

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## POL 345: Environmental Politics

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 10 - People/Environment

The course examines how national and international politics affects the success (and failure) of environmental policies. Since environmental policy is shaped in political arenas by a myriad of social and economic forces combined with observations of the natural world, the course content examine environmental issues with more of an inter-disciplinary approach. Students will gain an intellectually more mature understanding of how environmental policy is made, modified and implemented (or not) in response to political demands that often ignore the scientific realities of the environment. MnTC Goal 10.

### B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/11/2010 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. History of Environmental Policy and How it Became a National and International Issue
2. Government Institutions and Basic National Policymaking
3. Basics on International Organizations and Negotiation
4. Policies and Implementation: National and International
5. Energy Issues, Climate Change and Problem Recognition and Definition
6. Water Pollution and the Power of Interest Groups
7. Water Resource Management including State and Local Governments
8. Population, Sustainability and Individual Rights/Women's Rights
9. Public Lands, Policy Fragmentation and Money
10. Endangered Species, Biodiversity and the Issue Attention Cycle

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Exploring how environmental issues come to the attention of political decision-makers.
2. Examining how political institutions decide how to address environmental issues.
3. Explore the international politics involved in solving environmental problems.
4. Analyze how political concerns can override scientific evidence.
5. Examine the role of public opinion and political activity on elected officials during the environmental policy making process.
6. Analyze the difficulties in successful implementation of environmental policies.

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
5. Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
6. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted