

PSCI 3064: Environmental Political Theory

2014 summer (B) term ▪ Mondays-Fridays 9:15-10:50am ▪ 260 HALE

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Office hours: Wednesdays 11am-1pm (or by appointment)—at Buchanan's coffee shop.

Course Description

This course combines the study of environmental public policy with environmental political theory. Beyond learning about various contemporary domestic and global environmental problems, students will analyze weaknesses of relevant environmental laws, and the challenges to forming and implementing new public policies. In considering how we could improve existing environmental regulations, students will also consider how normative concepts and theories frame our understanding of these complex policy problems and how policy-makers could better strive to correct them. Some of the specific policy issues this class will explore include: the distribution and management of scarce natural resources, economic growth and sustainability, environmental racism and the inequitable exposure to dangerous effluents, population growth and consumption, and the distribution of the costs of climate change.

Similarly, among the problems with policy formation and implementation this course examines include: public perceptions of environmental risk; the merit of market-based environmental policies; corporate social responsibility; ecological consumerism, green-washing, and the capacity of individuals to alter national policies; and the role and limit of science in shaping environmental regulations. With each substantive issue area, students will explore how various normative considerations—such as justice, equality, autonomy, security, moral culpability, etc.—may alter how we conceive of the environmental problems we face, and what we understand the aim of environmental regulations to be.

Course Objectives

This reading- and writing-intensive course is designed not only to make students more informed about various domestic and global environmental problems with which our generations are struggling, but also to better understand the normative philosophical foundations of these contemporary policy issues. This class presses students to move beyond a critical evaluation of the causes and effects of the environmental controversies we discuss, and to critically assess how the normative concepts and theories we examine effectively shape *both* our understanding of these environmental problems and also the politics that underlie the creation and implementation of national and international policy solutions.

Required Textbooks

There are only two required texts for this course:

Norman J. Vig and Michael E. Kraft, eds., *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the 21st Century*, 8th ed. (Thousand Oaks: CQ Press, 2013).

Peter Dauvergne, *The Shadows of Consumption* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2008).

All other readings will be available on Desire2Learn (D2L) at <https://learn.colorado.edu/>.

Course Requirements

1. **Weekly Blog Responses** (20% of final grade): At the beginning of each week, I will post a specific question prompt on [our \(external\) class discussion board](#) (password: ept2014) and students will be required to write a 300 to 500-word blog post in response. Blog posts must be submitted by 11:59pm on the day they are due.

The lowest grade of the *five* posts will be dropped—making *each* blog response equal to 5% of the final class grade.

Review the detailed instructions below (pp.4-5) about these blog post assignments.

2. **i-clicker Quizzes** (20% of final grade): Each class will incorporate a series of i-clicker questions, which will test students on specifics from the course readings assigned for the day. Beyond sparking greater class discussion, these questions are intended to motivate students to regularly attend class (since there is no attendance policy) and to not fall behind in the readings.

The lowest *two* (of the total of 20) quiz grades will be dropped—making *each* daily quiz worth 1.1% of the final class grade.

3. **Midterm Exam** (30% of final grade): The midterm exam is scheduled for Wednesday, 23 July, and will consist in several short-answer questions and one, longer essay question.

4. **Final Exam or Paper** (30% of final grade): Students have the option *either* to take the final exam *or* to write a short (5 to 7-page) paper. *Students must notify me of their decision no later than the end of the 4th week of the term.*

The final exam—which is scheduled for Friday, 8 August—is cumulative. However, significant emphasis will be placed on the material that follows the midterm. The exam, again, will consist in several short-answer questions and one, longer essay question.

The term paper requirements are detailed below (p.5).

