Focus of the course.

This course will begin with the underlying conservation principles and practices for environmental policy including Roman Law and the Common Law Public Trust Doctrine, the observations of George Perkins Marsh in his book Man and Nature written in the mid-19th century and the opposing view points of John Muir and Gifford Pinchot. It will then focus on the substance of the key environmental protection laws and programs that developed after Earth Day in 1970 including air and water pollution control and solid and hazardous waste management, addressing climate change and environmental justice and on tools like environmental impact analysis, environmental education, watershed management and most recently large landscape conservation. Attention will be on New York State, but there will be reference to local, national and international environmental policy.

Paul M. Bray is an attorney who as a Legislative Bill Drafter drafted many of the NY State’s environmental laws including the State Environmental Quality Review Law, the State Hazardous Waste Law and the Hudson River Greenway and estuary laws. He was also a member of the policy office of former Dept. of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis and he has experience as a corporate environmental consultant as well as having been active in the local and New York State Chapter of the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations.

Course Materials

The text book will be The Environmental Policy Paradox by Prof. Zachary A. Smith, Ed. #6, Pearson. There will also be material posted for the course on ERES/ARES. Student password for ARES is 303/304pmb

Course Grading

You will receive a three-credit grade at the end of the course. The grade will be based on the following:

- Written assignment 25%
- Mid-term exam 20%
- Final Exam 30%
Class Participation, environ news & attendance 25%

Cell phones and computers

Please turn off your cell phone in class. Please do not surf the internet on your smart phones or laptops unless it is related to work in the class. Please do not check e-mail during class.

Course Schedule. The following schedule provides an overall picture of the topics covered in the course and the order they will be considered. Knowledgeable speakers will be invited and adjustments to the schedule may occur to accommodate speakers and/or address topical subject matter.

Version #2 – March 2013

(Subject to change)

Thurs. 1/24 Brief meeting of class

Tues. 1/29 Introduction to the Course: Environmental Policy Paradox

Thurs. 1/31 Discussion about environmental policy including origins, its evolution and application today.

Tues. 2/5 Governance structure for New York State environmental policy and stakeholders.

Thurs. 2/7 19th and early 20th century environmental policy in NYS.

Tues. 2/12 Adirondack Park as a contested landscape; greenline parks and large Landscape conservation

Thurs. 2/14 Earth Day and the environmental revolution.

Tues. 2/19 From Conservation Department to the Department of Environmental Conservation

Thurs. 2/21 Green Infrastructure. Presentation about Green Infrastructure in Syracuse by Cat Foley.
Tues.  2/26 State Environmental Quality Review Act.


Tues.  3/5 Water quality: management

Thurs.  3/7 Environmental advocacy. Presentation by Rob Moore, Director of Environmental Advocates in Albany

Tues.  3/12 Mid-term exam

Thurs.  3/14 Parks including the Adirondack Park

Tues.  3/19 Semester break, no class

Thurs.  3/21 Semester break, no class

Tues.  3/26 Land management: Quiet Revolution


Tues.  4/2 Leading a state environmental agency. Presentation by former Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis.

Thurs.  4/4 Smart growth. Presentation by Peter Fleischer.

Tues.  4/9 Regional environmental management. Presentation by Gene Kelly, NYS DEC Region 4 Director.

Thurs.  4/11 Watershed management
Tues. 4/16 Environmental education. Presentation by Laurel Remus, Director of NYS environmental education program.

Thurs. 4/18 Case study: Mohawk River Basin program. Presentation by Katherine Czajkowski, DEC watershed coordinator.

Tues. 4/23 Case study: Climate change

Thurs. 4/25 Case study: Stormwater management. Semester paper due on this date.

Tues. 4/30 Case study: Environmental justice

Thurs. 5/2 Case study: Smart Growth

Thurs. 5/7 Case study: Invasive species

Contact information.

Paul Bray’s e-mail address is pmbray@aol.com. His cell is 441 1849 and his downtown private office telephone number is 472 1772. There will not be formal office hours, but questions and comments can be made by e-mail or telephone calls. If a student would like to meet with the professor, appointments can be arranged to meet at Humanities Bldg.