

**POLI 3310, 80917, Environmental Politics  
Fall 2021**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION**

This Course meets **Mondays and Wednesdays 11--1215pm** in **FH-208** with supplemental materials made available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>]. Attendance will be taken. For any extenuating circumstances such as medical procedures that prevent attendance, please notify me to discuss possible accommodations.

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. John Koehler

**Office:** Heritage Hall 204Q

**Phone:** 254-501-5845

**Email:** [j.koehler@tamuct.edu](mailto:j.koehler@tamuct.edu)

**Office Hours**

Virtually by appointment (upon request, I will email a link to meet through web-x or Teams). If deemed necessary, in-person appointments can be made.

**Student-instructor interaction**

University email is the preferred method of communication. Every attempt will be made to respond to emails within 24 hours, however longer response times may take place over weekends and holidays. Students are welcome to come unannounced during office hours but appointments or notice is appreciated.

**WARRIOR SHIELD**

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by 911Cellular [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

**Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan.** For the most recent campus information regarding COVID-19 see the Texas A&M University-Central Texas [Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Course Overview and description

**Explore the politics of environmental protection in America. Special emphasis on domestic environmental policy and the affects of federalism in shaping and implementing environmental policies.**

### Course Objective or Goal

#### Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify major environmental problems and articulate their causes and effects.
2. Differentiate between various policy proposals and critique benefits and drawbacks of each
3. Recognize how various actors and institutions impact the policy making process
4. Relate environmental policy to other major policy areas in order to prescribe comprehensive plans

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	Points	Percentage		
Discussion Board	150	15		
Research Paper	200	20		
Midterm	250	25		
Attendance and participation	100	10		
Final Exam	300	30		
<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>		
895+ = A	795-894=B	695-794=C	595-694=D	594 or lower = F

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Discussion boards will open once a week on Canvas. They will require responses to particular questions related to readings or current events. Comments must be meaningful, useful, and most importantly, respectful. Expectations for the paper are provided below. The attendance score will be reduced by 1percentage point for each unexcused absence. Exams will contain a mixture of question types such as short answer and multiple choice questions, the final exam is cumulative.

- **Research Paper: 20% of final grade. Worth 200 pts**
  - **10pts: Topic Approval**
  - **10pts Annotated Bibliography**
  - **20pts Bibliography**
  - **40 pts Grammar and Formatting**
  - **120pts Content**

Each student will be responsible for completing one research paper of **5-7 pages**. Formatting guidelines are as follows: double-spaced lines, one-inch margins (i.e., top,

bottom, left, and right), and Times New Roman font. A bibliography must be included and follow American Political Science Association Style for citations. Papers will be graded based on grammar, content, and clarity.

Please submit topics **in writing** either in class or by email, topics must be approved by **Sept 29**. Make sure that I respond with approval before continuing with your work. The annotated bibliography will be submitted **on Canvas by 5pm Oct 29. Papers must be submitted in hard copy by the start of class on Dec 1**. Any papers turned in after this time will be considered late. Each day late will result in the loss a full letter grade.

Paper direction: identify ONE issue (carbon emissions, air quality, water safety, etc). Give a brief overview of how the issue is currently seen as an environmental problem. 2<sup>nd</sup>, give a detailed overview of legislation and regulations that have dealt with the issue as well as pending recommendations. Explain why efforts have succeeded or failed and consider the political and economic context of the issue.

**Posting of Grades**

Grades will be posted on Canvas within a couple of days of each assignment.

**Grading Policies**

Discussion Boards cannot be made up beyond the due date unless approved by the instructor who may choose to allow for late submission or excuse the assignment. Other late work will be reduced one letter grade for each day late. No exam will be made up without an excused absence. Make up exams are scheduled at the instructor’s convenience.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

	Title	Readings	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Aug 23</b>	Environmental Problems	Echaverren 2017	
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Aug 30</b>	The state of the Environment		
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Sept 6</b>	Making Environmental policy	Teets 2016	
<b>Week 4</b>	Evolution of policy	Burns et al 2019	

<b>Sept 13</b>			
<b>Week 5</b>	Global Actors	Dimitrov 2019	
<b>Sept 20</b>			
<b>Week 6</b>	No class Mon 9/27		<b><i>Paper Topics Due</i></b>
<b>Sept 27</b>			
<b>Week 7</b>	Environmental protection and pollution	Wan, Shen, and Choi 2017	
<b>Oct 4</b>			
<b>Week 8</b>	Energy and natural resources	Prokuryakova 2018	
<b>Oct 11</b>			
<b>Week 9</b>	Energy and natural resources con't		<b><i>Midterm Exam</i></b>
<b>Oct 18</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>		
<b>Week 10</b>			<b><i>Annotated Bibliography due</i></b>
<b>Oct 25</b>			
<b>Week 11</b>	Climate change	Sonnett 2021	
<b>Nov 1</b>			
<b>Week 12</b>	Biodiversity		
<b>Nov 8</b>			
<b>Week 13</b>	Free trade and consumption		
<b>Nov 15</b>			
<b>Week 14</b>	CANVAS ASSIGNMENTS		
<b>Nov 22</b>			
<b>Week 15</b>	Evaluating policy		<b><i>Paper due</i></b>
<b>Nov 29</b>			
<b>Week 16</b>	Politics for the 21 <sup>st</sup> century		
<b>Dec 6</b>			
<b>Wed Dec 8</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>		<b><i>Final Exam</i></b>

## Important University Dates

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

### Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

### Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web

and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **Academic Integrity**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),  
[https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),  
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=0].

### **Academic Accommodations**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)  
[https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is

able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

### **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Writing Center**

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. For the Fall 2021 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WConline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment

with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

### **University Library**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>].

### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].



## **Behavioral Intervention**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/bit) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.