Final class grades will be based on the following scale:

93 – 100% = A	87 – 89% = B+	77 – 79% = C+	67 – 69% = D+	< 60% = F
90 – 92% = A-	83 – 86% = B	73 – 76% = C	63 – 66% = D	
	80 – 82% = B-	70 – 72% = C-	60 – 62% = D-	

Personal Expectations

Class Behavior: be respectful of, considerate toward, and patient with, your classmates. I am committed to establishing an atmosphere that fosters open, civil, and constructive lines of communication, and inappropriate or offensive conduct will not be tolerated. *If you feel uncomfortable at any time with any aspect of the class environment, I strongly encourage you to come discuss your concerns with me.*

Punctuality: persistent late arrivals are unacceptable.

Use of electronics: Students are expected to turn **OFF** all cell phones, iPods, and etc., upon entering the classroom. The use of computers, iPads, Kindles, and etc., are *not* allowed at any time. **The use of cell phones during class will result in a (0) for the day's i-clicker quiz.**

Exception: students with physical or learning disabilities requiring the use of computers for note-taking will certainly be accommodated. Such students, however, must contact me as soon as possible.

University and Course Policies

Disability accommodations: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Support Services (DSS) in a timely manner so that your needs may be accommodated. DSS requires that disabilities be documented, and can be contacted at 303-492-8671 or at dsinfo@colorado.edu.

Religious observances: Campus policy requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly accommodate students who have scheduling conflicts because of religious observances. Accordingly, students who need to reschedule exams or assignments should inform me as soon as possible.

Addressing discrimination: No discrimination or harassment will be tolerated in this class. If you believe you have been discriminated against, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment at 303-492-2127, or the Office of Student Conduct at 303-492-5550. Further information about University policies and campus resources can be found at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>.

Honor code: Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations may include cheating, plagiarism, aiding others in academic dishonesty, deception, fabrication, and etc. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including, but not limited to, university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Further details can be found at <http://colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>, and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>.

Plagiarism: If students have *any* doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, it is their responsibility to ask *before* submitting work as their own. Again, academic misconduct will be strictly punished—and depending on the nature of the offense, may result in an automatic failure for the entire course and further disciplinary action by the University.

Detailed Blog Post Instructions

How the blog postings will work week-to-week:

- (1) Each Monday morning I will post a specific question prompt on [our \(external\) class discussion board](#), which will require students to apply the week's reading assignments to a current environmental news event.
- (2) One week, **Group 1**—those students whose last names begin with the letters **A-M**—must respond directly to this prompt, satisfying all the requirements described below.
- (3) Conversely, **Group 2**—those students whose last names begin with the letters **N-Z**—must respond to one of the posts submitted by their Group 1 (A-M) classmates.

Secondary responses must *still* satisfy all of the requirements described below, but **students must take a position in support of or in opposition to the argument made by the classmate they choose to respond to**. (See further clarification below.)

In either case, students must justify specifically why they agree or disagree with their classmate's argument.

- (4) The following week, these roles reverse: where **Group 2**—those students whose last names begin with **N-Z**—must reply directly to the question prompt; and **Group 1**—those students whose names begin with **A-M**—must respond to one of their classmates.

Specific requirements of blog post assignments:

*** Students should understand that they will earn no points for merely expressing opinions: the aim here is to make informed and defensible arguments. ***

- (a) Each blog entry must be *at least* 300 words, and *no more than* 500 words.
- (b) These responses should be treated as brief position papers: students must take a side on the issue, and must clearly articulate *and justify* an argument.
 - **Think of your task here as convincing your fellow classmates that *your* perspective on the issue is the correct one.**
- (c) This will require students to support their arguments with sufficient evidence.
 - In other words, **you need to support your position by citing at least two external sources** (reputable news articles or academic journal articles).
 - Reputable news sources would include Reuters, Foreign Policy, The Economist, BBC News, Associated Press, New York Times, Washington Post, and etc.
 - Academic journals would include *Global Environmental Politics; Ethics, Policy, and Environment; Environmental Politics; Environmental Philosophy; Public Affairs Quarterly; Philosophy and Public Affairs; Ethics and International Affairs*; and etc.
 - Again, these **two** sources **cannot** include what is assigned to read for class, but **students are required to draw on course materials in making their arguments.**
 - **Provide proper in-text citations within your blog post—with page numbers whenever possible.**

A note on citing your sources:

- In-text, parenthetical citations should include the last name(s) of the author or authors, the year of the publication, and the specific page number from which a quote or paraphrase is drawn.
- For instance: (Smith 2012: 15).
- **All direct quotes and paraphrases must be appropriately cited.** The general rule of thumb is that if you're borrowing any idea from an author—even if you put it into your own words—a citation is necessary.
- For questions about citing sources, visit [Norlin Library's help page](#).

