

# *POLI 319: Sustainable Resource Management*

*College of Charleston*

*Fall 2017*

*Time:* TR 10:50 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

*Place:* Maybank, 207

*Instructor:* Professor Matthew Nowlin

*Email:* [nowlinmc@cofc.edu](mailto:nowlinmc@cofc.edu)

*Office Location:* Political Science building, 114 Wentworth #107

*Office Hours:* Wednesdays 1-3 p.m. and by appointment

## *Course Description*

*A resource arrangement that works in practice can work in theory*  
Ostrom's Law

This course is part of a *sustainability focused community of learning*. Students must also enroll in **ENVT 352: Sustainable Food Systems** taught by Dr. Ashley Lavender.

The course is an advanced undergraduate course. We will examine the multitude of ways that natural resources can be managed including markets and governments. However, the bulk of the course will examine the multiple types of institutions that can be employed to manage resources in a sustainable way.

Class sessions will be *lecture* and *discussion* based. Being able to adequately participate requires you to come to class prepared by having done the assigned readings prior to class. In addition, you should be prepared to participate in class by asking questions and making informed comments that add to the class discussion.

**All phones, tablets, and laptops must remain put away** unless you are asked to use them for class purposes. *Notes should be taken by hand, with pen and paper. You learn better that way.* I recommend taking notes using the [Cornell Method](#)

## *Course Goals and Learning Objectives*

- The shared student learning outcomes for the community of learning are:
  - Students can synthesize knowledge from two or more systems to address a sustainability problem
  - Students can demonstrate the impact of production/consumption practices on social, economic, and/or ecological systems
  - Students can design a solution to a given sustainability problem
- The goals for the POLI 319 course are to:

- Develop an understanding of the issues involved with commons management.
- Develop an understanding of the role of government and regulation in commons management.
- Develop an understanding of the role in markets and property right in commons management.
- Develop an understanding of institutional diversity in commons management.
- Develop in-depth knowledge and provide recommendations to policy makers about a particular case of commons management.

### *Course Requirements and Grading*

Performance in this course will be evaluated on the basis of quizzes, writing assignments, a mid-term exam, a final exam, and your participation in the course. Points will be distributed as follows:

All assignments are due in the drop-box on OAKS by 5pm EST on the due date

Assignment	Possible Points
Quizzes	(5 at 20 pts each) 100 points total
Mid-Term Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Participation	100 points
Case Studies	200 points total
Case Memo	300 points total
Total	900 points

### *Assignments*

**Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day it is late and will not be accepted after two days.**

*Quizzes:* There will be five “pop” quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will be given in class at random with no prior announcement. They will be based on some combination of the assigned readings, class lectures, class discussions, and any of the material made available on OAKS. Quizzes can only be taken in class. **No make-up quizzes will be possible.** However, if you miss a quiz you can write a one-page short answer essay. You need to let me know *by the following class period* that you missed the quiz and I will distribute the question to you by email. *You can only use this option once.*

*Mid-term:* The mid-term exam will be given on **Thursday October 5th**. All material from the readings, lectures, and in-class discussions are fair game for the mid-term exam. The exam will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay.

*Final Exam:* **The final exam period is Tuesday December 12th**

from **8:00am to 11:00am**. The final will NOT be comprehensive and all material from the readings, lectures, and in-class discussions *since the mid-term* are fair game. The exam will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay. *You must arrive on time to be able to take the final exam.*

*Participation:* The participation portion of your grade is based on in-class participation and class attendance.

- **In-class participation (40%):** This is a discussion based course and to make it work you need to have read assigned material and be prepared to ask questions and otherwise participate in course discussions.
- **Attendance (40%):** Attendance will be taken for each class. You are allowed two absences without any penalty. For your third absence you will lose 50 points, for your fourth you will lose 100 points (150 pts.), and for your fifth you will lose 200 points (350 pts.). *If you miss more than five classes you will automatically receive a grade of WA.*
- **Above and Beyond (20%):** This includes but is not limited to consistent thoughtful questions and comments; mentioning facts or current events relative to class discussion; and overall making the class discussions more thought-provoking and informative.

