**M/LS 514 Spring 2012**

**PUBLIC POLICY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

This seminar examines the main public policy issues connected with the natural environment. Although these issues extend beyond the U.S. to the Earth’s ecosystem as a whole, our primary focus will be on how – and how well -- the American political system addresses environmental concerns. Among the topics to be explored are: the unique character of planet Earth and its life supporting biosphere with emphasis on the role of human beings in this system; alternative ways of conceiving of the relationship of humankind and the natural world; the historical background of current environmental issues; the complex issues created by the need to reconcile environmental protection with other social goals such as economic growth and development of energy resources; consideration of international law and organization as a means of addressing global environmental problems such as ozone-layer depletion and global warming; and analysis of the consequences of population growth.

FACULTY and WRITING/RESEARCH SUPPPORT:

Jason Cody (Chemistry): 847-735-5093 (off.); 847-835-5326 (home)

[cody@lakeforest.edu](mailto:cody@lakeforest.edu)

Johnson 305

Rand Smith (Politics): 847-735-5124 (off.); 847-424-9117 (home)

[rsmith@lfc.edu](mailto:rsmith@lfc.edu);

Center for Chicago Programs (Johnson C).

Office hours: Both of us are on campus most days and easily available with a little advance notice. To set up an appointment, please email or call us, and we can most likely meet with you soon thereafter.

Writing Support: Prof. Dawn Abt-Perkins, Director of the Writing Center. 847-735-5232.

Research Support: Rita Koller, Reference Librarian, 847-735-5065.

CLASS SCHEDULE & LOCATION: Mondays, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Library 221

TEXTS: The following texts have been ordered from the LFC Bookstore:

Freese, Barbara. COAL: A HUMAN HISTORY. NY: Penguin, 2004. Paperback list: 15.00. ISBN-10: 0142000981

Goodstein, David. OUT OF GAS: THE END OF THE AGE OF OIL. NY: W.W. Norton, 2005. Paperback list 14.95. ISBN-10: 0393326470

Graetz, Michael J. THE END OF ENERGY: THE UNMAKING OF AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY, AND INDEPENDENCE. New York: Cambridge UP, 2011. Hardback list 29.95. ISBN-10: 0262015676

Kline, Benjamin. FIRST ALONG THE RIVER: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 4th ed., 2011. Paperback list $19.95. ISBN-10: 1442203994

Kolbert, Elizabeth. FIELD NOTES ON A CATASTROPHE: MAN, NATURE, AND CLIMATE CHANGE. NY: Bloomsbury USA, 2006. Paperback list 13.95. ISBN-10: 1596911301

Leopold, Aldo. A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC, With Essays on Conservation from Round River. NY: Ballantine Books, 1970. ASIN: B001HZJCL0 [This book seems no longer to be in print, but used cc. can be easily bought on-line. Make sure to get the inexpensive Ballantine edition that has the extra essays –“Wildlife in American Culture,” “The Land Ethic,” and “Wilderness.”]

Margonelli, Lisa. OIL ON THE BRAIN: PETROLEUM'S LONG, STRANGE TRIP TO YOUR TANK. NY: Broadway. Paperback list 14.95. ISBN-10: 0767916972

Nichols, Nancy A. LAKE EFFECT: TWO SISTERS AND A TOWN'S TOXIC LEGACY. Washington, DC: Shearwater Press, 2010. Paperback list 25.00. ISBN-10: 1597268216

**REQUIREMENTS**

First paper 10%

Research Paper 50

Class participation 40

TOTAL 100%

First paper. This will be a paper of 4-5 pages (about 1000-1250 words), due in class on Mon., Feb. 13. The topic: Imagine you are Garrett Hardin and you have read the assigned reading in the Kline and Kolbert books. For each of the readings, can “you” (Hardin) find one or two good examples of (a) the “tragedy of the commons” phenomenon, and (b) emergent attitudes, behavior, and/or policies that counteract the “tragedy”? As a summary statement, viewing the 40+ years since “you” published your famous article, do “you” find grounds for hope for the human race and for the planet?

Research paper. This will be a research paper of 15-20 pages on a topic of your choice. For further instructions and a non-exhaustive list of possible topics, see the last page of the syllabus. Notice that the last class, April 30, will be devoted to presentations of your research. The paper itself will be due in the Office of Community Education at: 12 noon, Wed., May 2. Please submit **two copies** (hard copy only – no electronic submissions).

