

The 2013 Federal Semester on Energy and Environmental Policy course will include a theme of sustainability. The course emphasizes indicators and policies related to the natural environment and how these are impacted by social and economic factors. The challenge of global climate change is a particular focus of the course.

The 2013 course will add a new emphasis on the economic and social elements of sustainability. Students will explore how scientific understanding of environmental challenges does not necessarily result in societal action to address the challenge. Case studies will indicate how social mores and economic factors play a critical role in the development of policies, practices and laws that help protect the natural environment.

Sustainability –related learning objectives for the 2013 course, along with means of assessment, include:

- Understand trends for environmental indicators, including air quality, water quality, and greenhouse gas concentrations. *Assessment: no-regrets quiz on environmental indicators, and class discussion. (Class participation is 20% of course assessment.)*
- Understand the social and economic-related dynamics related to these environmental indicators, and how they impacted policies, practices, and laws. *Assessment: group project and presentation on a key U.S. environmental statute, such as the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act, and its related political, social, and economic dynamics. (20% of course assessment.)*
- Understand environmental, social, and economic dynamics related to global climate change. *Assessment: Group project on marketing of a constituent view on prospective legislation to regulate U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. (20% of course assessment.)*
- Develop informed views on whether or not the nation and the world will move toward sustainability, including with regard to greenhouse gas emissions. *Assessment: Class discussion following mock UN climate negotiation. (Mock climate negotiation is 20% of course assessment; class participation is 20% of course assessment.)*

Attached: Draft Syllabus for the 2013 Federal Semester Section on Energy and Environmental Policy.