NRE 532
NATURAL RESOURCE & ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT
WINTER 2016 -- 3 credits

Monday/Wednesday 8:30-10:00 am
Room 2024 Dana

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 10:00-12:00 and by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Social conflict is ubiquitous. Conflicts involving the environment and natural resources are no exception; pick up today’s newspaper, or listen to the nightly news, and chances are great that you will be presented with one or more conflicts involving environmental resources in some way. Why? Why do people engage in conflicts? How? With what effect? How do environmental and natural resource conflicts differ from other kinds of public disputes? What are the ways in which society formally and informally manages these conflicts? When and how might alternative dispute resolution processes or informal collaborative problem-solving and planning processes effectively manage conflicts involving the environment and other public resources?

The focus of this course will be on understanding the causes, dynamics and consequences of natural resource and environmental conflicts as well as on understanding the range of possible approaches to managing these conflicts. The course will explore traditional procedures used to manage disputes in the public sector and analyze why these traditional mechanisms frequently fail when confronting environmental and resource disputes. Innovations in dispute resolution, from formal mediated negotiations to informal multi-party collaborative planning efforts, will be examined in detail.

Specific real-world cases of environmental or natural resource conflicts and dispute resolution and collaborative processes will be used to illustrate key points. Case materials will be drawn from current issue areas including offshore oil drilling, public lands management, ecosystem management, alternative energy development, hazardous waste and other facility siting, endangered species conservation, marine and fisheries management, air and water pollution control, community planning, and watershed management. By examining empirical cases in a systematic manner, students will leave the course with a conceptual framework that will enable them to understand and manage environmental and natural resource conflicts from a variety of perspectives.
COURSE READINGS

Required Books:


Optional:


All four required books have been placed on reserve at the University Reserves desk in the Askwith Media Center, (located on the second floor of the Shapiro Library).

Additional Course Readings on CTools:

Unless otherwise noted, all additional readings in the syllabus are available on our CTools site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

This course is predominately case study based. Consequently, it is important that students do the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. Grading is as follows:

I. Three Written Case Analyses (20% of grade each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distributed</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Wednesday, January 13</td>
<td>Monday, February 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2 Monday, February 8</td>
<td>Wednesday, February 24</td>
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<td>#3 Monday, March 14</td>
<td>Monday, March 28</td>
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II. Huron River Planning Process Assessment (10%) -- due April 6

III. Public Meeting Observation (15%) – described below.

IV. Class Participation (15%)
Public Meeting Observation Requirement

Each student is required to spend at least one hour observing a local public meeting (e.g. Ann Arbor City Council, Planning Commission, Parks Advisory Commission, Environmental Commission, Energy Commission, UM Regents, etc.). I will try to keep you informed of upcoming meetings that may be of interest. The City of Ann Arbor has a comprehensive listing of meetings, with links to each meeting’s agenda, on its website: https://calendar.a2gov.org

➤ A typed 2-3 page summary of your observations, insights and questions prompted by this meeting is due 72 hours after the meeting. Your summary observations should be reflective about the nature and dynamics of the public process that you observed and the ways in which it appears to be informing and facilitating, and/or challenging, decision-making on public issues. In what ways does it appear to be encouraging or discouraging civic engagement and dialogue? What was particularly interesting or notable about the meeting?

➤ This assignment can be fulfilled at any point during the course of the semester, but no later than the last day of class.

Note: Most public meetings in the City of Ann Arbor are broadcast live on CTN Channel 16 (Community Television Network), and can also be viewed on-demand following the meeting www.a2gov.org/ctn. If you choose to observe a public meeting via CTN, part of your summary should reflect on your thoughts about how this opportunity to participate in local affairs at-a-distance might alter the nature of civic engagement and public decision-making.

