ENVS 7041 Environmental Policy Analysis
Louisiana State University
Fall 2009
Dr. Margaret Reams
Office: 2115 Energy, Coast and Environment Bldg.
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 – 10:30 AM
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Course Objectives

The objectives of this service-learning course are three-fold. First, students will learn about the public policy process in a democratic political system, with emphasis on the theories of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. Second, students will gain insight into which policy tools and approaches are most applicable to complex environmental problems. Also, through readings and hands-on instruction using SPSS version 15.0, students will examine selected statistical methods and techniques that are commonly used to estimate and evaluate the impacts of environmental policies. Finally, students will apply these principles to an environmental policy service-learning project.

Students will work with the Greater Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition to produce a community guide for local businesses, residents and public decision makers concerning how to establish a local chapter of the Clean Air Coalition. (The Baton Rouge group is the first of its kind in the state.) The handbook will present an overview of the laws and regulations that create the regulatory framework for air pollution control. Also, the students will prepare a "catalog" of strategies and best practices for local businesses by sector and for households to reduce emission of air pollutants. Also, the students will examine the current policy outlook and consider whether some standards may be made more stringent by EPA, and if so, how strengthening certain standards for pollutant emissions may affect Louisiana communities. The overall objective of the service-learning exercise is to help the Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition to conduct effective educational outreach to facilitate the creation of local chapters of Clean Air Coalitions throughout Louisiana to reduce air pollution levels.

Service-Learning Partner

The Greater Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition is a coalition of local governments, businesses, educational institutions, and civic and environmental organizations committed to improving air quality in the greater Baton Rouge area through voluntary actions. The Coalition's website is: www.br**cleanair**.org.

The Coalition's goals are to:

1. Improve air quality through voluntary actions.
2. Create public awareness and promote individual responsibility through education.
3. Provide credible measures of air quality improvement efforts.

Leadership Team Members include representatives from Mayor-President Kip Holden's office, the Chamber of Greater Baton Rouge, Capital Region Planning Commission, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, local industries and environmental organizations.

Readings, class lectures, and discussions will be geared toward helping students develop a grasp of environmental policy at the state and federal levels in the U.S., specifically pertaining to air quality, so that they may apply this information to the service-learning research assignment. That assignment consists of preparing a section for the "how-to" guide for local communities interested in establishing a chapter of the Clean Air Coalition. Also, the students will participate in classroom discussions and will prepare written responses to questions designed to encourage meaningful personal reflection upon the service-learning experience.

In sum, the hands-on service-learning component of this class will reinforce and enhance understanding of the course content and help to further a sense of civic responsibility among the participants (Bringle and Hatcher 1995). The service activities are designed to enhance cooperation among local stakeholders to reduce air emissions, and in this sense, the students' efforts address the needs of the larger community.

Point of Contact:
Dr. Mike McDaniel or
Lauren Stuart, Coordinator,
Greater Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition
Center for Energy Studies
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Site Visit

It is important to meet in person with the coordinator and director of the Greater Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition in order to learn about their organizational framework and their goals concerning launching a state-wide outreach to educate local stakeholders about the need for air quality improvements and the feasibility of formulating a local Alliance of businesses and households in their communities. We will meet with our partners at least once during the first two weeks of the semester at the organization's office in the Energy, Coast and Environment Building on the LSU campus. Absence on the day of the site visit will reduce your grade by an entire letter grade.

Reflection

Reflection on the insights and experiences gained through the service-learning assignment and interaction with the partner organization is an important aspect of the service-learning

experience. Reflection refers to "the intentional consideration of an experience in light of particular learning objectives" (Bringle and Hatcher, 1999). Thus, we will:

1) Conduct in-depth class discussions after meetings with leaders of the Greater Baton Rouge Clean Air Alliance to share our perceptions and any questions students may have about the objectives of the organization and the larger "client" audience of business and households in local communities throughout Louisiana,

2) Write one reflection paper: In this paper, the students will answer and reflect on a short list of questions concerning the content of their activities and how these activities reinforce the learning objectives of the course and may help community stakeholders achieve reduced air emissions.

3) Presentation of guidebook sections: Students will make oral and written presentations of the sections of the community guidebook they have prepared. Community partners will be invited to attend these presentations and students will answer questions from the partners. Together, the students and partners will have the opportunity to discuss the ways in which the guidebook will be used and reflect upon its potential impact among local communities.

