

SYLLABUS

Intergovernmental Environmental Policy Issues

A 2 credit elective in the
Master's of Public Administration Program
The Evergreen State College
Fall Quarter, 2012

Karen Fraser, Adjunct Faculty

Class meets during one intensive weekend

Location: Seminar 2 Building, Room D 2107

Friday, October 26, 5 - 9 pm
Saturday, October 27, 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday, October 28, 9 am – 5 pm

An optional tour of the Legislative Building and Capital Campus will be scheduled.

Purpose of Class

To introduce students to the highly intergovernmental nature of most environmental and natural resources issues, which simultaneously involve federal, tribal, state, and local government policy-making, and which sometimes also involve other states and international treaties.

The focus will be on how state legislative decision-making in this policy sphere takes into account the roles, authorities, and policies of other levels and types of governments.

Students will be asked to prepare a case study of an environmental or natural resources issue actively considered by the state Legislature which necessarily involves consideration of most or all of the following types of governments: federal, state, local, and tribal.

Students will be expected to read selected documents, explore a variety of websites, and prepare brief reports on them. They will also be expected to follow news media coverage of these types of issues.

Experienced professionals will be invited to meet with the class and class discussion will be actively encouraged.

Reading assignments of a variety of documents will be emailed to class members.

Class schedule

Friday evening: introduction to class; overview of the intergovernmental nature of environmental policy; overview of accountability processes for environmental policies.

Saturday: Discussion about science. What is “science” and the “scientific process”? How does one discern what is reliable science? How is science used in policy advocacy and administration? Continued discussions about political accountability processes. Discussions with experienced professionals who are invited.

Sunday: Continued discussions with experienced professionals. Discussions among class members about their case studies.