

ENV 203 Policy Clinic
Winter 2019

Instructor: Dr. Eric Post (post@ucdavis.edu)
T & Th 2-4 pm

The Policy Clinic is intended as a hands-on, student-driven, project-development experience. Teams of students will analyze a policy problem from science, technical, geographical, planning, social values, civil rights, legal, administrative, legislative, and economic perspectives. Students will develop a comprehensive analysis for presentation to policy makers and the academic community. This is a hands-on learning experience where clients will partner with programmatic faculty to guide, but not instruct, students.

The quarter will begin by dividing the cohort into small groups and defining a group project in coordination with a client. Each group project will involve periodic communication with their client and regular faculty oversight. Each project will be required to analyze and report on the scientific and technical aspect of a large-scale environmental problem.

The clinic will commence by analyzing the potential for policy-relevant science. The group may, for instance, evaluate the state of scientific knowledge and identify inflection points for change (e.g., new knowledge that could change policy outcomes, changes in societal perception needed to change policies).

Although the faculty mentor will provide guidance and feedback to keep project development on pace, it is anticipated that this course will require a good deal of self-direction and independence. Student groups will be expected to coordinate all communication with project clients and meet milestones as outlined below.

Week	Date	Milestone
1	1/8	Introductions, overview of aims and scope of Policy Clinic, group discussion of approach
	1/10	Meet or discuss with project client and draft one-paragraph summary of project goals. (Group presentations of proposed individual project overview and partners, including partner needs and projected deliverables - may occur in Week 2)
2	1/15	In-group discussion and initial preparation of draft of one-page summary of proposed project goals and methodology/action plan, including materials needs from partner (e.g., data, literature pools, survey results, etc., whatever you need to carry out the proposed action plan)
	1/17	Finalize draft of one-page summary of proposed project goals and

		methodology/action plan, including step by step plan with timeline. Send to client for approval.
3	1/22	Presentation and cross-group discussion of individual project goals and methodology/action plan
	1/24	Gather and organize materials, including data, literature, survey, etc.; conduct in-group vetting to ensure alignment with project goals and quality control
4	1/29	Gather and organize materials, including data, literature, survey, etc.; conduct in-group vetting to ensure alignment with project goals and quality control
	1/31	Discuss initial progress with client, including any concerns about materials/data/literature, and pace of progress
5	2/5	Review and presentation of initial progress partner feedback; finalize project action plan if any adjustments have been made
	2/7	Cross-group discussion of issues/concerns relating to project materials, including quality, availability, or other limitations; brainstorming for solutions to possible material limitations
6	2/12	In-group quantitative and/or qualitative analysis and/or organization of project materials
	2/14	Provide client with status update, resolve any lingering concerns about material limitations (e.g., data shortages, availability, quality)
7	2/19	In-group quantitative and/or qualitative analysis and/or organization of project materials
	2/21	Group presentations of preliminary analyses and cross-group on-the-spot peer-evaluations or suggestions for improvement/adjustments
8	2/26	In-group quantitative and/or qualitative analysis and/or organization of project materials
	2/28	Group presentations of preliminary analyses and cross-group on-the-spot peer-evaluations or suggestions for improvement/adjustments
9	3/5	Solicit client feedback on three-page summary of project background and preliminary results
	3/7	In-group quantitative and/or qualitative analysis and/or organization of project materials
10	3/12	In-group preparation of three-page summary of project background and preliminary results
	3/14	Group presentation of client feedback on summary of project background and preliminary results and cross-group on-the-spot peer evaluations or suggestions for improvements/adjustments