Course Description: Readings, discussion and writing in environmental ethics and policy, with a special emphasis on climate change policy. The goal is for students to become familiar with key works and concepts in the literature, in general, while developing an understanding of the climate change debate from a more socio-humanistic perspective. Students will develop a position on climate change (or other environmental) policy using the concepts covered in class.

Meeting Time and Location: We will meet Friday, January 14th, from 3:00 – 4:30pm in room 251 Arms. As the class size will be small, we can decide if we want to keep this as the regular meeting time and place.

Office Hours: By appointment, please contact me by email carolc@caltech.edu and copy to aramos@caltech.edu (my assistant, Ms. Annette Ramos).

Grading: The class is graded on a pass/fail basis. As a 3-unit class, we will spend 1-1.5 hours/week in-class and 1.5-2 hours/week out-of-class for preparation. Each week, reading assignments will be accompanied by a set of general questions (applicable to each reading) and, where appropriate, specific questions for the readings. Students are expected to prepare for, attend, and participate in the weekly discussions. For any class session missed, students will submit a brief reflective essay addressing the readings and questions for that session. As a final assignment, the students will compose a brief position paper on climate change (or other environmental) policy using concepts covered in class.

Assignment for January 14th: Please read the article by Carolyn Merchant (week 1) for the first class meeting. We will begin class with a general discussion about your interests and studies, and then begin discussion of the first article.

Reading List

You should come to class prepared to answer the general questions posed below for the weekly reading assignment.

General Questions:

• What issue or problem is the author trying to address in this article?
• What ideas, concepts, or solutions does the author present?
• How are these ideas relevant to environmental policy? To climate change policy?
• Has the reading shaped or influenced your perspective on the issue? How?
• In your own experience (your field of study, personal interactions, or other activities in which you are engaged), can you identify situations in which these ideas would be useful?
Week 1

URL: http://nature.berkeley.edu/departments/espm/env-hist/articles/29.pdf

Week 2

URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/1724745
URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/1727455
URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/4607613

Week 3

Note: This oft cited essay may be found on the internet.
URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3658800

Week 4

URL: http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/284/5412/278
URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3835713
URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3146949

Week 5

URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/1515563

**Week 6**


**Week 7**


**Week 8**

Tentative Lecture: Robert J. Lempert, RAND and IPCC


**Week 9** (Discussion TBD)

**Week 10** (Discussion TBD)