

Syllabus

THE POLITICS OF ECOLOGY (W53.0380)

New York University---- Alfred de Grazia ---- September 28, 1975

We take ecology to mean the relations of humans to their physical environment, and politics to mean the ruling and influencing of people. So the course deals with how people are ruled and influenced with regard to their physical environment. Ecology has always been a factor in the shaping of political cultures. Also the political cultures have been a factor in the shaping of the ecology. Today an array of ecological problems threaten the prosperity and even the very existence of world civilizations, just at the moment when these proud civilizations have thought themselves capable of controlling and shaping their environments. Our studies may signal a great switch in perspectives but they are neither new nor a fad.

Following upon our initial discussions in the classroom, we have settled upon the POLICY DECISION PROCESS in relation to Ecology as our guiding approach. The calendar of the course, therefore, as it is presented below, pursues this theme. Two lists are appended to the outline, one on the problem areas of ecology, the other on social systems and structures involved in ecological activities. Each of these might in itself have provided the calendar outline for the course; instead, each list will be applied to every topic in the POLICY PROCESS outline as we go along. Each class member will become an expert consultant, a resource of the class, with regards to one part of the list. Fill in that person's name in the blank space above each division. The consultant is expected to read the required readings so far as they bear on the assigned sphere, to read ahead on other sources and on current news on the same sphere, and may be called upon in every discussion or may volunteer facts, evidence, and examples of how the sphere relates to any element of the political process. So far as the required readings listed here are concerned, each member will search in them as we go along for those pages that deal with the topic under discussion

Required readings for all

1. J. Clarence Davies, The Politics of Pollution (Pegasus, 1970).
2. W.H. Whyte, The Last Landscape (Anchor, 1970)
3. Ira J. Winn, Basic Issues in Environment (Merrill, 1972)
4. W.A. Rosenbaum, The Politics of Environmental Concern (Praeger, 1973)
5. D.H. Davis, Energy Politics (St. Martin's, 1974)
6. R.A. Falk, This Endangered Planet (Vintage, 1972)

The last part of this syllabus carries a much longer list of books that deal with ecological problems and politics.

Calendar

THE POLICY DECISION PROCESS IN ECOLOGY

1. Ideological Formulations about Ecology
2. Individual Attitudes about the Physical Environment
3. Public Opinion and Pressure Group Formations in Ecology
4. Elites and Leaders in Environmental Politics
5. Propaganda and the Press on Ecological Concerns
6. Place of Ecological Interests in Political Parties
7. The Drafting of Ecological Legislation
8. Legislative Organization and Procedures on Ecological Issues
9. Hearings and Debates on Ecological Bills
10. Top Executive Structures and Operations on Ecology
11. Business Owners and Managers in Relation to Ecology
12. The Judicial Process on Ecological Questions
13. Administrative Organization in Ecology
14. Administrative Rule-Making in Ecology
15. Administrative ADjudication of Ecological Questions
16. Research into Ecological Issues, Policy Formulations, and
Policy Effects
17. Ecological Accounting
18. Constitutional Issues of the Politics of Ecology
19. Ecological Planning in Relation to the Total Society

PROBLEM AREAS OF ECOLOGY

A. _____

Over-population

Crowding

B. _____

Smoke Pollution

Noise Pollution

Atmospheric Carcinogenics

Ozone Depletion

Meteorological Disturbances

Thermal Air Pollution

Nuclear explosions

C. _____

Deforestation and wetlands Elimination

Over-hunting

Strip-mining

Over-farming and over-grazing

Indiscriminate land-use

Species extermination

Depletion of Natural Resources

D. _____

Over-fishing

Thermal water pollution

Water Pollution by sewage & dumping

Oil spills and tank-washings

Sea-bed mining

E. _____

Safety Hazards

Poor Working Conditions

F. _____

Food and Drug Contamination

Heavy Metals Poisoning

Harmful Fertilizers

G. _____

Urban Sprawl

Ugliness

Litter

SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES INVOLVED IN ECOLOGY

A. _____

Family, Household, Commune

Neighborhood

Town and City

Rural areas

B. _____

State, province

Nation

Region, World

C. _____

Company & agency unit (factory or office)

Branches of Industries (mining, manufacturing, transportation, agricultural and marine, leisure, health services)

D. _____

Voluntary non-commercial, non-governmental Associations

Political Ecology Books

Leslie Roos, The Politics of Ecosuicide

John P. Holdren and P.R.Ehrlich, eds., Global Ecology.

Ecology USA, 1971

R. McHenry, ed., Documentary History of Conservation in America (Praeger, 1972)

Holliman, J., Ecology of World Development (London, 1972)

Boris Liapunov, Man and His Environment (Moscow, 1966)

Harry N. Winton, Man and the Environment (a bibliography of UN material American Behavioral Scientist (May, 1974), Vol 17, #5), whole issue devoted to The Politics of Environmental Policy.

Walter A. Rosenbaum, The Politics of Environmental Concern (Praeger, 1972)

J.C.Davies III, The Politics of Pollution (Pegasus, 1970)

George Lakey, Strategy for a Living Revolution (Freeman 1973)
(on general world order as a basis for ecological policy)

Alfred de Grazia, Politics for Better or Worse (Scott Foresman, 1973)
(general intro. to political science and policy)

Alfred de Grazia, Kalos: What is to be Done with Our World (NYU press, 1972)
(general treatise on world revolution rather than ecology)

R. Saltonstall Jr and J. Page Jr., Brown-out and Slow-down

R.T.Roelofs, J.N.Crowley & D.L.Hardisty, Environment and Society.

Paul R. and Anne H. Ehrlich, Population, Resources and Environment, 2nd ed. Freeman and Co., 1972.

Donella H. Meadows et al, Limits of Growth (NY; Universe Books, 1972).

Ira J. Winn, ed., Basic Issues in Environment (Columbus, Ohio, Charles Merrill Co., 1972)

David J. Rose, "Energy Policy in the U.S.", reprint (reserve room)
David Kay and E.B.Skolnikoff, eds., World Eco-Crisis, U. of Wisconsin Press, 1972.

Horton and Marsha Gordon, Environmental Management: Science and Politics, Boston: Allyn and Unwin, 1972

Lester R. Brown, The Interdependence of Nations, New York: Foreign Policy Association, 1972, no 212, \$1.00 (buy from publisher)

Bertell Ollman, "Marx's Vision of Communism," (xerox on reserve)

Alfred de Grazia, "Kalotics" (3 papers, 1972) (xerox on reserve)

Gerald Garvey, Energy, Ecology, Economy

L.K.Caldwell, Environment

R.T. Roelofs, J.N. Crowley & D.L. Hardisty, Environment and Society.

Paul R. and Anne H. Ehrlich, Population, Resources and Environment, 2nd ed. Freeman and Co., 1972.

Donella H. Meadows et al, Limits of Growth (NY; Universe Books, 1972).

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Anderson, Walt, ed. Politics and Environment. California: Goodyear Publishing Company, 1970.

Boyle, Robert. The Hudson: A Natural and Unnatural History. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1971.

Good, Frank P. Rathgens, George W. and Rosenthal, Albert J. Environmental Control: Priorities, Policies and the Law. New York: Columbia University Press, 1971.

Henning, Daniel H. Environmental Policy and Administration. New York: American Elsevier Publishing Co., 1974.

Lewis, Richard S. The Nuclear-Power Rebellion: Citizens vs. the Atomic Industrial Establishment. New York: Viking Press, 1972.

Metzger, H. Peter. The Atomic Establishment. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972.

Murphy, Earl Finbar. Governing Nature. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, Inc., 1967.

Nash, Roderick. Wilderness and the American Mind. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967.

Caldwell, Lynton K. Environment: A Challenge to Modern Society. Garden City, N.Y.: 1971.

In Defense of Earth: International Protection of the Biosphere. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1972.

Carson, Rachel. Silent Spring. Greenwich, Connecticut: Fawcett Publications, Inc., 1962.

Curtis, Richard and Hogan, Elisabeth. Perils of the Peaceful Atom: The Myth of Safe Nuclear Power Plants. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1969.

Darling, F. Fraser and Milton, John P., ed. Future Environments North America: Transformation of a Continent. Garden City, New York: The Natural History Press, 1966.

