to 79%
C	73% to 76%
C minus	70% to 72%
D plus	67% to 69%
D	63% to 66%
D minus	60% to 62%
F	59% or less

Classroom Protocol and Policies

Late Work and Make Up Policy

Make ups for missed assignments, quizzes, the midterm or final exam are only given in cases of medical or family emergencies, in accordance with the university's policy on excused absences. Proper documentation must be provided. A student who misses graded assignments because they become sick from COVID-19 would fall under the university excused absence policy. But again, documentation must be provided. A student who misses class/assignments due to illness or a family health emergency should contact Prof. Percival immediately to develop a plan to stay updated with course material and to submit late assignments.

As noted above, students can submit one late quiz assignment for half credit during the semester with no excuse. Other missed quizzes or assignments will be recorded as a zero unless that absence falls under the approved university excused absence policy. **Late environmental policy papers will be accepted but will be penalized 10% for every 24 hours past the original due date.** For example, a later paper

and/or online analytical assignment turned in 10 minutes past the scheduled time due date and time will be penalized 10%. For every 24 hours after that, a paper will be penalized an additional 10%. After 5 days, however, the paper will receive a zero.

Proper Use of Technology

At times, we will be using our tablets, smartphones, and laptops to work on assignments and group projects in class. *Aside from those times, your phones and computers (including tablets) need to be turned off and put away.* In the classroom environment, texting, social networking, web searching—or any of the myriad things we all do with our phones—hurts our ability to focus, listen and communicate as effectively as possible. If you absolutely must use your phone, please leave the classroom. Students who violate this policy more than once will be asked to leave.

Email Communication

The easiest way to contact me is via email. Please be aware though that I check and respond to email once in the morning and once in the late afternoon. Please give me at least 24 hours to respond before sending me a follow up. If you need assistance on a particularly urgent matter, I suggest calling the main political science department number (408-924-5552).

Intellectual Property

All instructor-provided materials (e.g., paper prompts, syllabus) remain my intellectual property. They are to be used for private, study purposes only, and cannot be shared publicly or uploaded without my explicit written approval, in advance.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. **You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class.** Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. **You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.**”

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](#)

(<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Additional Class Notes

This is an in-person class and thus students will be required to follow the CSU Vaccination Policy and SJSU Presidential [Directive](#) 012022 policies at all times.

I highly recommend taking your own notes from the readings as well. Old fashion paper and pen are best. As a former professor of mine once said, “If You Ink It You Think It!” There’s a lot of research on human learning and recall to back this up. Writing down major concepts or examples will help organize the information in your head and will assist in information recall as well.

All course assignments and class announcements will be posted on Canvas page. Be sure to check Canvas regularly. Also be sure you have Canvas set so that announcements arrive to your primary email address. Finally, I am more than happy to help answer any questions you have about the course at any time during the semester. Work hard and good luck!

POLS/ENVS 135 Fall 2022 U.S. Environmental Policy

**Schedule is subject to change with fair notice and will be announced via Canvas announcement.*

Week	Date	Topic, Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines
1	Monday 8/22 & Wednesday 8/24	Course Introduction and Overview <u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapter 1
2	Monday 8/29 & Wednesday 8/31	Public Opinion and Environmental Policy <u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapter 3 “Important Issues in the 2020 Election” (Canvas) “Several Issues Tie as Most Important in 2020 Election” (Canvas)
3	Monday 9/5 & Wednesday 9/7	Environmental Policy and the U.S. Congress <u>Readings and Assignments</u> No Class on Monday 9/5 (Labor Day) Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapter 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical Activity #1 Due 9/7 • Quiz #1: Due Friday 9/9

4	Monday 9/12 & Wednesday 9/14	<p>Environmental Policy and the U.S. Congress (continued)</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> David Leonhardt, “The Problem with Putting a Price on the end of the World” (Canvas) David Roberts, “At last: A climate plan that can unite the left” (Canvas)</p>
5	Monday 9/19 & Wednesday 9/21	<p>Environmental Policy and the U.S. President</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapter 4</p> <p><u>No in-person class 9/21</u></p>
6	Monday 9/26 & Wednesday 9/28	<p>Environmental Regulation and the Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapter 7 In-class film “War on the EPA” on 9/26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #2 Posted: Due Friday 9/30
7	Tuesday 10/3 & Wednesday 10/5	<p>Courts, Politics, and Environmental Policy</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapter 6 Adam Liptak, “Supreme Court Limits EPA’s Ability to Restrict Power Plant Emissions”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical Group Activity #2 Due 10/5
8	Monday 10/10 & Wednesday 10/12	<p>Midterm Exam</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> No assigned readings (review previous material in preparation of midterm exam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Exam 10/12 in-class
9	Monday 10/17 & Wednesday 10/19	<p>State and Local Government: Innovators of (or barriers to?) Change</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapters 2 and 11 Yarna Serkez and Ian Leahy, “Since When have Trees Only Existed for Rich Americans?” (Canvas)</p>
10		<p>Can California Lead by Example?</p>

	Monday 10/24 & Wednesday 10/26	<p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> “California Plans to Reduce Greenhouse Emissions by 40% by 2030” (Canvas) Dino Grandoni and Juliet Eilperin, “California Sues Trump Administration over Revoking Authority to Limit Car Pollution” (Canvas) “San Jose Pathway Carbon Neutrality by 2030” (Canvas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical Group Activity #3: Due 10/26
11	Monday 10/31 & Wednesday 11/2	<p>Policy Case Study #1: Can the U.S. break its dependent on fossil fuels?</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapter 8 Kelsey Piper, “Is Climate Change and ‘Existential Threat’—or Just a Catastrophic One?” (Canvas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #3 Posted: Due Friday 11/4
12	Monday 11/7 & Wednesday 11/9	<p>Can we have both environmental protection and a growing market economy?</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapters 10 and 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate #1 in class 11/9
13	Monday 11/14 & Wednesday 11/16	<p>Policy Case Study #2: Party Polarization Natural Resource Policy</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapter 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate #2 in class 11/16
14	Monday 11/21 & Wednesday 11/23	<p>Environmental Protection as an International Collective Action Problem</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapter 12</p>
15	Monday 11/28 & Wednesday 11/30	<p>U.S and Chinese Climate Policy and the Battle to Win the Future</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u> Chris Buckley, “The Rock Standing in the Way of China’s Climate Ambitions: Coal” (Canvas)</p>

		<p>Angel Hsu, “Don’t be So Quick to Doubt China’s Climate Change Dedication.” (Canvas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper Assignment due 12/2 at 11:55 (Canvas)
16	Monday 12/5	<p>The Future of Environmental Policy in the U.S.</p> <p><u>Readings and Assignments</u></p> <p>Vig, Kraft, and Rabe, Chapters 14</p> <p>Robert Keohane, “The Global Politics of Climate Change: Challenge for Political Science” (Canvas)</p>
		Final Exam Wednesday December 14^h 9:45-12:00pm