

Environmental Advocacy Syllabus

Faculty

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Meeting Time (see exceptions in Schedule)

Wednesday Evenings

6:00 – 1000 PM

Seminar II, D-2107

Description

For the purposes of this 4-credit graduate elective, “environmental advocacy” refers to organized, collective action, within civil society, in the pursuit of environmental quality. It is taken as a given that prevention and resolution of the many environmental problems facing society depend, to a significant degree, upon effective environmental advocacy. The premise of this course is that environmental advocacy has a great, unrealized potential and our central question for the course is “How can environmental advocacy become more effective?” The ultimate goal of this course is to develop the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary for MES students to strengthen the environmental movement. The course provides a critical survey of approaches to environmental advocacy – from global to local – emphasizing strengths and weaknesses. It combines theoretical and experiential learning, through guest lectures, readings, and student projects with environmental advocacy organizations.

ActivitiesSeminars and Lectures

Student-facilitated seminar discussions are the centerpiece of each class. These seminars are not only intended for discussions of course materials but also provide an opportunity for students and faculty to share knowledge about and to seek assistance with on-going projects. Lectures will be provided as well, by the instructor and by numerous guest lecturers from a variety of environmental advocacy organizations.

Weekly environmental news report and analysis

Students will bring a news article to share in each class, dealing with environmental problems and conservation action. A detailed description of the source should be provided and reputable sources should be used. In class, the student will briefly summarize the article’s content and then initiate a discussion of how this information informs our collective studies of environmental advocacy, referring specifically to pertinent course readings, guest lectures, films, and other relevant course materials.

Environmental Agents

Each student will carry out a detailed investigation of an environmental advocacy organization, through library research and, to the extent possible, participant observation (e.g., as a volunteer or intern). As a result of this learning process, students will produce written (approximately 10 pages, double-spaced) and oral reports that describe and analyze their chosen “environmental agent.” These reports should be critical analyses of an approach to environmental advocacy. They should be theoretically grounded, should make good use

of course material, and should draw conclusions about lessons learned. These reports may be submitted anytime before Week 10.

Students will be evaluated on the quality of their work, their level of participation in all class activities, and their contributions to the collective learning process. All students are required to come to a final evaluation conference and are required to write a faculty evaluation and at least an in-house self-evaluation. Program evaluations are encouraged.

Required Texts

Sarah Beth Pralle. 2006. *Branching Out, Digging In: Environmental Advocacy and Agenda Setting*. Georgetown University Press. ISBN: 9781589011236 (1589011236) LC: 2006006684.

John Bliese. 2002. *The Greening of Conservative America*. Westview Press. ISBN: 0813340322.

David Naguib Pellow & Robert J. Brulle, eds. 2005. *Power, Justice, and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*. MIT Press. ISBN: 0262661934.

John S. Dryzek, David Downes, Christian Hunold, David Schlosberg, Hans-Kristian Hernes, eds. 2003. *Green States and Social Movements: Environmentalism in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and Norway*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0199249032.

Roger S. Gottlieb. 2006. *A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future*. Oxford University Press. ISBN13: 9780195176483. ISBN10: 0195176480.

Maria Guadalupe Moog Rodrigues. 2004. *Global Environmentalism and Local Politics: Transnational Advocacy Networks*. State University of New York. ISBN-10: 0791458784. ISBN-13: 978-0791458785.

Occasional additional readings will consist of academic articles and materials from environmentalist journals.

SCHEDULE

January 9

Discussion of course objectives, topics, and requirements

Lecture: Overview of environmental advocacy

January 16

Films on grassroots movements in the Amazon Basin and India

Seminar on films and on *Global Environmentalism and Local Politics* (instructor out of town)

January 23

Daytime class activity: Environmental Lobby Day (starting at United Churches, downtown)

January 30

Focus the Nation Community Forum (at Washington Center for Performing Arts **downtown**, doors open at 6:00 PM)

February 6

Guest Lecture: Tom Geiger, Communications & Outreach Director, Washington Environmental Council

Lecture: Comparative analysis of environmental advocacy groups & movements

Seminar: *Green States and Social Movements*

February 13

Guest Panel: Barak Gale, Social Action Chair and Board Member of Congregation Eitz Or
Jessie Dye, Program & Outreach Director, Earth Ministry
Jamal Rahman, Muslim Sufi minister at Interfaith Community Church and adjunct faculty at Seattle University.

Seminar: *A Greener Faith*

February 20

Guest Lecture: Jim DiPeso, Policy Director, REP America (Republicans for Environmental Protection)

Seminar: *The Greening of Conservative America*

February 27

Guest Lecture: Shelly Vendiola, Co-founder, Community Alliance & Peacemaking Project

Seminar: *Power, Justice, and the Environment*

March 5

Guest Lecture: Bonnie Phillips, Executive Director, Olympic Forest Coalition

Seminar: *Branching Out, Digging In*

March 12

Presentation of environmental agent reports and general discussion of lessons learned.

March 17 – 19

Evaluation Conferences