Revelle, Roger and Landsberg, Hans, eds. America's Changing Environment. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1970.

Ridgeway, James. The Politics of Ecology. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1970.

Rockefeller, Nelson A. Our Environment Can be Saved. New York: Doubleday, 1970.

Schelling, Thomas C. Arms and Influence. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1970.

AN ACT

To amend the general business law, in relation to prohibiting
the sale of non-biodegradable containers

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and
Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The general business law is hereby amended by inserting
therein^e a new article, to be article thirty-five, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 35

NON-BIODEGRADABLE CONTAINERS

Section 725. Legislative Findings

726. Definitions

727. Refund Value

728. Mandatory Acceptance

729. Refusal of acceptance

730. Redemption Centers

731. Compliance

732. Setting up of redemption centers

733. Adjustment of refund value

734. Study of Impact of Article

*725. Legislative Findings. The legislature hereby finds that litter
is a growing problem of state concern and a direct threat to the health
and safety as well as the economic and aesthetic concerns of the citizens
of this state.¹ Discarded containers create a hazard to vehicular traffic,
a source of physical injury to pedestrians and animals, and an unsightly
accumulation of litter which becomes more costly each year to remove.²
Indeed, wasted containers, whether discarded or disposed of through waste
disposal systems, remain with us either in the form of solid waste or as

particulates polluting our atmosphere. In addition, all wasted containers represent an unjustifiable waste of natural resources.³ It is therefore part of the intent of this law to improve the system of disposal and recycling of all non-biodegradable containers. The legislature hereby finds that controlling disposal in this state of certain non-biodegradable containers in conjunction with certain other restrictions and facilitating collection mechanisms, will alleviate these detrimental conditions as well as reduce the overall expense of refuse removal and disposal.⁴

726. Definitions. Whenever used in this article:

1. "container" means the individual, separate, sealed, glass, metal or plastic bottle, can, or jar.

2. "redeemer" means every person who demands the refund as hereinafter required.

3. "distributor" means any person bottling, canning, or otherwise filling or packaging containers and who engages in the sale of such containers to a dealer or a retailer in this state and includes any manufacturer who engages in such sales.

4. "redemption center" means any licensed establishment offering to pay refunds, collect charges, and conduct all related businesses under provisions of section seven-hundred thirty of this article.

5. "recycle" means the reuse of any container or the material of which it is made.

6. "biodegradable" means that inherent quality of an object that allows physical and chemical breakdown in the environment.

727. Refund value. Every container presented for refund in this state to a licensed redemption center shall have a refund value of two cents.

728. Mandatory acceptance. A redemption center shall accept from a redeemer any containers whatsoever, and shall pay to the redeemer two cents a piece.

2. A distributor shall accept at the premises of the redemption center any containers provably sold by the distributor, and shall pay the redemption

1 center three cents a container.

2 729. Refusal of Acceptance. If a distributor, having paid the redemption
3 center three cents per container shall waive his right to repossess that
4 container or shall fail to collect the said container within one week of
5 notification, then the redemption center shall fully own the said containers
6 and shall dispose of them by recycling, reuse, or destruction by a method not
7 damaging to the environment.

8 730. Redemption Centers. To facilitate the return of empty containers and to
9 serve distributors, any licensed person may establish a redemption center, at
10 which redeemers may return empty containers and receive payment of two cents per
11 container. Operators of such redemption centers shall receive three cents for
12 each container from the appropriate distributor as provided for under sections
13 seven hundred twenty-eight and seven hundred twenty-nine of this article. Each
14 redemption center may set up sub-centers to maximize the convenience of redeemers.
15 731. Compliance. Failure of a distributor to pay for the container tendered him
16 lawfully under this statute shall be grounds for a civil action. Furthermore,
17 any redemption center refusing to pay a redeemer for a container as provided for
18 under this statute, or who has failed to comply with other obligations under this
19 statute, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by the ^{withdrawal} ~~revocation~~ of his license.

