Course Information:
Environmental Policy Processes (NTRES 4300)

Course Dates:
November 3, 10, 17, 2011, Ithaca, NY (7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Ithaca)
January 4 - 14, 2012, Washington, DC
Feb. 23, March 1, 8, 15 2012 (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Ithaca)

Course Instructors:  Drs. Barbara L. Bedford and Clifford E. Kraft

Overview
This course deals with the creation, implementation, and evaluation of environmental policy at the federal level. It emphasizes the policy process and the roles within that process played by the policy network of (1) congressional staffs and committees, (2) executive departments and agencies, and (3) advocacy organizations, interest groups, and lobbyists.

The course begins with an introduction to the study of public policy, focusing on policy process and actors, and then examines in detail several case studies. Past case studies include: endangered species policy; invasive species policy; coal ash disposal policy, and clean water policy. Students complete a guided (mostly independent) research project, and develop a paper on that topic. Topics are selected by students, but must have significant national environmental importance, and be approved by the instructor. Recent student topics have focused on issues related to climate change, energy infrastructure, urban environmental issues, invasive species, agriculture, food and nutrition, transportation, the National Environmental Policy Act, oil and gas development, and marine fisheries, among others.

Students register for this as a Spring 2012 term course, although meetings occur during Fall semester, January intersession, and Spring semester. See above for likely dates. We anticipate a very busy schedule while in Washington, but also plan some large segments of unscheduled time so students can conduct their research, visit agencies, tour Washington, etc.

We meet four times in Ithaca during Fall semester to help prepare for our full days in January in Washington, D.C., three times as a group and one individual meeting for each student with Professors Kraft and Bedford. Our Fall meetings in Ithaca will cover important information on mechanics of the course and a substantive introduction to the course content. Meetings also will include an initial review of information sources for a paper topic, and preparation for the largely independent policy analysis research to be completed in Washington. At the meetings we will finalize the details of registration, textbook and case study reading assignments and materials, possible car pooling, etc.

We also meet four times in Ithaca as a group during Spring semester. Spring meetings in Ithaca focus on student presentations.

In addition to the two full-time instructors, the course also will benefit from the participation of several guest instructors from Washington-based environmental and natural resources agencies, interest groups, and Congressional staffs and committees. See http://www.cals.cornell.edu/cals/dnr/undergraduate/courses/4300.cfm for a tentative schedule.

Housing and Fees
The group lives and meets for classes while in Washington, D.C. at the Wolpe Cornell Center, 2148 O Street NW, not far from Dupont Circle. Students will be housed in two- or three-person, fully-furnished apartments. Cooking facilities and refrigeration are available in the apartment. (It is possible, but far from ideal, to live away from the Center during the course.) The course charge (for the apartment and use of the classroom facilities) will be $600 per person. A $300 deposit will be required to hold your space in the course, payable by October 28, 2011; the balance of $300 will be billed by the bursar along with your
Each student will be responsible for making personal arrangements for travel to and from Washington. Parking a car near the Cornell Center in Washington is a challenge; we encourage you to travel by other means.

Applications
We often receive applications from more students than the number of available spaces. Therefore, you must submit an application for the course. Applications are due electronically by 4 p.m., Thursday, October 13th to Meghan Baumer (msb336@cornell.edu). The application includes a form for the student to complete and requires a recommendation from a faculty member. Recommendations also should be submitted by e-mail. Late applications will be considered only if space is available. Applications and faculty recommendation forms are available at http://www.cals.cornell.edu/cals/dnr/undergraduate/courses/4300.cfm.

The class is limited to a maximum of 20 students with seniors and graduate students given preference, although some juniors may be accepted.

Students may check with Meghan Baumer (105 Bruckner Hall, msb336@cornell.edu) regarding the status of their application after October 20th.

Grading and Readings
The course is offered for 3 credits, letter grade only. Grades will be based on participation (approx. 20%), one exam (20%), and one term paper/presentation (60%).

By December 2, a 1-2 page outline must be turned in identifying your research paper topic, specifying relevant stakeholders, and providing two or three references that you have reviewed regarding the topic. Each student is required to meet individually with Professors Bedford and Kraft in December (after 12/2) to discuss the proposed paper topic and approach.

The textbook for the course will be assigned during the first course session on November 3. A set of separate readings also will be assigned.

Code of Academic Integrity
Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student’s own work.

Personal Well-being
If you are experiencing undue personal or academic stress at any time during the semester or need to talk with someone about a personal problem or situation, both Cliff and Barbara encourage you to seek support as soon as possible. Each of us is available to talk with you about any stresses related to your work in this class. One of the advantages of this course is that both Barbara and Cliff will be living in the same building as you during our time in Washington D.C. This will provide an opportunity for students and faculty to get to know each other personally and professionally, making it particularly easy to talk about a range of issues. You will not be anonymous in this course.

However, if you are concerned about talking directly with us about any concerns, we can assist you in reaching out to a wide range of campus resources, including:

- Your college’s Academic Advising or Student Services Office
- Gannett Health Services at 255-5155, www.gannett.cornell.edu
- Let’s Talk Drop–In Consultation and Support www.gannett.cornell.edu/Let’sTalk
- Peer Support provided by Empathy Assistance and Referral Service at 255-EARS

DISABILITY-RELATED CONCERNS: Students with either an ongoing or short-term disability are
encouraged to contact Student Disability Services (SDS) for a confidential discussion of their need for academic accommodations. SDS is located in 420 CCC building; phone number is 254-4545.

**Questions?**
For additional information please contact Meghan Baumer at msb336@cornell.edu (for application questions), or Professors Bedford (blb4@cornell.edu) and Kraft (cek7@cornell.edu) for content questions.