Course Materials

Reading materials will be available on-line, so that students can print and compile a reading packet for the semester. The attached course schedule presents the required reading assignments for each class meeting. Please note that related readings and other supplemental materials will be posted on the class Moodle site throughout the semester.

Student Responsibilities

1) Students are expected to attend all classes and read all assignments prior to each class meeting.

2) Students will participate in class discussions about the readings and to prepare discussion questions for the readings.

3) Students will select one peer-reviewed journal article concerning the impacts of an environmental program or policy and make a presentation to the class.

4) Students will prepare a section (8-10 pages) of the guide book for local communities interested in organizing a Clean Air Coalition group. The students will work in teams of two or three to prepare a section of the handbook. To ensure fair and evenly distributed workloads within teams, students will evaluate each other. This evaluation will factor into the assignment grade. If there are problems within a team, notify the professor as soon as the problem arises. Students will present their guidebook sections to members of the class and the Greater Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition during two class meetings at the end of the semester.

Evaluation

Class participation:	5%
Midterm exam:	25%
SPSS Homework assignments:	10%

Service Learning-

Clean Air Coalition Guide-Book section:	20%
Guide-Book section presentation:	5%
Service Learning Reflection paper:	10%

Final exam:	25%

Grades will be determined as follows: 90-100, A; 80-89, B; 70-79, C; 60-69 D; <60, F.

Note: Please be familiar with the LSU guidelines concerning plagiarism and other academic integrity issues:

www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/Plagiarism.htm

www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism.html

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
8/25	Course Introduction	

8/27   Introduction to the Systems Theory of Public Policy Formulations and Analyses
            Handout: Summaries of John Kingdon and David Easton

9/1   Easton's Systems Theory of Public Policy Formulations and Analyses

9/3   Economic Foundations of Public Policy

9/8   Richard L. Revesz and Robert N. Stavins, *Environmental
            Law & Public Policy* (98 pp.)
            http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-DP-04-30-REV.pdf

9/10   Determining Costs and Benefits

9/15   Social Discounting and other Challenges

9/17   **Introduction to Service-Learning class project**

9/22   The "Toolbox" of Environmental Policy

           Office of Technology Assessment, *Environmental Policy Tools: A User's Guide*
           OTA – ENV 634 (4) (224 pp.)
             www.princeton.edu/~ota/ns20/year_f.html

           Lawrence H. Goulder and Ian W.H. Parry, 2008, *Instrument Choice in
           Environmental Policy*, Resources for the Future Discussion Paper: RFF DP 08-07
           (31 pp.)
           www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-DP-08-07.pdf

9/24   Selection of Policy Instruments

9/29   Policy Instruments of Major U.S. Environmental Statutes

10/1   Fall Break - No Class

10/6   Air pollution regulations and The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI),

            http://www.rggi.org.

10/8   Examination of air quality trends in Louisiana. (Reading to be assigned)

10/13   The Kingdon Public Policy Model applied to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

           The Role of Science in Environmental Policy --
           Handout: Oliver Houk, Tales from a Troubled Marriage.

10/15   MIDTERM EXAM

10/20   U.S. State Innovations in Climate Change Policy

           Joseph E. Aldy and William A. Pizer, 2008, Issues in Designing U.S. Climate Change
           Policy, Resources for the Future Discussion Paper, RFF DP 08-20 (36 pp.)
           www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-DP-08-20.pdf

Jan-Peter Vob, 2007, "Innovation Process in Governance: the Development of Emissions Trading as a New Policy Instrument", Science and Public Policy, June 2007, pp. 329-343.

10/22   Introduction to SPSS, version 15.0 – (See LSU Tiger Ware)
             Data selection and data base building;
             Sources of Environmental Data

             SPSS – Descriptive statistical techniques

10/27   SPSS – Measures of Association and Time Series Analyses

             SPSS Homework Assignments Due

10/29   Overview of State Climate Change Efforts (See PPT)

11/3   Clean Air Act

11/5   Overview of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

             The reading material for this case may be accessed at: http://www.rggi.org.

11/10   Do We Know Enough about Climate Change to Develop Policy?
             Reading assignment: Schneider article.

11/12   Reading assignment: Vob article.

11/17   Reading assignment: Aldy and Pizer article.

11/19   Course Summary: Environmental Policy Analysis – Challenges and Opportunities;
             Service Learning Reflections - In-class discussion

11/24   Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class Meeting

11/26   Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class Meeting

12/1   Service-Learning Guidebook sections due - Presentations Begin

12/3   Guidebook Sections Presentations, Continued
             Service-Learning Reflections paper due

12/11   FINAL EXAM