

THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Department of Political Science
POLS 3370 – Environmental Politics and Governance
Fall 2019

Instructor: Ajay Sharma.

Lecture Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30pm – 3:50pm.

Lecture Location: Richards, 2529.

Office: MacKinnon, Room 518.

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00am-12:30pm, Thursday 4:30pm-6:00pm (Or by Appointment).

Email: sharma@uoguelph.ca

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The course explores the evolution of environmental policy in Canada, with particular emphasis placed on the past thirty years. We will examine how Canada's federal structure has influenced the development of environmental policy. In addition, our attention will also focus on environmental policy in other regions of the world. We will examine topics such as: environmental policy from an Indigenous perspective; intergovernmental relations; climate change; environmental jurisprudence; urban based environmentalism; GMOs; alternative energy; water policy; and, international environmental governance treaties.

This course is guided by several key questions. For example, is capitalism compatible with environmental protection? Are individuals capable of altering their consumer patterns to benefit the environment? Should government play a more forceful role in environmental regulation and protection? Do industrialized countries have the right to determine environmental regulations in developing countries? Students will be expected to explore these and other key questions that will arise during the semester.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Understand and apply the major theoretical and policy frameworks that have been used in the study of environmental politics and governance.
2. Analyze the relationship between politics, policy and jurisprudence and their impact on environmental policy.
3. Identify the major societal factors that have shaped the various phases of environmentalism.
4. Understand and explain the relationship between economic imperatives and environmental altruism.

Required Readings:

There is one required text for this course and it is available for purchase at the bookstore. The text shall also be available on short-term reserve in the library.

Debora L. VanNijnatten. (2016). Canadian Environmental Policy and Politics. Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press: Don Mills.