#### CASE STUDIES

There will be *two* case studies assigned during the semester. The case study assignments will require students to expand on one of the current events assignments from **ENVT 352**. Students will need to provide a short background of the major policies and programs that address issues regarding the current event. *Each case study should be 3 to 4 pages.* The first case study will be due Sept 28th and the second will be due Nov 16th.

Specific instructions for the case studies are on OAKS

#### CASE MEMO

The case memo assignment will be an in-depth analysis of a commons management problem from both a natural and social science perspective. Students will be required to provide a detailed background of the case, including the relevant scientific and policy information, as well as provide a recommendation to policy makers.

Specific instructions for the case memo are on OAKS

#### *Grading Scale*

There are **900** possible points for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points and calculated as a percentage of **900**. A:

94 to 100%; A-: 90 to 93%; B+: 87 to 89%; B: 83 to 86%; B-: 80 to 82%; C+: 77 to 79%; C: 73 to 76%; C-: 70 to 72%; D+: 67 to 69%; D: 63 to 67%; D-: 60 to 62%; F: 59% and below

### *Course Schedule*

#### **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Changes will be announced in class

### *Important Dates*

Date	Event
Sept 28th	Case Study 1 due
Oct 5th	Mid-Term
Oct 17th	Fall Break
Nov 16th	Case Study 2 due
Nov 23rd	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 30th	Policy Memo due
Dec 12th	Final Exam

### *Course Topics*

All of the readings listed below will be on the **OAKS** course page under Content -> *Readings*. Some of the readings will be available on the **Reading List**, which provides access to the College of Charleston's library resources. Other readings will be **pdfs**. *Some of the readings need to be read more closely than others. Guidance on the readings will be provided in class.*

Dates for the readings will be announced in class. Readings are subject to change.

#### INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OVERVIEW

##### RATIONAL CHOICE

- *Readings:*
  - Shepsle, Kenneth A. 2010. “Rationality: The Model of Choice”, **pdf** on **OAKS**
  - Hodgson, Geoffrey M. 2012. “On the Limits of Rational Choice Theory.” *Economic Thought* 1(1): 94–108, **pdf** on **OAKS**

##### MARKETS

- *Readings:*
  - Keohane and Olmstead. 2007. “The Efficiency of Markets” in *Markets and the Environment*, **Reading List** on **OAKS**.
  - Wheelan, Charles. 2011. “The Market System”, **pdf** on **OAKS**

## TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS

- *Readings:*
  - Hardin, Garrett. 1968. “The Tragedy of the Commons.” *Science* 162(3859): 1243–48, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#)
  - Shepsle, Kenneth A. 2010. “Public Goods, Externalities, and the Commons.”, **pdf** on [OAKS](#)

## STATES (GOVERNMENTS)

- *Readings:*
  - Eisner, Marc Allen. 2007. “The Environmental Policy Subsystem”, **pdf** on [OAKS](#)
  - Meier, Kenneth J. 1997. “Bureaucracy and Democracy: The Case for More Bureaucracy and Less Democracy.” *Public Administration Review* 57(3): 193–99, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#).

## REGULATION

- *Readings:*
  - Eisner, Marc Allen. 2007. “A Primer on Environmental Protection”, **pdf** on [OAKS](#)
  - Eisner, Marc Allen. 2007. “Regulatory Design and Performance”, **pdf** on [OAKS](#)
  - Anderson, Terry L. and Gary D. Libecap. 2014. “Is Government Regulation the Solution?” from *Environmental Markets: A Property Rights Approach*, **pdf** on [OAKS](#).
  - Simmons, Randy T. 2011. “Political Pursuit of Private Gains: Environmental Goods.” from *Beyond Politics: The Roots of Government Failure*, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#)

## PROPERTY RIGHTS

- *Readings:*
  - Anderson, Terry L. and Gary D. Libecap. 2014. “Property Right for the Common Pool” from *Environmental Markets: A Property Rights Approach*, **pdf** on [OAKS](#).
  - Anderson, Terry L. and Gary D. Libecap. 2014. “Local Property Rights to the Commons” from *Environmental Markets: A Property Rights Approach*, **pdf** on [OAKS](#).

