

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 50:
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM ANALYSIS AND POLICY FORMULATION**

Instructors:

Professor Michael Cox
Associate professor
Fairchild 105

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-3pm

<https://calendly.com/envs50/office-hours>

Dr. Karen H. Bieluch

Practice-Based Learning Specialist

Fairchild 109

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Office hours: Please email me to request a Zoom meeting or an after-class in-person meeting. I am on campus on Thursdays.

Schedule and class materials:

Classroom: Fairchild 101

Class periods: Tuesday and Thursday from 10:10 to 12pm

X-hours: As a default, we will not be using X-hours in this class, but we may need to use a few in order to make sure that we can fit everything in.

The schedule for the course is listed on Canvas via the syllabus page and the online calendar. You will also find any assigned readings associated with course events and assignments on Canvas.

You will notice that some days are reserved for group work for your group projects and debates.

Professor Cox will notify you if and when there is a change to this schedule, which will then be reflected on the Canvas website as well.

Introduction

Course objectives: This is a capstone course that is taken by graduating seniors in the ENVS major. The course is designed to offer you an opportunity to reflect on your time at Dartmouth, help you think about your next steps, and develop skills that will help you in the future.

ORC Course Description: Students working together in groups will formulate and justify solutions-orientating measures that they think would be appropriate to deal with a local environmental problem. The purposes of this coordinating course are to (1) give students an opportunity to see how the disciplinary knowledge acquired in their various courses and departmental major programs can be **integrated** in a synthetic manner; (2) provide a forum for an in-depth evaluation of a significant environmental policy adjacent problem; and (3) give students the experience of working as a project team toward the solution of a real-world problem. Considerable fieldwork may be involved, and the final examination will consist of a public presentation and defense of student-generated recommendations for our community partner(s).

Assignments

There are four graded assignments in this course:

- 1) Group research projects (25 points)
- 2) Policy debates (15 points)
- 3) Final individual reflections (5 points)
- 4) Class participation (5 points)

All written assignments should be submitted via uploads of Microsoft Word documents onto Canvas. The specific instructions for each assignment are provided on Canvas.

Group research projects (25 points)

This assignment has the following sub-components that need to be delivered independently:

- 1) Group project report drafts (5 points)
- 2) Group project presentations (5 points)
- 3) Group project final reports (15 points)

Students will be broken up into groups to work on different group projects. Two of the four projects were developed in collaboration with the Dartmouth Center for Service and are formally Social Impact Practicums, although our approach for each of the projects will be the same. Each group will be working with a local partner and will receive a one-page description of the goals of the project. You will have a point person from the local organization to engage with throughout the term, and this work will likely include making refinements to the initial framing of the project as your partner(s) and your team learn from each other.

Reach out to your liaison librarian, Tricia Martone (tricia.martone@dartmouth.edu) for help with getting access to books, videos, articles, etc. for your research. Here is a link to the Environmental Studies Research Guide: <https://researchguides.dartmouth.edu/envs>.

Professor Cox and Dr. Bieluch will work together to help students with their group projects. Different groups will be assigned one of us as your academic mentor on your project, although both of us are available to all the groups as needed. In our capacity as mentors on the group projects, we will assist in refining the questions to be addressed and the methods used to answer these questions.

Policy debates (15 points)

This assignment has the following sub-components that need to be delivered independently:

- 1) Debate topic brainstorm (2 points)
- 2) Debate resolutions draft (5 points)
- 3) Debate opening arguments draft (3 points)
- 4) Policy debates (5 points)

During the term we will be working with John Turner, the coach for Dartmouth's (two-time national champion) debate team to develop and conduct a series of policy debates. John will be visiting class to describe the ins and outs of policy debates and how they are conducted. The groups for the policy debates will be the same as those for the group projects. The topics for the debates are not set in stone, but one priority is to have them reflect the work that students are doing with their local partners.

Individual reflection (5 points)

At the end of the term, you will need to write up an individual 750 - 1,000-word reflection piece.

Class participation (5 points)

- 1) You are expected to show up to every class period unless there is a reason for your absence that you communicate with Professor Cox. This includes group workdays.
- 2) You are also expected to show up on time to class. Consistent lateness (which includes being late by a minute or two) will cause you to lose points. You are also expected to come prepared to engage with visiting speakers.
- 3) Except for the very first day of class and during designated group work periods, you are not allowed to use a screen of any kind (laptops, phones) during class. You will lose points if we need to consistently remind you of this policy. Contact Professor Cox if you feel like you need accommodations with respect to this policy.

Course policies

Grading

The following scale will be used to determine final grades.

93%-100%: A	83%-86.9%: B	73%-76.9%: C	Below 60%: F
90%-92.9% A-	80%-82.9% B-	70%-72.9% C-	
87%-89.9%: B+	77%-79.9%: C+	60%-69.9%: D	

Grades for specific assignments and final grades will not be rounded or negotiated or changed in any way unless a clerical error was made.

Late assignments will incur a 1-point penalty per day (e.g., if you hand in the final career assignment five hours late, you will be docked one point).

Much of the work in this course is done in groups and outside of the classroom. As a result, grading for the group work assignments (group projects and policy debates) will be done in the following manner:

1. At the end of the term, each student will provide a written statement describing their individual contribution to the group's projects, a frank assessment of this work with a suggested grade, and an assessment of other students in their group. You will have a mid-term evaluation of the same format to help make sure your work throughout the term aligns with your goals.
2. Our project partners will be asked to provide an assessment of group performance. Because not all students within a group will have equal contact with their group's community contacts, this partner feedback will be applied equally to each student within a group.
3. Student peer evaluations will be considered along with all instructors' observations of performance in determining final grades for group assignments.

If you feel that one or more members of your group are not "carrying their weight," please discuss this situation within your group and involve your instructors when needed. We are happy to help sort out any conflicts. If you find that you're unable to resolve the conflict as a team, please reach out to your instructors as soon as possible so steps may be taken to help the group get back on track before too much time has passed. As you know, the term goes by quickly.

Academic honor principle

Excerpt from the college website (<https://policies.dartmouth.edu/policy/academic-honor-principle-1>):

"Fundamental to the principle of independent learning are the requirements of honesty and integrity in the performance of academic assignments, both in and out of the classroom. Dartmouth operates on the principle of academic honor, without proctoring of examinations. Any student who submits work

which is not his or her own, or commits other acts of academic dishonesty, violates the purposes of the college and is subject to disciplinary actions, up to and including suspension or separation.

“The Academic Honor Principle depends on the willingness of students, individually and collectively, to maintain and perpetuate standards of academic honesty. Each Dartmouth student accepts the responsibility to be honorable in the student's own academic affairs, as well as to support the principle as it applies to others.

“Any student who becomes aware of a violation of the Academic Honor Principle is bound by honor to report the violation to an appropriate authority, such as an instructor, department or program chair, academic dean, or the Office of Community Standards & Accountability. If Dartmouth students stand by and do nothing, both the spirit and operation of the Academic Honor Principle are severely threatened.” A number of actions are specifically prohibited by the Academic Honor Principle:

1. Unauthorized assistance on examinations.
2. Plagiarism.
3. Use of the same work in more than one course.
4. Unauthorized collaboration.
5. Misuse of technology.

The website cited above contains more information on each of these items. Regarding item four, collaboration is explicitly authorized for group projects and policy debate assignments in this course. In terms of technology, you are allowed to use new AI technologies (e.g., ChatGPT) for exploratory inquiries, keeping in mind that these technologies are not established as legitimate research tools at this point (they often provide incorrect information and even “hallucinate”). In the spirit of item two (plagiarism), you should not represent text produced by a Chatbot as your own writing.

Student Accessibility Services

Students requesting disability-related accommodations and services for this course are required to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS; [Apply for Services webpage](#); student.accessibility.services@dartmouth.edu; 1-603-646-9900) and to request that an accommodation email be sent to me in advance of the need for an accommodation. Then, students should schedule a follow-up meeting with me to determine relevant details such as what role SAS or its [Testing Center](#) may play in accommodation implementation. This process works best for everyone when completed as early in the quarter as possible. If students have questions about whether they are eligible for accommodations or have concerns about the implementation of their accommodations, they should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential.

