EAS 532
NATURAL RESOURCE & ENVIRONMENTAL
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT
WINTER 2019 -- 3 credits

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

Professor Julia Wondolleck
juliaw@umich.edu
3512 Dana
734-764-1570
Office Hours: Mon/Weds 10:00-12:30
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? Understanding the answers to these questions is vital to our collective pursuit of sustainability. Conflict provides a mechanism for elevating issues; dispute resolution and collaborative processes provide a pathway for advancing change. Both need to be understood.

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 the unique characteristics of 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 energy development, wildlife and public lands management, watershed management, hazardous waste and other facility siting, endangered species conservation, marine and fisheries management, air and water pollution control, community planning, and transnational conservation. 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 Canvas:

Unless otherwise noted, all additional readings in the syllabus are available on our Canvas 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)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distributed</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Wednesday, January 23  Wednesday, February 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Wednesday, February 13  Wednesday, February 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Monday, March 18       Monday, April 1</td>
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II. Huron River Planning Process Assessment (10%) -- due April 15

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](https://calendar.a2gov.org)

- **A typed 2-3 page summary of your observations, impressions, 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](http://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.
# COURSE TOPICS & SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Introduction to Course Concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan. 14/16</td>
<td>Characteristics &amp; Variations of Environmental Conflicts</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jan. 21/23</td>
<td><strong>MLK Day (No Class Monday 1/21)</strong></td>
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<td>Functions of Conflict (Weds 1/23)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Jan. 28/30</td>
<td>Historical Evolution of Env. Conflicts; Framework for Analysis</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 4/6</td>
<td>Limits of Judicial Review; The Role of Incentives</td>
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<td>** *** Case Analysis #1 due Wednesday Feb. 6 ***</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 11/13</td>
<td>Designing &amp; Managing a Conflict Management Process: Core Process Elements; 2-party vs. multi-party disputes</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 18/20</td>
<td>The Nature of Science Intensive Disputes; The Role of Identities &amp; Characterizations</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Feb 25/27</td>
<td>Managing Science Intensive Disputes; Joint Fact-Finding</td>
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<td>** *** Case Analysis #2 due Wednesday Feb. 27 ***</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>March 4/6</td>
<td><strong>WINTER BREAK – NO CLASSES</strong></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>March 11/13</td>
<td>Unique Characteristics of Facility Siting Disputes</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>March 18/20</td>
<td>Collaboration in Resource &amp; Env. Mgt: Process Characteristics</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>March 25/27</td>
<td>Collaboration in Resource &amp; Env. Mgt: Challenges Assessing and Convening a Collaborative Process</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>April 1/3</td>
<td>Enabling Collaboration: Process Considerations</td>
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<td>** *** Case Analysis #3 due Monday April 1 ***</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>April 8/10</td>
<td>Structuring &amp; Managing a Collaborative Process; Institutionalizing Dispute Resolution &amp; Collaboration</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>April 15/17</td>
<td>Applying the Concepts: The Huron River Planning Process; Cultural Variations and Considerations in Conflict Management</td>
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<td>** ***Huron River Process Assessment due Monday April 15 ***</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Final Class Summary</td>
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READING LIST

Week 1  Introduction (Weds 1/9)

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.”


Tisha Schuller “Down the Fracking Hole,” PERC Reports, Winter 2018, pp. 41-44.

Week 2  Characteristics of Environmental & Natural Resource Conflicts (Mon 1/14)


Skim:


Variations among Environmental Conflicts (Weds 1/16)


Week 3  
**MLK Day – NO CLASS (Monday 1/21)**

The Functions of Conflict (Weds 1/23)


Week 4  
**Historical Perspectives & A Framework for Analysis (Mon/Weds 1/28-30)**

Fischer, Wolf Wars, Chapters 1-5.


Week 5  
**The Limits of Judicial Review/Precursors to Dispute Resolution (Mon 2/4)**


**APPLYING THE CONCEPTS:**
The Influence of Incentives in the Storm King Case (Weds 2/6)

**ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6**

**Week 6**
Conflict Management Process Design (Mon/Weds 2/11-13)


**Week 7**
The Nature of Science Intensive Disputes (Mon 2/18)


**Joint Fact-Finding (Weds 2/20)**


Week 8  Managing Science Intensive Disputes (2/25)


APPLYING THE CONCEPTS: The Bowhead Whale Case (Weds 2/27)

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27


Week 9  WINTER BREAK – NO CLASSES – MON/WEDS March 4/6

Week 10  Facility Siting and Compensation

The Siting Problem (Mon 3/11):

Barry Rabe, Beyond NIMBY, Chapters 1 and 2.

Potential Approaches to the Siting Problem (Weds 3/13):

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

Week 11  Collaboration in Environmental and Resource Management

Process Characteristics (Mon 3/18):
Wondolleck and Yaffee, Making Collaboration Work, Chapters 2, 4 and 8.

Collaborative Process Challenges (Weds 3/20):
Wondolleck and Yaffee, Making Collaboration Work, Chapters 7, 9 and 10.
**Week 12**  
Variations in Participatory Process Objectives and Structure (Mon 3/25)


Assessing and Convening a Collaborative Process (Weds 3/27)


Wondolleck and Yaffee, Making Collaboration Work, Chapters 3 and 12.


**Week 13**  
APPLYING THE CONCEPTS – The Thunder Bay Case (Mon 4/1)

ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE MONDAY APRIL 1

The Bricks and Mortar of Effective Collaboration (Weds 4/3)


**Week 14**  
Considerations in Structuring & Managing a Collab. Process (Mon 4/8)

The Narley Creek Exercise (case materials will be handed-out)

Institutionalizing Dispute Resolution & Collaborative Processes (Weds 4/10)


Week 15

APPLYING THE CONCEPTS: Huron River Planning Process (Mon 4/15)

HRIMP PROCESS ASSESSMENT DUE MONDAY APRIL 15

(case materials will be handed-out)

Cultural Variations & Considerations in Conflict Management (Weds 4/17)


Week 16

Final Class Reflections (Mon 4/22)


Skim:


Optional:


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