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, with no less than 1” margins.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates listed above.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan. 6</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Jan. 11/13</td>
<td>Characteristics &amp; Variations of Environmental Conflicts</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Jan. 18/20</td>
<td>MLK Day (No Class Monday 1/18) Functions of Conflict</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Jan. 25/27</td>
<td>Conflict Analysis Framework &amp; The Limits of Judicial Review</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb 1/3</td>
<td>The Role of Incentives &amp; A Typology of Participatory Processes</td>
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<td>*** Case Analysis #1 Due Monday Feb. 1 ***</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Feb 8/10</td>
<td>Designing &amp; Managing a Conflict Management Process: Core Process Elements; 2-party vs. multi-party disputes</td>
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<td><strong>NO CLASS WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10</strong></td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Feb 15/17</td>
<td>The Nature of Science Intensive Disputes</td>
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<td>Joint Fact-finding; the Role of Identities &amp; Characterizations</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Feb 22/24</td>
<td>Managing Science Intensive Disputes; Compliance Considerations</td>
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<td>*** Case Analysis #2 Due Wednesday Feb. 24 ***</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Feb 29/Mar 2</td>
<td>WINTER BREAK – NO CLASSES</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Mar 7/9</td>
<td>Unique Characteristics of Facility Siting Disputes</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Mar 14/16</td>
<td>Collaboration in Resource &amp; Env. Mgt: Process Characteristics</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Mar 21/23</td>
<td>Collaboration in Resource &amp; Env. Mgt: Challenges Assessing and Convening a Collaborative Process</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Mar 28/30</td>
<td>Facilitating Collaboration: Process Considerations</td>
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<td>*** Case Analysis #3 Due Monday March 28 ***</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Apr 4/6</td>
<td>Institutionalization: Negotiated Rule-making Applying the Concepts: The Huron River Planning Process</td>
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<td><em><strong>Huron River Process Assessment Due Apr 6</strong></em></td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Apr 11/13</td>
<td>Cultural Variations and Considerations in Conflict Management Conflict over Collaboration: Principles &amp; Critiques</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>Final Class Summary</td>
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READING LIST

Week 1  Introduction (Weds 1/6)

Wondolleck and Yaffee, Making Collaboration Work, Chapter 1.


Judith E. Innes and David E. Booher, Planning with Complexity (NY:Routledge, 2010), Chapter 1, pp. 1-10: “Thinking Differently for an Age of Complexity.”

Week 2  Characteristics of Environmental & Natural Resource Conflicts (Mon 1/11)


Skim:

Steven Mufson, “I traveled the length of the Keystone XL Pipeline: A Q&A with TED Book author Steven Mufson,” TED Blog, April 5, 2013.


Variations among Environmental Conflicts (Weds 1/13)

Week 3  
**MLK Day – NO CLASS (Monday 1/18)**

**The Functions of Conflict (Weds 1/20)**


Week 4  
**Historical Perspectives & A Framework for Analysis (Mon 1/25)**

Fischer, *Wolf Wars*, Chapters 1-5.


**The Limits of Judicial Review/Precursors to Dispute Resolution (Weds 1/27)**


Week 5  
**The Influence of Incentives – The Storm King Case (Mon 2/1)**

**ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE MONDAY FEBRUARY 1**

**Variations in Participatory Process Objectives and Structure (Weds 2/3)**


**Week 6**  
**Conflict Management Process Design (Mon 2/8)**

Fischer, Wolf Wars, Chapters 6-14.


Wondolleck and Yaffee, Making Collaboration Work, Chapters 5 and 6.


**NO CLASS – WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10**

**Week 7**  
**The Nature of Science Intensive Disputes (Mon 2/15)**


**Joint Fact-Finding (Weds 2/17)**


**Week 8** Managing Science Intensive Disputes & The Bowhead Whale Case (2/22-24)

**ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24**


**Week 9** WINTER BREAK – NO CLASSES – MON/WEDS 2/29 & 3/2

**Week 10** Facility Siting and Compensation

The Siting Problem (Mon 3/7):

Barry Rabe, Beyond NIMBY, Chapters 1 and 2.

Potential Approaches to the Siting Problem (Weds 3/9):

Barry Rabe, Beyond NIMBY, Chapters 3, 4 and 6.

**Week 11** Collaboration in Environmental and Resource Management

Process Characteristics (Mon 3/14):

Wondolleck and Yaffee, Making Collaboration Work, Chapters 2, 4 and 8.

Collaborative Process Challenges (Weds 3/16):

Wondolleck and Yaffee, Making Collaboration Work, Chapters 7, 9 and 10.
**Week 12**  
**Assessing and Convening a Collaborative Process (Mon 3/21)**


**The Bricks and Mortar of Effective Collaboration (Weds 3/23)**


**Week 13**  
**Applying the Concepts – The Thunder Bay Case (Mon 3/28)**

**ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE MONDAY MARCH 28**

**Considerations in Structuring & Managing a Collab. Process (Weds 3/30)**

The Narley Creek Exercise (readings to be assigned)

**Week 14**  
**Institutionalization: EPA Negotiated Rulemaking (Mon 4/4)**


**Applying the Concepts: The Huron River Planning Process (Weds 4/6)**

(case materials will be handed-out)

**Week 15**  
**Cultural Variations & Considerations in Conflict Management (Mon 4/11)**


**Conflict over Collaboration: Principles & Critiques (Weds 4/13)**

Wondolleck and Yaffee, Making Collaboration Work, Chapter 13.


McCloskey, Michael, "Is This the Course You Want to Be On?," Society and Natural Resources, 14: 627-634, 2001.


**Week 16**  **Final Class Reflections (Mon 4/18)**

Wondolleck and Yaffee, Making Collaboration Work, Chapter 14.