Religious Observances

Dartmouth has a commitment to support students' religious observances and diverse faith practices. Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me as soon as possible—before the end of the second week of the term at the latest—to discuss appropriate course adjustments.

Transportation

It is likely that some groups will want to conduct site visits. You are allowed to do this in general, and this is also permitted during class times that have been designated for group work. Our designated x-hour is also a good time to do this (Fridays from 3:30pm to 4:20pm).

At the moment this document is written, all private vehicles/ Dartmouth vehicles on Dartmouth sponsored trips must follow the following guidelines:

https://www.dartmouth.edu/transportation/vehicle_use_requirements.php

COVID-19 Guidelines

The past few years have been a difficult and confusing time for all of us. I ask you to be kind and considerate to yourselves and each other during these uncertain circumstances. If you find yourself in need of academic or other kinds of support, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and or your Dean's office and Dick's house, as appropriate.

Please be aware that all College guidelines regarding COVID-19 are to be strictly adhered to and it is your responsibility to be aware of changing rules and circumstances.

If you are sick, have any COVID-19 symptoms, test positive or are otherwise concerned about your COVID-19 status, please avoid direct contact with classmates, professors, etc. and arrange for makeup work by consulting your instructors and group members as appropriate.

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Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Mar 26, 2024	Calendar Event Go over syllabus, group mapping exercise	10:10am to 12pm
Thu Mar 28, 2024	Calendar Event Introduction to debate with John Turner	10:10am to 12pm
	Calendar Event Research methods discussion with Michael and Karen	11:10am to 12pm
Tue Apr 2, 2024	Calendar Event Local partners visit class to introduce projects	10:10am to 11am
	Calendar Event Research methods discussion with Michael and Karen	11:10am to 12pm
Wed Apr 3, 2024	Assignment Submit group project preferences	due by 5pm
Thu Apr 4, 2024	Calendar Event Group project assignments and initial work	10:10am to 12pm
Tue Apr 9, 2024	Calendar Event JT Erbaugh guest lecture	10:10am to 10:50am
	Calendar Event Group work -- work on debate brainstorm assignment	11am to 12pm
Thu Apr 11, 2024	Calendar Event Group collaboration skills with Karen	10:10am to 12pm
	Assignment Debate brainstorm	due by 5pm
Tue Apr 16, 2024	Calendar Event Group work time all class	10:10am to 12pm
Wed Apr 17, 2024	Assignment Debate resolution drafts	due by 5pm
Thu Apr 18, 2024	Calendar Event Debate and rhetoric technique with John Turner	10:10am to 11am
	Calendar Event Debate assignment feedback	11:10am to 12pm
	Assignment Mid-term self-assessment	due by 11:59pm
	Calendar Event Derek Walker guest lecture	10:10am to 11am

Date	Details	Due
Tue Apr 23, 2024	Calendar Event Group work time	11:10am to 12pm
Thu Apr 25, 2024	Calendar Event Group work time all class	10:10am to 12pm
Tue Apr 30, 2024	Calendar Event Group work time all class	10:10am to 11:59pm
	Assignment Debate opening arguments	due by 9pm
Thu May 2, 2024	Calendar Event Peter Stein guest lecture	10:10am to 10:50am
	Calendar Event Group work time	11am to 12pm
Tue May 7, 2024	Calendar Event Group work time all class	10:10am to 12pm
Thu May 9, 2024	Calendar Event Debate practice exercise and feedback	10:10am to 12pm
Tue May 14, 2024	Calendar Event Elena Mihaly guest lecture	10:10am to 11am
	Calendar Event Feedback on debates with John Turner	11:10am to 12pm
Thu May 16, 2024	Assignment Policy debates	due by 10:10am
Tue May 21, 2024	Calendar Event Group work time all class	10:10am to 12pm
Thu May 23, 2024	Calendar Event Practice project presentations	10:10am to 11:30am
	Calendar Event Final reflection	11:30am to 11:59pm
Fri May 24, 2024	Assignment Draft group project reports	due by 9pm
Tue May 28, 2024	Assignment Group project presentations	due by 12pm
	Assignment Group project final group and self-assessments	due by 9pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu May 30, 2024	Assignment Group project reports	due by 9pm
Fri May 31, 2024	Assignment Final individual reflections	due by 9pm