

POIR 545 Critical Issues in Politics and Policy: Politics of the Environment

Instructor: Professor Jefferey Sellers

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Policy is the stock in trade of the contemporary state, and has long been a core component of politics. This course will draw on empirical studies of selected environmental and social policy domains to provide an overview of work on the politics of policymaking and implementation from the perspective of political science in general, and comparative and international politics and in particular. Topics include the politics of the welfare state, water and air pollution regulation, environmental justice, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and urban planning. Special emphasis will be placed on the various analytical lenses that have been brought to bear to understand the politics of policy, and the application of those frameworks to both the United States and other developed countries and to the Global South. Readings will also explore the intersections of policy with such critical general questions as democracy, inequality and ethnic and racial diversity. Written assignments will consist of weekly discussion postings and a final research paper.