20 732. Setting up Redemption Centers. As soon after the passage of this law as
21 possible, and on every anniversary of such, the State Liquor Authority shall ap-
22 portion the state into a number of districts of equal population. It shall assign
23 at public auction in each district a redemption license to the highest bidder.⁵
24 In order to qualify to bid at the auction, interested parties must present a plan
25 for the economical and convenient acceptance of containers.⁶ Funds received from the
26 auction will revert to the general treasury of the State of New York .

27 733. Adjustment of refund value. Each year, upon presentation of a report from
28 the department of environmental conservation as provided for in this legislation,

1 the New York State Liquor Authority shall determine whether the value of the
2 refund is adjusted satisfactorily, in terms of response by the public and
3 profit derived by redemption centers, to the purposes of this legislation,
4 and if not, shall adjust the price of said refund.

5 734. Study of impact of article. 1. During the period commencing October
6 first, nineteen hundred seventy-four, and ending when it submits the report
7 provided for in subdivision two of this section, the department of environ-
8 mental conservation shall cause to be conducted a study of the operation of
9 sections seven hundred twenty-five through seven hundred thirty-three, inclu-
10 sive, of this article that shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of:

11 a. Its economic impact on persons who engage in the manufacture of containers
12 in complying with the provisions of sections seven hundred twenty-five through
13 seven hundred thirty-two of this article.

14 b. The problems, if any, incurred in the distribution, sale, and return of
15 containers subject to the provisions of this article.

16 c. The effects of energy use, littering, and recycling in this state.

17 d. The costs incurred in the enforcement of the provisions of this article.

18 e. The affects of this article on non-governmental free enterprise, including
19 the making of recommendations to the State Liquor Authority on how this article
20 may be best used to license and employ senior citizens and other disadvantaged
21 or disabled persons.

22 2. Within two years of the effective date of this law, the department of
23 environmental conservation shall prepare and submit to both houses of the
24 New York State legislature a report of its findings made pursuant to subdivision
25 one of this section together with any recommendations respecting amendments of
26 this article and further legislation.

27 *2. The State Liquor Authority shall put this act into effect within six
28 months after passage of this law.

1. Inefficient and improper methods of disposal of otherwise salvagable waste results in scenic blights, creates serious hazards to public health in the form of pollution of resources, accident hazards, and formation of breeding grounds for disease-carrying insects and rodents, have an adverse affect on land, and in general, creates a public nuisance.

2. Our nation pays an estimated \$4.5 billion each year for direct costs of municipal collection and disposal services both public and private not to mention the costs incurred in clean-up campaigns for highways and recreational areas. It has been estimated that New York City alone spends \$220 million on cleaning up its garbage, costs which could be greatly reduced by the reduction of litter and waste disposal as proposed in this bill.

3. In this nation, which is presently facing a serious energy crisis as a direct result of depletion of natural resources, only a quarter of the major manufactured materials are salvaged, as indicated in the table below.

a quarter of major manufactured materials are salvaged

1967-68 Material	Total consumption (million tons)	Total recycled (million tons)	Recycling as percent of consumption
PAPER	53.110	10.124	19.0
IRON AND STEEL	105.900	33.100	31.2
ALUMINUM	4.009	.733	18.3
COPPER	2.913	1.447	49.7
LEAD	1.261	.625	49.8
ZINC	1.592	.201	12.6
GLASS	12.820	.600	4.2
TEXTILES	5.672	.246	4.3
RUBBER	3.943	1.032	26.2
TOTAL	191.220	48.108	25.2

*Irene Kiefer, The Salvage Industry, U.S. Environ.
Protection Agency (1975), p. 15.*

4. It is evident that salvage and conversion, or in more common terms, reuse, recycling and reclamation have at least two indisputable benefits:

a) they cut back the quantity of solid waste for which a local government must provide ultimate disposal.

b) they reduce the exploitation of virgin resources and thus extend the dwindling supply of these resources of raw materials.

