



NYU

**ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Spring 2020
URPL-GP 2624**

Environmental Planning: Communities, Fairness and Beyond

Instructor Information

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- Office hours: By appointment

What are the possibilities and limits that communities, broadly conceived, encounter for achieving environmental justice at the intersection of race, class, gender and caste? This course develops a framework for understanding key issues in Environmental Planning and Activism from the perspective of communities, collective action and fairness. Students will also be encouraged to begin developing their own philosophical orientation and toolkit for practice. It weaves together three themes. The first, Environmental Justice, consists of four key debates in the field: fairness of process and outcome; scarcity, renewability and growth; utilitarian ethics and the alternatives; scientific expertise and indigenous knowledge. The second theme, Institutions, consists of an analysis of the institutions of state, market, community and their combinations for addressing environmental problems. The third theme, Tools, focuses on how to use techniques and strategies of Environmental Planning to address environmental problems. In addition, we will use simulated, role playing exercises to reflect on implementation. While emphasizing the tools of environmental planning, the class will also touch topics such as sustainability, resilience, the local and global commons, environmental impact assessments, urban air quality, climate change adaptation, deep ecology, social ecology and feminist environmental ethics.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the class, students will be able to:

1. Explain four key debates in the field of environmental planning
2. Articulate their positions with respect to these debates
3. Identify state, market, community and hybrid institutions in practice
4. Understand common techniques and strategies for addressing environmental problems
5. Recognize ways to engage with current and emerging environmental issues

Prerequisites

URPL-GP 2660 : History and Theory of Planning

CORE-GP 1011 : Statistical Methods for Public, Nonprofit and Health Management

Assignments

There will be periodic assignments and a final essay on a topic of the student's choice. Students will also be expected to participate in in-class role playing simulations. Instructions for all assignments will be provided.

Course Requirements

This course has four requirements.

1. **Class Participation:** The course depends on active and ongoing participation by all class participants. There are three aspects of participation. First, class participants are expected to read and discuss the readings on a weekly basis. That means coming prepared to engage the class, with questions and/or comments with respect to the reading. You will be expected to have completed all the required readings before class to the point where you can be called on to critique or discuss any reading. Second, there will be occasional classroom exercises and simulations. Your engaged participation in all of them all go into your participation grade. Please remember that you will be assigned to a group in each simulation and you will be given a critical role in it. You will also have your own unique preparatory materials. If you miss class on a day of the simulation, your group will not be able to complete it. Finally, you will be asked to present and discuss at least one academic paper (depending on enrollment) in class during the semester. Instructions will be provided in class.
2. **Assignments:** You will be asked to periodically complete homework assignments on the topics taught in lecture. This includes writing short reflection papers on the readings and on the simulations, as well as short take home assignments.
3. **Final Project:** Instructions will be handed out in class.

Grading

- 50% Assignments
- 30% Final Project
- 20% Class Participation

Grading is not curved. This course will abide by the Wagner School's general policy guidelines on incomplete grades, academic honesty, and plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with these policies. All students are expected to pursue and meet the highest standards of academic excellence and integrity. Please familiarize yourself with the following guidelines:

Incomplete Grades: <http://wagner.nyu.edu/students/policies/incompletes>

Academic Honesty: <http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html>

Late Policy

Extensions will be granted only in case of emergency. This is out of respect to those who abide by deadlines, despite equally hectic schedules. Assignments will not be accepted after the due date. However, you will get a total of three (3) late days to use on assignments throughout the semester. They cannot be used on the final project.

Textbooks

These books will be available at the university library and bookstore. Consider purchasing them.

1. Randolph, John. Environmental Land Use Planning and Management. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2012. 2nd Edition.
2. DesJardins, Joseph R. Environmental Ethics. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 2012. 5th Edition.

Optional Reference Books

We will refer to these books at times, but there is no need to consider purchasing them.

1. Daniels, Tom, and Katherine Daniels. The Environmental Planning Handbook. Washington, DC: Planners Press, American Planning Association, 2014. 2nd Edition.
2. Susskind, Lawrence. Ed. Environmental Problem-solving. Anthem Press, 2017. 1st Edition.

Role Playing Simulations

There will be two environmental negotiation simulations in the class that will cover topics such as climate change adaptation, the siting of environmentally harmful waste and the incorporation of scientific knowledge into environmental plans.

