Natural Resource Conservation and Policy (EVR 6377)

Course Justification

Conserving and managing natural resources are becoming an increasingly contentious issues. As they become more prominent in policy debates, a thorough understanding of the conservation needs, diverse policy designs and their impacts is instrumental. Through readings, lectures, discussions, research, presentations and exams, this course will provide a deeper understanding of how natural resources can be preserved and how policy instruments affect management and conservation goals. This course will be one of three 3-credit common courses required of all Ph.D. students in the two new majors of Geosciences and Natural Resource Science and Management, which are being proposed concurrently with this proposal.
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Objectives
The course is designed to review and apply analytical tools for understanding conservation and the role of environmental policy instruments in managing and conserving natural resources. The course materials will cover a range of scientific and policy issues related to local, national and global environmental changes as they influence ecosystem processes and human welfare at multiple scales.

Learning Outcomes
The students will learn to effectively communicate environmental conservation and policy issues to the broader society. They will be able to critically think, analyze and compare both intended and unintended consequences of diverse conservation measures and environmental policy instruments.

Major Topics
Please see the syllabus/course outline

Textbook and Readings
Weekly readings for the course will be assigned from journal articles and book chapters.
Syllabus
EVR 6XXX Natural Resource Conservation and Policy

Course Overview: Through readings, lectures, discussions, research, presentations and exams this course will provide a deeper understanding of how natural resources are classified, managed and conserved, and how policy instruments affect management and conservation goals. The course materials will cover a range of scientific and policy issues related to local, national and global environmental changes as they affect natural resources and ecosystem processes with significant impact on human welfare at multiple scales. The students will be able to critically think, analyze and compare both intended and unintended consequences of diverse environmental policy instruments. They will also learn to effectively communicate environmental science and policy issues to the broader society.

Textbooks and Readings:


Additional readings will be assigned from journal articles and book chapters.

Grading Policy: Your overall grade will depend on two exams (40% total), a research paper (progress report 1=5%, progress report 2= 10% final paper = 25%) and a presentation (10%). The remaining 10% of the grade will be attributed to classroom participation and engagement.

Tentative Course Outline and Weekly Schedules

**Week 1:** Diversity of natural resources, economic growth, and carrying capacity

**Week 2:** Current state of natural resource conservation and justifications for natural resource management and conservation policy

**Week 3:** Reviewing major environmental policy instruments

**Week 4:** Research methods in natural resource conservation and environmental policy analysis. Topic selection for research paper and presentation

**Week 5:** Policy instruments for managing air resources

**Week 6:** Conservation and policy instruments for managing water resources

**Week 7:** Policy instruments for land and waste management
Week 8: Policy instruments for energy resource management

Week 9: Conservation and policy instruments for management of mineral resources

Week 10: Conservation and policy instruments for fisheries, and coastal and marine resources

Week 11: Conservation and policy instruments for forest resources, biodiversity conservation and endangered species management

Week 12: Policy instruments for global climate change

Week 13: Impact evaluations for environmental policy instruments

Week 14: Policy innovations in environmental and natural resource management

Week 15: Presentations of student research projects