

## PS 1681 Environmental Policy Writing (PT Capstone) Syllabus Wyoming Summer 2019

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### Students who take this class should:

- Learn the policy process, particularly as it relates to environmental policy-making
- Understand and unpack the different writing items that are utilized in that policy process
- Create a portfolio of original policy writing materials that can be used as writing samples for graduate programs and job opportunities within the policy realm
- Gain familiarity with a variety of environmental policy issues that are important to both Wyoming and Western Pennsylvania
- Recognize the connection between space, land, the environment, our political attitudes, and ourselves

### Course Materials:

Smith, Catherine. 2019. *Writing Public Policy, 5th edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-085423-2.

All other class materials will be provided in the workbook packet distributed via courseweb and box.

### Grading:

30% Participation and Attendance

60% Portfolio

10% Portfolio Milestones

*Participation:* Speaking in class, with your peers, and with the visiting speakers is essential to success in this course. Thus, attendance at all class activities and class meetings is essential. Attendance and participation in the discussions/activities will be noted by the instructor. Given the size of the group and the nature of the travel plus education function of the experience, there will be no exact metric for missed classes and activities, but the penalties for absences will be steep (at least 10% of the grade per absence). Participation means being engaged and active, and contributing at times to the conversation, and the instructor will keep notes on participation each day during instruction.

*Portfolio:* This class focuses on building one single cohesive portfolio of policy writing by the end of the course. The pieces in this portfolio will undergo a revision process, with feedback from both instructor and other class participants. Thus, the grading structure of the class will be a bit different than other courses. There are no individual paper grades—instead, one grade is given for the entirety of the portfolio. Grading will be based upon mastery of the different types

of policy writing, ability to match the format while being creative with topic and presentation, and overall effectiveness of the Portfolio. Students will have a chance to have individualized meetings with the instructor during the course, and a discussion of how the Portfolio is doing (as well as rough grade estimation) will happen at that timing. Students should focus on getting completed work into their portfolio, then revising that work as they go forward in the course.

Portfolio Milestones: While no grades are given for the first drafts of portfolio items, it is essential that students submit their work on time. Completion of all first drafts of portfolio items on time will earn 10% of the student’s grade. Late work will penalize this pool of points.

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class and Experience Schedule</b>	<b>Reading Assignments (read <u>before</u> class) and Portfolio Items to Work on (with due date)</b>
Saturday 7/27	Meet at the Denver airport baggage claim 5 before 11am for transit to Laramie. Check in procedure for students to University of Wyoming room and board. After all students are squared away, preliminary meeting to review experience, course, and syllabus: Welcome Dinner in Laramie.	
Sunday 7/28	Morning meeting on campus: initial discussion of Policy Writing, East vs West, and Easter Island Case study.  Day trip to Cheyenne Rodeo	Read: Smith Book ch. 1-2. Read: “Roots of Environmental Problems” focusing on the Easter Island Case Study (packet)
Monday 7/29	Classroom Instruction Begins.  Class Meeting 10:00-12:00: Overview of the policy process and writing portfolio elements, finding your own issues of concern  Class Meeting 1:00-3:00: Speaker Nicole Gautier discussion on Public Lands Initiative  Class Meeting 3:00 – 4:00 Problem Definitions: Hydraulic fracturing versus Fracking	Read: Smith Book Ch. 3 Read: Problem Definitions Fracking 1 and 2 (packet) Read: <a href="https://www.westernconfluence.org/what-to-do-with-wilderness-study-areas/">https://www.westernconfluence.org/what-to-do-with-wilderness-study-areas/</a>  Write: Problem Definition (due 7/30)
Tuesday 7/30	Class Meeting: 10:00-12:00: Writing workshop (Problem Definitions)	Read: Dukes 2004 article (packet) Read: Smith Book Ch. 4

