

Spring 2024
3:00-4:30pm
Theater 206

ENVI215: Environmental Politics & Policy

Dr. Roopali Phadke

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TA: Lucia Zuvela

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Office hours on Moodle

The American environmental movement has transformed the nature of politics and the politics of nature over the last six decades. Because of seminal laws, like the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the U.S. is now party to significant regional and international treaties. While these transformations have been profound, there are many challenges that continue to confront lasting environmental protection and management, including issues of implementation and regulation. As an introduction to the field of Environmental Politics & Policy, we will chart the evolution of the environmental movement in the U.S. and internationally.

Statement on Learning Goals

These last three years have taught us that no semester is ever predictable. Things come up for us personally or within our community and society that force us to change our best laid plans. We will need to be flexible with each other and check in often. I will prioritize community building this semester and focus us on the big picture topics and skills I think you need to contribute to policy making. I need you to come to class prepared, ready to engage and to communicate with me when you need flexibility.

Student Assessment

Attendance
& Participation
(20%)

Your participation matters! You can only participate when you come to class. Please come prepared to engage in small and full group discussions. Participation includes hosting an enviro news briefing once during the semester. There will also be some surprise top of class check ins (graded as check -,+) which will count towards your overall attendance + participation grade. These include brief in-class reflections, quizzes, and minute go-arounds.

Writing (50 %)

Oped Essay (20%)

*Intended to develop your public advocacy skills, you will submit a polished, persuasive opinion editorial about a **policy that you would like to propose, see implemented, strengthened or defended** at the regional, national or international level. Drafts will be peer reviewed.*

Public Comment (15%)

Intended for an expert audience, your assignment is to write or record a video public comment to the MN State Legislature on the 100% E-waste collection bill.

Bezos Foundation Group Project (15%)

Intended to develop your collaborative research, writing and presentation skills, we will role play a policy memo pitch on an important global issue.

Reflections
(30%)

In lieu of exams, at the end of each unit you will be required to submit a learning reflection and self-assessment. The final reflection will include a 1:1 conference with Prof. Phadke. These reflections are meant to help you set your own learning goals and assess your growth over the course of the semester.

Instructor Availability: I can usually meet before and after class. See Moodle for sign up link to my office hours. It may take me 24 hours to respond to email.

Final Grade Scale:

Your final grade is based in part on your self-assessments. Typical grade ranges are: A (95-100); A- (90-94); B+ (87-90); B (83-87); B- (80-83). Similar ranges for C grades (70-79) and D grades (60-69); Below 60 is a failing grade.

Academic Integrity: It is assumed that all members of the class will act with academic integrity and will not engage in behavior such as plagiarism, academic dishonesty, misrepresentation, or cheating. Please refer to the college's policy on academic honesty.

Abilities & Accommodations:

I am committed to helping you be successful in this course. Contact the Disability Services office by emailing disabilityservices@macalester.edu to discuss your individual needs.

Tentative Assignment Dates and Deadlines

Oped Essay (20%):

Feb 1: Pitch due on Moodle 3pm
Feb 12: Draft oped due on Moodle 3pm & to peer group
Feb 15: Peer review in class
Feb 29: Final Oped due

Public Comment (15%):

Feb 20: Assignment introduced
Feb 22: Comments workshop in class
TBD: Optional Fieldtrip to MN Statehouse
March 19: Final comment due on Moodle

Bezos Group Project (15%):

March 28: Assignment Introduced
April 11: Progress report due
April 23: Class presentations
April 25: Final memo due

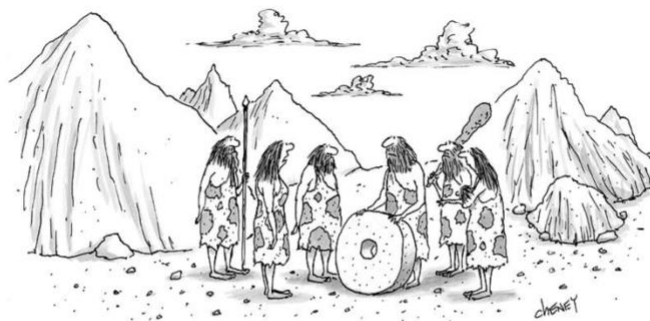
Learning assessments (30%):

Part 1: Due Feb 20 (5%)
Part 2: Due March 26 (10%)
Part 3: Due May 1(15%)

Your Health and Wellness:

You are encouraged to make your well-being a priority throughout this semester. If you are sick, please rest and check in with me about how to make up the work you miss. If you are feeling well but in isolation/quarantine, I can try to zoom you into class. Please note that it is really difficult to teach a hybrid class and I plan on doing so in only exceptional circumstances. There will not be a zoom room open regularly.

It is also important to acknowledge any chronic stressors you may be facing, which can be mental, emotional, physical, financial, etc., and how they can have an academic impact. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, please don't hesitate to contact me and I can assist you in seeking support resources at <https://www.macalester.edu/healthandwellness/>



"Nice, but we'll need an environmental-impact study, a warranty, recall bulletins, recycling facilities, and twenty-four-hour customer support."

Nice, But We'll Need An Environmental-impact is a drawing by Tom Cheney which was uploaded on August 16th, 2016.