

Course Syllabus

SWS 6932: Principles of Water Policy [3 credit hours]

Instructors:	Dr. Sam Smidt
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Office Location:	McCarty A, G153
Office Hours:	M and W, 2:00-2:50pm, or by appointment
Course Format:	Hybrid, Synchronous: Can be attended in person for on-campus students or through Zoom for distance students. Live attendance is required.
Course Time:	Thursday Periods 6-8 (12:50 PM - 3:50 PM)
Course Location:	FLG 0265, Zoom link will be shared at beginning of the semester
Course Website:	https://elearning.ufl.edu/
Course Description:	This course seeks to provide an interdisciplinary policy foundation for managing water resources-related challenges. Students will critically review the procedures, institutions, and dynamics within water policy, including the policy-making process and its impacts on the outcomes of water resources.
Required Texts:	No textbook is required. Students will be asked to download articles, book chapters, and reports throughout the semester (see Reading List).
Communication:	Direct communication will come through official University of Florida email via Canvas. Each student is responsible for these messages, and emails should be checked daily.
Canvas:	All grades, content, and resources will be posted to the course site.
General Policies:	Assignments are to be individual own work unless otherwise stated. All relevant content will be made available through the course website. Students must receive instructor approval prior to any late activity.
Course Evaluation:	Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/ . Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/ . Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/ .

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast water policy and water law using notable examples
2. Identify key drivers as policy becomes law
3. Discuss policy through the intersection of science, government, and end user decision-making
4. Explain the influence of policy on achieving water-related objectives
5. Evaluate current water policy to develop robust recommendations for improvement

Course Structure

This course meets regularly during the week, and all content follows the course schedule.

Course Grades

Module Assignments:	100 points each, 5 assignments, 50% of total grade	500 Points
Weekly Readings:	20 points each, 10 assignments, 20% of total grade	200 Points
Speaker Reviews:	10 points each, 10 assignments, 10% of your total grade	100 points
Course Participation:	50 points each, 4 assessments, 20% of your total grade	200 Points
	TOTAL	1,000 Points

Grade Description

Module Assignments:	Each module will include a capstone project specific to the module topics. Assignment details and assessment rubrics will be provided at the beginning of each module.
Weekly Readings:	One paper will be assigned ~each week of the semester. Students will develop a 1-page annotated bibliography to be used as part of the course discussion.
Speaker Reviews:	This course includes many guest speakers. Students will provide a ½ page response to the topics introduced by assigned speakers.
Course Participation:	Students are expected to participate as active members to the course discussion. Rubrics highlighting expectations will be discussed at the beginning of the semester, and assessments will be conducted four times throughout the semester.

Grading Scale

A : 93 – 100%	B+ : 88 – 89.9%	C+ : 78 – 79.9%	D+ : 68 – 69.9%	F : <60%
A- : 90 – 92.9%	B: 83 – 87.9%	C: 73 – 77.9%	D: 63 – 67.9%	
	B- : 80 – 82.9%	C- : 70 – 72.9%	D- : 60 – 62.9%	

Academic Integrity: As a UF student, you have committed to the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."* Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. Violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Students with Disabilities: The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students

Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Attendance:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Grade Points:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources:

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

*University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu

- Counseling Services
- Groups and Workshops
- Outreach and Consultation
- Self-Help Library
- Wellness Coaching

*U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/

*Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.

Student Complaints:

Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/>

Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

COVID Response Statement:

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down

your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.

- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

<i>Module</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>	<i>ASSIGNMENT</i>	<i>END DATE</i>
1	Compare and contrast water policy and water law using notable examples	Reading #1 Speaker Review #1 Reading #2 Speaker Review #2 Assignment #1	1/14/22
2	Identify key drivers as policy becomes law	Reading #3 Speaker Review #3 Reading #4 Speaker Review #4 Assignment #2 Assessment #1	2/4/22
3	Discuss policy through the intersection of science, government, and end user decision-making	Reading #5 Speaker Review #5 Reading #6 Speaker Review #6 Assignment #3 Assessment #2	2/25/22
4	Explain the influence of policy on achieving water-related objectives	Reading #7 Speaker Review #7 Reading #8 Speaker Review #8 Assignment #4 Assessment #3	3/25/22
5	Evaluate current water policy to develop robust recommendations for improvement	Reading #9 Speaker Review #9 Reading #10 Speaker Review #10 Assignment #5 Assessment #4	4/15/22

Reading List

1. Maliva, R. G., Manahan, W. S., & Missimer, T. M. (2021). Climate change and water supply: governance and adaptation planning in Florida. *Water Policy*, 23(3), 521-536.
2. Aviles, D., Belshe, E.F., Reisinger, A.J., & Smidt, S.J. (In Submission). Impacts of Residential Fertilizer Ordinances on Florida Lacustrine Water Quality. *L&O Letters*.
3. Carriker, R. R., & Borisova, T. (2009). Public policy and water in Florida. *EDIS*, 2009(4).
4. Vedwan, N., Ahmad, S., Miralles-Wilhelm, F., Broad, K., Letson, D., & Podesta, G. (2008). Institutional evolution in Lake Okeechobee management in Florida: characteristics, impacts, and limitations. *Water Resources Management*, 22(6), 699-718.
5. Smidt, S. J., Haacker, E. M., Kendall, A. D., Deines, J. M., Pei, L., Cotterman, K. A., ... & Hyndman, D. W. (2016). Complex water management in modern agriculture: Trends in the water-energy-food nexus over the High Plains Aquifer. *Science of the Total Environment*, 566, 988-1001.
6. Van Dijn, E. A., Grogan, K. A., & Borisova, T. (2015). Determinants of adoption of drought adaptations among vegetable growers in Florida. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, 70(4), 218-231.
7. Ward, F. A. (2007). Decision support for water policy: a review of economic concepts and tools. *Water policy*, 9(1), 1-31.
8. Borisova, T., Racevskis, L., & Kipp, J. (2012). Stakeholder Analysis of a Collaborative Watershed Management Process: A Florida Case Study 1. *JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, 48(2), 277-296.
9. Dalin, C., Konar, M., Hanasaki, N., Rinaldo, A., & Rodriguez-Iturbe, I. (2012). Evolution of the global virtual water trade network. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(16), 5989-5994.
10. Hilborn, R. (2016). Policy: Marine biodiversity needs more than protection. *Nature News*, 535(7611), 224.