## BEYOND MARKETS AND STATES

- *Readings:*

- Imperial, Mark T., and Tracy Yandle. 2005. “Taking Institutions Seriously: Using the IAD Framework to Analyze Fisheries Policy.” *Society & Natural Resources* 18(6): 493–509, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#)
- Dietz, Thomas, Elinor Ostrom, and Paul C. Stern. 2003. “The Struggle to Govern the Commons.” *Science* 302(5652): 1907–12, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#)
- Ostrom, Elinor. 2010. “Beyond Markets and States: Polycentric Governance of Complex Economic Systems.” *American Economic Review* 100:641–72, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#)
- Carlisle, Keith, and Rebecca L. Gruby. 2017. “Polycentric Systems of Governance: A Theoretical Model for the Commons.” *Policy Studies Journal* **pdf** on [OAKS](#)

#### SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

- *Readings:*
  - Ostrom, Elinor. 2009. “A General Framework for Analyzing Sustainability of Social-Ecological Systems.” *Science* 325(5939): 419–22, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#)
  - Norberg, Jon, James Wilson, Brian Walker, and Elinor Ostrom. 2008. “Diversity and Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems.”, **pdf** on [OAKS](#)
  - Anderies, John M., and Marco A. Janssen. 2013. “Robustness of Social-Ecological Systems: Implications for Public Policy.” *Policy Studies Journal* 41(3): 513–36, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#)

#### POLYCENTRIC APPROACHES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- *Readings:*
  - Ostrom, Elinor. 2009. “A Polycentric Approach for Coping with Climate Change.” *Policy Research Working Paper 5095*. The World Bank. **Find at this link:** <http://www20.iadb.org/intal/catalogo/pe/2009/04268.pdf>
  - Cole, Daniel H. 2011. “From Global to Polycentric Climate Governance.” *Climate Law* 2(3): 395–413, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#)
  - Cole, Daniel H. 2015. “Advantages of a Polycentric Approach to Climate Change Policy.” *Nature Climate Change* 5(2): 114–18, **pdf** on [OAKS](#)
  - Jordan, Andrew J., Dave Huitema, Mikael Hildén, Harro van Asselt, Tim J. Rayner, Jonas J. Schoenefeld, Jale Tosun, Johanna Forster, and Elin L. Boasson. 2015. “Emergence of Polycentric Climate Governance and Its Future Prospects.” *Nature Climate Change* 5(11): 977–82, **pdf** on [OAKS](#)

- Dorsch, Marcel J., and Christian Flachsland. 2017. “A Polycentric Approach to Global Climate Governance.” *Global Environmental Politics* 17(2): 45–64, **Reading List** on [OAKS](#)

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**FINAL EXAM IS TUESDAY DECEMBER 12th AT 8:00AM.  
YOU MUST ARRIVE PROMPTLY AT 8:00AM TO BE  
ABLE TO TAKE THE EXAM**

*Important Information**Center for Student Learning*

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL [website](#) or call (843) 953-5635.

*Students with Disabilities*

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the [Center for Disability Services](#) located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me at least one week before any accommodation is needed.

*Cheating or Plagiarism*

A grade of zero will be given to anyone cheating on any exam, homework assignment or committing plagiarism in a paper. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as ones own ideas, the words, writings, music, graphs/charts, etc that were created by another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. It does not matter from where the material is borrowed—a book, article, material off the web, another student's paper—all constitute plagiarism unless the source of the work is fully identified and credited. Plagiarism is cheating and a violation of academic and personal integrity and will not be tolerated. It carries extremely serious consequences. To avoid plagiarism it is necessary when using a phrase, a distinctive idea, concept or sentence from another source to reference that source in your text, a footnote, or end-note. Please contact me if you need assistance in citing a source.

*Religious Holiday Policy*

It is the policy of the College to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please see me immediately if you will need to miss class any time during this semester.