Introduction

EVPP 361/GOVT 361 Introduction to Environmental Policy (Fall 2016)

About the course:
The course provides an introduction to the complex world of environmental politics and policy. Students assess efforts to manage natural resources effectively and mitigate the adverse effects of environmental pollution. Students consider environmental issues at the local, state, and national level in the US and address global concerns such as biodiversity loss, energy demand and supply, and climate change. The overarching theme of sustainability serves as a focus for analysis and activities.

N = 35 students

Environmental Science & Policy 13
Environmental & Sustainability Studies 7
Government & International Politics 6
Global Affairs 2
Public Administration 2
Earth Science 2
Integrative Studies 1
Individualized Studies 1

What is it?

• **For instructors:** Evidence-based, technology-enabled teaching to improve the learning experience for a broader student community
• **For students:** More choices and more engagement
• **Learner-centered**
• **Types of Flex Learning:**
  - Pace/Time
  - Place/Location
  - Mode/Assignments

Flex Learning

Introduction

Results

Mid-term survey (n=25/71.42%)

- Did you like this 100% online course? 22/88% (Y)
- Did the course help you learn about environmental policy? 24/96%
- Improving the course?
  - 11/44% (N)
  - 14/56% (Y)

Grading

Participation (Discussion, Quizzes, & Reflection) 25%
Individual Policy Memo & Peer Review 20%
Collaborative Paper 10%
Midterm 20%
Final Exam 25%

The Course Design

Data Collection & Analysis

- Blackboard Learning Analytics
- Mid-term survey
- End-of-semester survey

End of Semester Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My overall rating of the teaching</td>
<td>4.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My overall rating of the course</td>
<td>4.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments helped me learn the material</td>
<td>4.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>The instructor encouraged the students to be actively involved in the</td>
<td>4.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>material through discussion</td>
<td>4.78</td>
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Implications for Flex Learning

1. Structure a course with a wide range of materials
2. Provide more self-paced learning opportunities
3. Pursue student feedback periodically so you can adjust as necessary
4. Use flexible assessment (tests, team projects, group work, or peer review)
5. Energize a course with a mix of interaction
6. Provide the value of learning analytics to understand student learning

Bibliography