A reminder about responding to one of your classmate's blog posts:

- Remember that each week half of the class will *not* be responding directly to my question prompt, but rather to the responses that their classmates write.
- When responding to one of your fellow classmate's blog posts, you must still satisfy all of the above (a-c) requirements.
- However, with these *secondary* responses, **students must critique the argument made by the classmate they choose to respond to**—justifying why and how they agree or disagree with their classmate's position.

Instructions for Paper Option in Lieu of the Final Exam

- (a) Students will be given a choice between two paper topics, which I will make available at the end of the 4th week of the term.
- (b) The nature of this paper assignment is to have students critically examine a specific environmental policy issue-area from a moral perspective, and to critique the policy problem and argue for a morally justifiable policy solution using the normative concepts and theories we discuss throughout the semester.
- (c) A minimum of **six** external sources (with in-text citations) will be required—consisting in reputable news articles or academic journal articles.
- **All direct quotes and paraphrases must be appropriately cited.** See the note on citing sources above.
 - These six sources **cannot** include what is assigned to read for class, **but students are encouraged to also draw on course materials.**
- (d) Papers must be at least (5) *full* pages in length, but no more than (7) pages.
A works-cited page must also be included at the end of the paper, properly citing each external source. This does *not* count toward the page limit requirement.
- (e) Papers must be double-spaced, typed in 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.

Reading, Assignment, and Exam Schedule

<i>Week #1</i>	Total pages assigned:
<p>Tuesday, 8 July: Introduction 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Brown, Lester. 2011. <i>World On the Edge</i> (New York: Earth Policy Institute): pp.3-18. ▪ Vig and Kraft: pp.19-26. ▫ Question prompt for blog post #1 uploaded today: If your last name begins with the letters A-M: response due by Wednesday. If your last name begins with N-Z: response to one of the A-M posts due by Friday. 	
<p>Wednesday, 9 July: Scarcity and the management of natural resources I 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Ophuls, William and Stephan Boyan. 1992. <i>Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity Revisited</i> (New York: W.H. Freeman): <i>only</i> pp.1-7. ▪ [D2L] Arrow, Kenneth et al. 1995. "Economic Growth, Carrying Capacity, and the Environment," <i>Science</i>. Vol. 268. 28 April. ▪ Vig and Kraft: pp.185-93. ▫ Assignment due: blog post #1 (for A-M students) must be posted by 11:59pm. 	
<p>Thursday, 10 July: Scarcity and the management of natural resources II 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." <i>Science</i>. Vol. 162. 13 December. ▪ [D2L] Ostrum, Elinor, et al. 1999. "Revisiting the Commons." <i>Science</i>. Vol. 284. 9 April. ▪ Vig and Kraft: pp.193-202. 	
<p>Friday, 11 July: Economic development and environmental sustainability 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] U.N. Department of Public Information. 2012. "U.N. Secretary-General Announces New Sustainable Development Initiative" Press Release. United Nations. 9 August. ▪ [D2L] Harris, Richard. 2012. "Rio Environment Meeting Focuses On 'Energy For All'." <i>NPR, Morning Edition</i> podcast (3:42). 19 June. ▪ [D2L] Forero, Juan. 2013. "Hungry For Energy, Brazil Builds Monster Dams In the Amazon." <i>NPR, All Things Considered</i> podcast (4:50). 13 February. ▪ [D2L] Carruthers, David. 2001. "From Opposition to Orthodoxy." <i>Journal of Third World Studies</i>. Vol. 18, No. 2. ▪ [D2L] Daly, Herman and Kenneth Townsend. 1993. "Sustainable Growth: An Impossibility Theorem," in <i>Valuing the Earth</i> (Cambridge: MIT Press). ▫ Assignment due: blog post #1 (for N-Z students) must be posted by 11:59pm. 	