Sequence of Topics by Date

#	Date	Topic
1.	January 29	Introduction : What is Environmental Planning?
2.	February 5	Environmental Planning Fundamentals: Soils
3.	February 12	The more the better? Scarcity, renewability and growth
4.	February 19	Environmental Planning Fundamentals: Water
5.	February 26	What is ethical? Utilitarianism and its critics
6.	March 4	Stormwater, Groundwater, Watersheds, Source Water
7.	March 11	Environmental Justice and Knowledge: What is fair? What is right?
8.	March 25	Urban Ecology, Forestry and Biodiversity; Wildlife Habitats
9.	April 1	Institutions: Communities, states and markets
10.	April 8	Climate Change, Air Quality, and Natural Hazard Mitigation
11.	April 15	Simulation 1
12.	April 22	Integrated Methods
13.	April 29	Simulation 2
14.	May 6	Wrap Up: Where do we go from here?

Sequence of Assignments by Date

Assignment	Assigned Date	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Problem Set 1	1/29/20	2/12/20	10
Problem Set 2	2/12/20	2/26/20	10
Problem Set 3	2/26/20	3/11/20	10
Problem Set 4	3/11/20	4/1/20	10
Problem Set 5	4/1/20	4/22/20	10
Final Project	3/11/20	5/6/20	30

Schedule of Topics and Selected Readings

January 29 Introduction : What is Environmental Planning?

References:

1. Randolph, Chapter 1
2. Daniels, Tom. 2009. "A Trail Across Time: American Environmental Planning From City Beautiful to Sustainability," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 75(2). 178-192.

February 5 Environmental Planning Fundamentals: Soils

Article summaries due before class

Required readings:

1. Randolph, Ch. 6 "Soils, Agriculture and Land Use"

February 12 The more the better? Scarcity, renewability and growth

- Problem Set 1 Due in class

- Article Presentation

Required readings:

1. Zimmerman, Michael E. "Deep Ecology, Ecoactivism, and Human Evolution."
2. Schumacher, E. F. 1973. *Small Is Beautiful: A Study of Economics as If People Mattered*. London: Blond and Briggs. Pages 10-47, 57-68, 108-123
3. DesJardins, Joseph R. *Environmental Ethics*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 2012. Chapter 2 and Chapter 4. "Ethical Theories and the Environment" and "Sustainability and Responsibilities to the Future"

Further Reading:

1. Fullerton, Don, and Robert Stavins. "How Economists See the Environment." *Nature* 395 (October 1998): 433-434.
2. Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162(3859): 1243-48.
3. Ostrom, Elinor. 2012. "The Future of the Commons: Beyond Market Failure and Government Regulation." In *The Future of the Commons: Beyond Market Failure and Government Regulation*, Occasional paper / IEA, London: Inst. of Economic Affairs.

February 19 Environmental Planning Fundamentals: Water

Article summaries due before class

Required readings:

1. Randolph, Ch. 7. "Water and Land Use". (Study Appendix 7A carefully)
2. Randolph, Ch. 5. "Environmental Data and Geospatial Analysis" p. 107-131, rest optional. Study pages 109-110 "Considerations and Pitfalls in Using Data and Information" carefully.

February 26 What is ethical? Utilitarianism and its critics

- Problem Set 2 Due in class
- Article Presentation

Required readings:

1. DesJardins, Joseph R. Environmental Ethics. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 2012. Chapter 3. "Ethics and Economics" and Chapter 5. "Responsibilities to the Natural World"
2. Randolph Ch.2. "Environmental Planning for Sustainability." p. 33-41. Rest Optional
3. Pearce, David. "An Intellectual History of Environmental Economics." Annual Review of Energy and the Environment: 72-75.
4. Kelman, Steven. 1981. "Cost-Benefit Analysis: An Ethical Critique." Regulation 5: 33-40.
5. United Nations Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992. Principle 15. Rest Optional.
6. Pages 495-501 from Fullem, G. 1995. "Precautionary principle: Environmental protection in the face of scientific uncertainty." Willamette Law Review, 31(2), 495-522. Rest optional.

Further Reading:

1. Revesz, Richard L. 1999. "Environmental Regulation, Cost-Benefit Analysis, and the Discounting of Human Lives." Columbia Law Review 99: 941-1017.
2. Leonard, Herman B., and Richard J. Zeckhauser. "Cost-Benefit Analysis Defended." In Environmental Ethics: What Really Matters, What Really Works. Edited by David Schmidtz and Elizabeth Willott. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2002.
3. Mill, John Stewart, Philip M (Ed.). On Liberty, Utilitarianism and Other Essays (Oxford World Classics). London, UK: Hackett, 2002.
4. Susskind, p 120-159. Pay attention to the video on page 159.

