

ESE 200: Readings in Environmental Ethics and Policy
Winter 2011
Carol Carmichael

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

Merchant, Carolyn . (1990, Summer). Environmental values and political conflict: A view from California. Environmental Ethics, 12, 45-68.

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

Week 2

Hardin, Garrett. (1968, December 13). The Tragedy of the Commons. Science, 162, 1243-1248.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1727475>

Crowe, Beryl L. (1969, November 28). The Tragedy of the Commons Revisited. Science, 166, no. 3909, 1103-1107.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1727455>

Hardin, Garrett. (1980, September). What is a "Global" Problem? Bios, 51, no. 3, 136-137.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4607613>

Week 3

Leopold, Aldo. (1949). The Land Ethic. In A. Leopold, A Sand County Almanac (pp. 201-226). New York: Oxford University Press (1987 edition).

Note: This oft cited essay may be found on the internet.

Holling, C.S. (2001, August). Understanding the Complexity of Economic, Ecological, and Social Systems. Ecosystems, 4, no. 5, 390-405.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3658800>

Week 4

Ostrom, Elinor, *et al.* (1999, April 9). Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges. Science, 284, no. 278, 278-282

URL: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/284/5412/278>

Dietz, Thomas, *et al.* (2003, December 12). The Struggle to Govern the Commons. Science, 302, no. 5652, 1907-1912.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3835713>

Grafton, R. Quentin. (2000, November). Governance of the Commons: A Role for the State? Land Economics, 76, no. 4, 504-517.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3146949>

Week 5

Giorgdano, Mark. (2003, June). The Geography of the Commons: The Role of Scale and Space. Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 93, no. 2, 365-375.

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

Mason, Michael. (2001). Transnational Environmental Obligations: Locating New Spaces of Accountability in a Post-Westphalian Global Order. Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, New Series, 26, no 4, 407-429.
URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3650658>

Week 6

Weiss, Edith Brown. (1990, January). Our Rights and Obligations to Future Generations for the Environment. The American Journal of International Law, 84, no.1, 198-207.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2203020>

D'Amato, Anthony. (1990, January). Do We Owe a Duty to Future Generations to Preserve the Global Environment? The American Journal of International Law, 84, no.1, 190-198.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2203019>

Gundling, Lothar. (1990, January). Our Responsibility to Future Generations. The American Journal of International Law, 84, no.1, 207-212.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2203021>

Week 7

Lindblom, Charles E. (1959, Spring). The Science of "Muddling Through." Public Administration Review, 19, no. 2, 79-88.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/973677>

Stine, Deborah D. (2009, May 27). Science and Technology Policymaking: A Primer. CRS Report for Congress. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service.

URL: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34454.pdf>

Week 8

Tentative Lecture: Robert J. Lempert, RAND and IPCC

Lempert, Robert J. *et al.* (2009). Shaping Tomorrow Today : Near-Term Steps Towards Long-Term Goals. Santa Monica: RAND Frederick S. Pardee Center for Longer Range Global Policy and the Future Human Condition.

URL: http://www.rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/2009/RAND_CF267.pdf

Chapter Two: Robert J. Lempert and Paul C. Light. Evaluating and Implementing Long-Term Decisions, pp. 11-23.

Chapter Six: Robert J. Lempert. Chapter Six: Setting Appropriate Goals: A Priority, Long-Term Climate Policy Decision, pp. 63-78.

Week 9 (Discussion TBD)

Week 10 (Discussion TBD)