	Class Meeting 1:30-3:30: Policy Analysis and Continued Public Lands discussion	Write: Policy Analysis (due 7/31)
Wednesday 7/31	Morning trip to Wyoming Territory Prison Museum (meeting time to be driven to site TBD)  Class Meeting 1:30-2:30: Revisions workshop (Policy Analysis)  Class Meeting 2:45-4:30: Position Paper / Policy Analysis Recommendation	Read: Smith Book Ch. 6 Read: Policy Analysis – Pine Beetles  Write: Position Paper / Policy Analysis Recommendation (due 8/1)
Thursday 8/1	Class Meeting 10:00-12:00 Temple Stoellinger discussion Environmental Policy Careers and Large Game Migration  Class Meeting 1:00-2:00: Revisions workshop (Position Paper)  Class Meeting 2:00-4:00: Differentiating Policy Proposals from Analysis, Position, and Definition Writing	Read: Environmental Policymaking in Corporations and Government (Packet) Read: Smith Book Ch 7.
Friday 8/2	Class Meeting 10:00-12:00:  Class Meeting 1:30-3:00: Grazing Policy Applications  Class Meeting 3:30-4:45: Policy Proposal projects working group session	Skim: Bureau of Land Management Grazing Policy Proposal ( <a href="https://www.blm.gov/grazing/EIS/full_EIS.pdf">https://www.blm.gov/grazing/EIS/full_EIS.pdf</a> ) Read: Policy Proposal – Objection Sheet to Rangeland NEIS 2018 (Packet)  Write: Policy Proposal (due 8/3)
Saturday 8/3	Class Meeting 10:00-12:00: Water clarity and the Law Class Meeting 1:30-2:30: Legislation Draft project description Class Meeting 3:00-4:30: Legislation writing team workshop	Read: Selections of PA and WY public law regarding water (Packet)  Write: Legislation Draft (due 8/4)
Sunday 8/4	Class Meeting 10:00-11:00: Lobbying and Policy Writing, Russell Building Pitch assignment  Travel to Cheyenne	Write: Russell Building Pitch (due 8/5)

Monday 8/5	<p>Morning: Informal class meeting and visit to Wyoming History Museum. Russel Building Pitches along the way, and time to explore Cheyenne.</p> <p>Class Meeting: Group transit to 3:00 meeting with Jim Magagna, Executive Vice President of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association</p>	
Tuesday 8/6	<p>Class Meeting: Group Transit to 9:30am Meeting with Renny McCay and Beth Callaway, policy makers in the office of the Governor.</p> <p>Afternoon: Individual Portfolio Review meetings</p> <p>Students should spend this day working on revisions to their packet materials based on instructor and peer feedback</p> <p>Group Dinner in Cheyenne</p>	
Wednesday 8/7	<p>Checkout prior to 10am from Cheyenne hotel, transit to Estes</p> <p>Explore the Park and Edit Materials</p>	Write: Environment and the Self Reflection (due 8/8)
Thursday 8/8	<p>8:30-1:00 National Park Service Wildlife Simulation</p> <p>Coordinate timing to prepare for NPS Wildlife Simulation on Friday (prep and procuring lunch materials)</p>	<p>Read: Smith Book Ch. 8</p> <p>Write: Town Hall Briefing (due in finalized portfolio)</p>
Friday 8/9	<p>Morning Meeting</p> <p>Explore the Park – this is the day for the long hike if you're inclined to take one</p> <p>Final Day to Create and Edit Materials</p> <p>Exit Group Dinner in Estes</p>	Write: Portfolio Coversheet (due in finalized portfolio)
Saturday 8/10	<p>5:00am check out and transit to Denver Airport</p>	Full Portfolio – All finalized Writing Items Uploaded to Your Portfolio on Box

## **Course Policies:**

*Academic Standards:* Academic Integrity Policy: Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed. For the full Academic Integrity Policy, go to: <http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity>.

Furthermore, for a travel-based educational experience, academic integrity includes making certain to be reasonable and professional during your time with the course. Students who run afoul of other program or University policies about student conduct, particularly alcohol and drug abuse, jeopardize the integrity of their academic experience as well. And note that integrity and professionalism also include punctuality—if you are late you are harming the others on the experience with you. Thus, aim at professional, academic, and personal integrity for the two weeks of the experience.

*Office Hours:* The class has no formal office hours, but students are encouraged to set up any times they need with the instructor to review their writing, talk about the course, or plan activities while in Wyoming/Colorado. You can e-mail or text the instructor to coordinate a timing, or talk before/after any class meeting or function. Note that if you're struggling: feeling ill, feeling depressed or anxious, having a conflict with another student, or think you're behind in the class/made a mistake, those are all things you can talk with the instructor about. Despite not having an office door, my office door is metaphorically open.

*Class Discussions:* For you to get the most out of this class, it is not only important but essential that you keep current with the readings and are willing to participate in class discussions. The classroom is intended to be an open space for discussion, where all ideas and questions are valid. Being political science and political theory, serious and often conflict-prone issues will be discussed. It is important that all people in the class—instructor and students—treat everyone's viewpoint with respect. This doesn't mean that viewpoints won't be critically assessed, but it does mean that no one should feel afraid to voice their opinion in the class. However, no personal attacks or *ad hominem* arguments (i.e. "you're wrong because you have red hair") will be tolerated.

*Disability Resources and Services:* If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 (Voice), 412-624-3346 (Fax), 412-536-5568 (VP) as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.