

Poli 104E Final Exam Questions
Spring 2017

Two questions will be selected at random on the day of the exam, and you will be asked to write an essay on one.

The exam will be June 16 at 1 pm and will conclude at 2:30 p.m. You should be able to complete the exam in 1 hour, but you are welcome to use the available time, which given the time to distribute and collect the exams will be approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Please make sure you plan your transportation to campus that day carefully. Parking and some roadways will be closed and some shuttles suspended.

Please bring a bluebook and pens with you.

1. Discuss the importance of freedom of information/transparency when it comes to effective environmental policy. Explain how various actors use information to further their environmental goals, including government, NGO's, the media and business. What is the relationship between these actors and public opinion? How does public opinion affect environmental regulation? Explain the negative impact of asymmetric information and what influence it can play on environmental regulation. How have people and organization's tried to overcome asymmetric information? What still needs to be done? In each part of the question use specific examples.

2. What is environmental justice? What are common definitions and why are they contested? What kind of communities are subject to environmentally unjust conditions? In these communities, what are the effects of environmental injustice? Why do we get different outcomes when policymakers consider environmental justice as opposed to using standard cost/benefit models? Discuss specific environmental justice issues related to the regulation of air pollution, water pollution and protected areas? How can disadvantaged groups be harmed if environmental justice concerns are not taken into account? Discuss what is needed to achieve more just solutions in each of these issue areas.

3. What types of environmental issues require international agreements? Discuss in terms of the political and economic challenges that make these issues difficult to solve at the national or subnational level. How were these challenges addressed in the Montreal Protocol and the Paris Agreement? What made these two problems so different from each other? What has been the U.S.'s special role in formulating these agreements? With the US withdrawing from Paris, what do you expect are the prospects for mitigating climate change, both domestically and internationally?

4. What are the three types of regulatory approaches that we can use for controlling pollutants such as air pollution or greenhouse gases. Discuss each in detail, including the economic logic for its use. How is each used in both air pollution and greenhouse gas regulation? What are the differences in addressing these two problems and how does

that affect what tools are best used? In your opinion what would be the best regulatory regime for addressing greenhouse gas control in the United States. Explain your plan in detail.

5. Why is it important to protect biodiversity? What laws do we have available in the United States to do so? Explain each one. How do environmentalists use the variety of laws at their disposal to try to protect whole ecosystems. What federal agencies are involved in protecting lands, species and ecosystems? What are their missions, how have they changed over time and how are conflicts inherent in their missions? Why does our regulatory system lead to conflict over federal land use? Give at least two specific examples of conflicts over federal land use and how they've been addressed.