Environmental Policy

Hilf to students enrolled – 3.25 hours per week.

Points:
- 20% of the grade will be based on attendance and participation in class discussions.
- 25% of the grade will be based on the presentation of articles in class.
- 50% of the grade will be based on submitting a final project on the environmental policy implemented in Israel. (25%),

Syllabus

- Introduction to public policy-making and the various methods for dealing with environmental challenges at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

Courses include:
- Introduction to public policy, definitions of "environmental problems", political approaches to public policy, vision and implementation.
- Decision-making processes at the national and local levels, key players in designing environmental policy in Israel: government, industry, NGOs, scientists, and citizens.
- Methodologies for assessing the situation and building environmental policy.
- Land use policy – the environmental aspect (two sessions).
- Administrative tools: risk assessment (two sessions).
- Administrative tools: environmental impact assessment.
- Regulatory tools: standards, "control and enforcement", laws and enforcement.
- Economic tools: "cap and trade", "taxes on pollutants".

Assessment:

- A mix of grades based on attendance and participation in class discussions (25%).
- The grade will also be based on the presentation of articles in class (25%).
- The grade will be based on submitting a final project on the environmental policy implemented in Israel. (50%)

Target audience:

- Postgraduate students and graduates.

Course prerequisites:

- Introduction to environmental studies or a similar course.
Course Schedule

Class 1 – Introduction to environmental policy
- Defining environmental problems
- The role of the policy maker, scientist, industry, media and public advocacy in environmental problem definition
- Reformist versus radical approaches to environmental policy advocacy

Class 2 – Environmental policy formulation
- Micro and macro policy definition and formulation
- Creating a macro policy vision
- Problem solving with policy analysis (Bardach’s 8-fold path)

Readings:
Cohen. Chapters 1 and 2

Class 3 – Introduction to land use policy, Part 1: Open space, ecosystem services and development
- Managing for ecosystem services
- National land use goals and environment
- Open land management
- Choosing class project subject matter

Readings:

Class 4 – Introduction to land use policy, Part 2: National priorities, security, economy and political demography
- Comparative land use policies, focus on Israel
- Case Study – Setting a land use policy agenda for a political party

Readings:
*Evans, M. 2006, Defending Territorial Sovereignty through Civilian Settlement: The Case of Israel’s Population Dispersal Policy, Israel Affairs, 12, 578-596*

Class 5 – Environmental health risk assessment, Part 1: Case study
- Case study/Class activity – The Antenna on the Roof: A Community deals with a cell-phone relay antenna

Reading:
Cohen, Chapters 4 and 5

Class 6 – Environmental health risk assessment, Part 2: Administrative tools for assessing risk
- Risk assessment
- Precautionary principle

Readings:
Class 7 – Economic policy tools
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Environmental taxes
- Cap and permit trading

Readings:
Cohen. 2006. Chapter 3
כלים כלכליים לשמירת איכות הסביבה המשרד לאיכות הסביבה, לשכת המדען הראשי, אגף כלכלת, מודע ותקינה. 1998. ירושלים.

Class 8 – Introduction to environmental impact assessments
- The policy framework for environmental impact statements
- Critique of EIS

Readings:

Class 9 – Regulatory policies
- Command and control
- Principles of environmental law and enforcement

Reading:

Class 10 – Climate Change Policy
- Adaptation
- Mitigation
- Geo-engineering

Readings:
Cohen. 2006. Chapter 6
מקינזי, 2009. פוטנציאל הפחתת פליטות גזי חממה בישראל. (עמ. 5-11.)
http://environment.gov.il/Environment/Static/Binaries/ModulKvatzim/P0527_1.pdf

Class 11 – Population policy
- In theory – the environmental incentive
- In practice
- In Israel

Readings:
שלוח ודרימר: השפעות הסביבתיות של גידול האוכלוסייה בישראל. 2012. אוניברסיטת זיבפועלית, 263-273:(3)

Class 12 - 13 Final project presentations and discussion

Readings:
Cohen. 2006. Chapters 7, 8

Course Textbook

Additional optional readings

ממסכים עמדה. ה milhões של ממשל ש.אמנו.