March 4 Stormwater, Groundwater, Watersheds, Source Water

Article summaries due before class

Required readings:

1. Randolph, Ch. 8 and 9 "Stormwater Management and Watershed Restoration" and "Groundwater and Source Protection". Also read pages 674-693

March 11 Environmental Justice and Knowledge: What is fair? What is right?

- Problem Set 3 Due in class

- Article Presentation

Required readings:

1. Anguelovski, I. Et. al (2019). Opinion: Why green "climate gentrification" threatens poor and vulnerable populations. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 116(52), 26139-26143.
2. Daniels, Tom, and Katherine Daniels. The Environmental Planning Handbook. Washington, DC: Planners Press, American Planning Association, 2014. 2nd Ed. Section 2.2.
3. Dinan, Terry, and Diane Lim Rogers. "Who Gains and Who Pays Under Carbon-Allowance Trading?" Washington, DC: Congressional Budget Office, June 2000. (Pay particular attention to Chapter 3.)
4. Briggs, John. "The Use of Indigenous Knowledge in Development: Problems and Challenges." Progress in Development Studies 5, no. 2 (2005): 99-114.

5. DeJardins. Chapter 6 “Biocentric Ethics and the Inherent Value of Life” and Chapter 9 “Radical Environmental Philosophy: Deep Ecology and Ecofeminism.”

Further Reading

1. Randolph Ch.4 “Collaborative Environmental Planning and Learning for Sustainability”
2. Randolph, Chapter 3, Pages 54-59. (Remaining pages optional.)
3. Susskind, pages 142-158 (Read page 158 first)
4. Susskind, Page 10-46. (Read page 46 first)

March 18 No Class – Spring Break

March 25 Urban Ecology, Forestry and Biodiversity; Wildlife Habitats

Article summaries due before class

Required readings:

1. Randolph, Ch. 10 and 11 “Landscape and Urban Ecology” and “Wildlife Habitats and Urban Biodiversity”. Also read pages 665-674
2. DeJardins. Chapter 7. “Wilderness, Ecology and Ethics”

April 1 Institutions: Communities, states and markets

= Problem Set 4 Due in class

= Article Presentation

Required readings:

1. Harrington, Winston, and Richard D. Morgenstern. "Economic Incentives Versus Command and Control: What's Best for Solving Environmental Problems?" Resources (Fall/Winter 2004): 223-40.
2. Daniels, Tom, and Katherine Daniels. The Environmental Planning Handbook. Washington, DC: Planners Press, American Planning Association, 2014. 2nd Ed. Section 2.1.
3. David R. Karp, and Clark L. Gauling. "Motivational Underpinnings of Command-and-Control, Market-Based, and Voluntarist Environmental Politics." Human relations 48, 5 (1995): 439-465.
4. Ackerman, Frank, and Kevin Gallagher. "Getting the Prices Wrong: The Limits of Market-based Environmental Policy." Global Development and Environment Institute Working Paper 00-05. Medford, MA: Tufts University Global Development and Environment Institute, 2000.
5. McClosky, Michael. "Local Communities and the management of public forests." Ecology Law Quarterly (1999).

Further Reading

1. Randolph, Ch. 16 and 17 and Pages 649-665
2. Randolph, Pages 69-77.
3. Ostrom, Elinor. 2009. “A General Framework for Analyzing Sustainability of Social-Ecological Systems.” Science 325(5939): 419–22.
4. Re-read Randolph, p. 6-9; Study columns 5-7 of Table 1.1 (p.19)
5. Randolph, Ch. 15.

6. Susskind, Pages 611-637.

April 8 Climate Change, Air Quality, and Natural Hazard Mitigation

Required readings:

1. Randolph, Ch 12 and 13.

Further Reading:

1. Millard-Ball, Adam. 2012. "Do City Climate Plans Reduce Emissions?" *Journal of Urban Economics* 71(3): 289–311.

April 15 Simulation 1: Case prep materials.

Article summaries due before class

April 22 Integrated Methods

= Problem Set 5 Due in class

= Article Presentation

Required readings:

1. Randolph, Ch. 14

April 29 Simulation 2: Case prep materials.

May 6 Final Lecture: Where do we go from here?

Final project due in class