Footnotes

5. It is important that the State Liquor Authority take responsibility for all facets of publicity relating to this statute. This should include providing a list of redemption centers to civil groups that may be interested in container collection campaigns (ex. the Boy Scouts or church groups) or any other party that requests such a list. The State Liquor Authority should also provide widespread publicity for its annual auctions of redemption center licenses in all areas of the state. This publicity should include newspaper advertisements and press releases to the media

6. Once a party has received a license he can engage in any practices of free enterprise that ensure the "convenient and economic acceptance of containers". Such practices might include the opening of numerous redemption centers within his own territory or the subletting of centers to others. This practice of subletting may prove very valuable in sparsely populated areas where a redemption center would be run by a local resident of a small town. The license holder might otherwise ignore such small towns because of their low volume of container use.

appendix (notes from *Technology Review* May 1972)

66 The scrap value of the metals in cans discarded in this country approaches \$200 million annually. Less than 4 per cent of this valuable resource is recovered today, yet existing technology is fully capable of recovering and recycling better than 90 per cent of these metals.*

66 Metals. To produce 1 million filled steel cans, 1.01 million cans must be made. This requires 75 tons of iron ore, 17.4 tons of limestone, and 42.9 tons of coal at a cost of 16,235 kw.h. Production of 46 tons of pig iron uses 48,160 kw.h. It then takes 143,700 kw.h to convert the iron into steel, alloy the steel, and roll it into 51.1 tons of sheet ready for fabrication. Coking (29.6 tons) requires 23,600 kw.h. Adding the energy needed to generate electricity, at an efficiency of 0.328, we come to a total of 542,900 kw.h, or 10,600 kw.h./ton of rolled steel and a free energy of 13,700 kw.h./ton.

Fabrication of steel cans costs 87,000 kw.h./million fillings, or approximately 0.09 kw.h./can. The transportation costs up to this stage add to 25,600 kw.h., so that

the total energy per unfilled open can is approximately 0.66 kw.h. An aluminum easy-open top costs 0.5 kw.h./can—almost as much as the rest of the can. Filling with a carbonated beverage, which, because it requires pressurized equipment, is considerably more expensive than most other fillings, draws 0.071 kw.h./can. The final cost, according to our estimate, is 1.23 kw.h./filled 12-oz. steel beverage can. To give some idea of the reliability of the figures, we note that a study by Bruce Hannon at the University of Illinois obtained a value of 1.22 kw.h.

A similar analysis of aluminum shows that 66,000 kw.h./ton of energy are required to go from mining to molten aluminum. Approximately 7.4 tons of aluminum are melted for every ton of cans produced. Casting consumes 1750 kw.h./ton; sheet fabrication, 5300 kw.h./ton; scrap remelt, 1500 kw.h./ton; and delaquering of scrap, 790 kw.h./ton. The cost of producing molten aluminum from scrap is thus about 2300 kw.h./ton, 28 times less than for molten aluminum from ore. The cost of making each 12-oz. can is approximately 1.91 kw.h. With filling and transportation included, the costs comes to 2.18 kw.h./can. If 25 per cent of the metal in each can were reused material, the cost per fabricated can would be 1.70 kw.h., a 22 per cent saving. 99

Do Paper on ^{Technical} Propaganda in Ecology about of Industry ^{EXAM} || ^{substitutes} Fasting
 Sugar prices - ^{substitutes} Sweet & low
 If you had 10 hrs a week to be a citizen, what wd you do?
 How wd you spend the 10 hrs, justify yourself.

- 1) Washington Square cleanup / pollution threat
- 2) McDonald Packaging / energy / pollution
- 3) Knapstar alarm
- 4) GM bldg 2nd level / outcrop of mass transit system of future.
- 5) Dumping Jamaica Bay
- 6) Ozone layer protection
- 7) W. Side Hwy
- 8) Taxi cruising
- 9) Svetlana Shramko case
- 10) Paper collection & recycling from / Ken Central
- 11) Packaging Guidelines Model Legislation
- 12) Containers disposal.
- 13) Motor oil cleanup & reuse w/ govt. subsidy.
- 14) Enforcement of endangered species laws & passage of same.
- 15) Pesticides
- 16) Rats

German
 Jay Hill
 K. K. K.
 B. I.
 F. K.

44% Water System
 60
 Sodium ^{in protein}
 10% of wall
 Purdue Univ.

WORLD WITHOUT END

1) The 360° war

2) PROGRAMMATICS

DISSOLUTE REGIMES

REVOLU