Class participation. The following qualities will merit a positive evaluation on this component:

\*regular attendance

\*critical reading of, and reflection on, the assigned reading/viewing

\*active, informed, and constructive engagement in class sessions

If you must miss class, please notify one of the instructors, preferably before class. For most class sessions, we will designate two students for special assignments, which will involve some type of presentation: synopsis of an article or reading, brief informal debate on a specific topic, preparation of questions for discussion, etc. The assignments will be given one week in advance.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:**

**Week Date Topic**

**I. Introduction: Limitations of Science in Public Policy; Nature of**

**American Policymaking**

1 1/23 Science of environmental and energy analysis I

Reading: D. Goodstein, OUT OF GAS, chaps. 1-3 (assigned over semester break)

G. Hardin, “Tragedy of the Commons” (available on Moodle)

2 1/30 Science of environmental and energy analysis II; historical context of

American environmentalism

Reading: D. Goodstein, OUT OF GAS, chaps. 4-Postscript

B. Kline, FIRST ALONG THE RIVER, Introduction + chaps. 1-3

(pp. 1-42)

“Do We Have the Energy for the Next Transition?” (available on

Moodle)

Recommended: M.J. Graetz, THE END OF ENERGY, chap. 3

**II. National and International Perspectives on Public Policy and the Environment**

3 2/6 Politics and policy of U.S. environmental protection

Reading: B. Kline, FIRST ALONG THE RIVER: chaps. 4-7 (as assigned);

all read: chaps. 8-11 + Conclusion (pp. 113-193)

4 2/13 Climate change

Reading: E. Kolbert, FIELD NOTES FROM A CATASTROPHE

M.J. Graetz, THE END OF ENERGY, chap. 10

Frequently Asked Questions: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change (available on Moodle)

Film: “An Inconvenient Truth”

Paper 1 due

5 2/20 Individual meetings: hand back Paper 1 and discuss research paper

6 2/27 Case study: legal issues in domestic and international energy policy –

the Keystone XL Project

Guest: James Moeller, LFC ’80, J.D. Of Counsel, Stuntz, Davis & Staffier

(Washington, DC)

Reading: to be determined

3/5 Writing about nature

Reading: A. Leopold, A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC

William Cronon, “The Trouble With Wilderness” (available on

Moodle)

Guest: Prof. Benjamin Goluboff, Dept. of English

8 3/12 Spring Break – no class

**III. Energy Sources, Use, and Environmental Impacts**

9 3/19 Fossil fuels I: focus on crude oil

Reading: L. Margonelli, OIL ON THE BRAIN, chaps. 1-6

M.J. Graetz, Prologue and chaps. 1-2

10 3/26 Fossil fuels II: focus on natural gas

Reading: M.J. Graetz, chap. 6; Margonelli, chaps. 7-11 (as assigned)

Film: “Gasland”

11 4/2 Energy alternatives I: nuclear energy and energy economics

Guest: Prof. Jeffrey Sundberg, Dept. of Economics and Business Reading: M.J. Graetz, chaps. 4, 11

12 4/9 Energy alternatives II: solar and other technologies

Reading: M.J. Graetz, chap. 7

Available on Moodle:

D. McKay, “Sustainable Energy – Without the Hot Air”;

J.M. Cullen, et al., “Reducing Energy Demand: What are the Practical Limits?”

M.Z. Jacobson and M.A. Delucchi, “A Path to Sustainable Energy

by 2030.”

13 4/16 Fossil fuels: coal

Reading: B. Freese, COAL: A HUMAN HISTORY (selections)

M.J. Graetz, chap. 5 and 12

**IV. Public Engagement: What can we do?**

14 4/23 Local activism: Waukegan Case

Guest: Prof. Kathryn Dohrmann

N.A. Nichols,LAKE EFFECT: TWO SISTERS AND A TOWN'S

TOXIC LEGACY

15 4/30 Research paper presentations

NOTE: Research paper – 2 copies, please -- is due by 12 noon, Wed., May 2 in the Office of Community Education.

**MLS 514 -- RESEARCH PAPERS – SOME POSSIBLE TOPICS**

The syllabus states that you are to complete a research paper on a topic of your choice. We stress the word “choice,” for your topic should be one that engages you throughout the semester, and we are quite open to a wide range of topics. Some possible topics are listed below.

Specifics on the paper:

\*expected length: 15-20 pages (approx. 4500-5500 words)

\*12 pt. type; 1” margins all around

\*use MLA formatting. See Diane Hacker, A GUIDE TO STYLE.

\*employ at 12 different sources, including (a) books, (b) scholarly articles, and (c) press sources.

Presentation/submission:

Monday, 4/30 (last class) – paper presentation (about 10 minutes)

Wed., 5/2 (12 noon) – two hard cc. due in Office of Community Education

1. Recycling: How economically efficient? How environmentally friendly? A study of recycling in your community.

2. Public management of a scarce resource: water management in the western U.S.

3. The Great Lakes and invasive species: How big a threat? What can be done?

4. Renewable energy: pick an emerging renewable source/technology and analyze such aspects as economic feasibility and public policy to promote the source/technology.

5. Climate change: How effective has the Kyoto Protocol worked? What should come next?

6. Describe the ways in which the current economic policies in the US favor the current petroleum-based energy economy over newer, less-carbon-intensive sources of energy.

7. How can an individual citizen shape global or even local environmental policy?

8. Natural gas as a bridge fuel to a lower-carbon society: an economic and environmental cost-benefit analysis.

9. Similar to the MPG ratings that must be posted on new cars for sale in the US, a recent proposal calls for modified real estate listings to include utility costs for operating a home for sale. Analyze the costs and benefits to such a change.

10. Given that the US gets one half of its oil from other nations, analyze the role of oil in American foreign policy in the past decade.