

# Inver Hills Community College

## **POLS 1141: Introduction To Environmental Politics**

### **A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 10 - People/Environment

Requires you to critically consider and address the history, organizations, interest groups, and processes that shape domestic and global environmental issues. The course will focus primarily on the following areas of study: (1) political and policy processes, (2) the public lands debate, (3) the politics of waste and toxins, (4) the politics of energy, (5) the politics of water, (6) the politics of air quality, (7) the politics of endangered species and biodiversity, (8) the politics of global environmental issues, (9) the politics of human population growth, and (10) the politics of environmental sustainability. Using cutting-edge social scientific theory and research, you will be asked to examine your own political values, experiences and behavior regarding contemporary environmental problems and potential solutions.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/24/2009 - Present

### **C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

1. Critical analysis of contemporary environmental problems and potential solutions: 25%
2. Environmental politics and public policy-related policies and institutions/organizations: 25%
3. Environmental politics and public policy-related social science theory: 25%
4. Study of contemporary environmental issues: 25%

### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Demonstrate understanding of contemporary environmental problems and potential solutions
2. Participate in civic engagement project related to an environmental policy-related organization or issue
3. Identify and demonstrate understanding of environmental politics and public policy-related concepts/theories
4. Analyze project, drawing on key concepts/theories

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

### Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
2. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
3. Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
4. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted