

Ecological Policy FW620

Credit hours: 3

Term offered: Spring

Instructor: Robert T. Lackey

Course Objectives:

- Understand the basic principles of contemporary ecological policy and ecological policy analysis.
- Understand how contemporary natural resource management and environmental protection issues are analyzed from a policy perspective.
- Understand a range of perspectives and viewpoints on how science interfaces with ecological policy analysis and decision-making.

Course content: Emphasis is on current and controversial North American ecological policy issues. Primary focus is exploring the role of scientists, technocrats, elected and appointed officials, the public, and interest/advocacy groups in ecological policy analysis and implementation. Specific policy issues considered are: (1) wildfire on public lands; (2) sustaining wild salmon runs; (3) use of genetically modified organisms; (4) at-risk species and the Endangered Species Act; (5) competing demands for scarce water supplies; (6) multiple use conflicts on public lands; (7) managing large predatory wildlife, especially wolves and cougars; (8) human-caused climate change; (9) rights, ethics, and moral imperatives relative to ecological policy; and (10) the interface between science, policy analysis, and the political process.

Prerequisite(s): This is a graduate level class. Students are expected to have an academic background and current understanding of natural resources, environmental science, ecological sciences, natural resource economics, ecological economics, marine resource management, geosciences, political science, or similar disciplines, or have the consent of the professor.

Text(s): There is no text book for this course. A number of specified policy/science articles and “policy backgrounders” are required reading. Copies of the articles and backgrounders will be available online through Blackboard.

Term paper(s): Regular participation in Blackboard Discussion Board.

Testing: Unspecified

Students for whom the course is intended: Graduate students in natural resources, environmental sciences, ecological sciences, natural resource and ecological economics, civil engineering, marine resource management, political science, environmental ethics, and others with a background and interest in ecological policy, environmental protection, and natural resource management issues.