<i>Week #2</i>	Total pages assigned:
<p>Monday, 14 July: Resource distribution and issues of justice 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Singer, Peter. 1972. "Famine, Affluence, and Morality." <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i>. Vol. 1, No. 3: <i>only</i> pp.229-36 and 240-1. ▪ [D2L] Hardin, Garrett. 1974. "Lifeboat Ethics: the Case Against Helping the Poor." <i>Psychology Today</i>. September. ↓ 	

Monday, 14 July continued...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Beitz, Charles. 1975. "Justice and International Relations." <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i>. Vol. 4, No. 4: <i>only</i> pp.360-1, 373-8. ▫ Question prompt for blog post #2 uploaded today: If your last name begins with the letters N-Z: response due by Wednesday. If your last name begins with A-M: response to one of the N-Z posts due by Friday. 	
Tuesday, 15 July: Environmental Risk and inequitable distributions of harm	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dauvergne: pp.23-8. ▪ [D2L] Ringquist, Evan. 2003. "Environmental Justice: Normative Concerns, Empirical Evidence, and Government Action," in <i>Environmental Policy</i>, Vig and Kraft, eds. (Washington: CQ Press): <i>only</i> pp.249-62, 267-9. ▪ [D2L] Bullard, Robert. 1994. "Unequal Environmental Protection," in <i>Worst Things First?</i>, Finkel and Golding, eds. (Washington: Resources for the Future): <i>only</i> pp.241-8. 	
Wednesday, 16 July: Public (mis)perceptions of environmental risk	42
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Layzer, Judith. 2012. "Love Canal: Hazardous Waste and the Politics of Fear," in <i>The Environmental Case</i> (Washington: CQ Press): <i>only</i> pp.56-63, 69-70, 76-8. ▪ [D2L] Vogel, David. 2012. <i>The Politics of Precaution</i> (Princeton: Princeton University Press): <i>only</i> pp.63-4 and 73-81. ▪ [D2L] Sunstein, Cass. 2005. <i>Laws of Fear</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press): pp.89-106. ▫ Assignment due: blog post #2 (for N-Z students) must be posted by 11:59pm. 	
Thursday, 17 July: Market principles, quantifying risk, and the greater good	43
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vig and Kraft: pp.206-19, 225-6. 15 ▪ [D2L] Goodin, Robert. 1994. "Selling Environmental Indulgences." <i>Kylos: International Review for Social Sciences</i>. Vol. 47, No. 4: <i>only</i> pp.573-6, 581-3, 589-91. 10 ▪ [D2L] Sunstein, Cass. <i>Ibid</i>: pp.129-32, 135-48. 	
Friday, 18 July: Critics of QRA and the utilitarian cost-benefit calculus	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Rawls, John. 1971. <i>A Theory of Justice</i> (Cambridge: Belknap Press): pp.27-33. ▪ [D2L] Ophuls, William and Stephan Boyan. 1992. <i>Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity Revisited</i> (New York: W.H. Freeman): <i>only</i> pp.8-10. ▪ [D2L] Sagoff, Mark. 1988. <i>Economy of the Earth</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press): <i>only</i> pp.24, 26-40, 44-6. ▫ Assignment due: blog post #2 (for A-M students) must be posted by 11:59pm. 	

Week #3

Total pages assigned:

Monday, 21 July: Environmental risk and scientific uncertainty	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Percival, Robert et al. 2009. <i>Environmental Regulation: Law, Science, and Policy</i> (New York: Aspen Publishers): pages TBD (re: §409 of <i>Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act</i>) 	↓

Monday, 21 July continued...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Ibid.: pages TBD (re: §112 of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments). ▪ [D2L] Jordan, Andrew and Timothy O’Riordan. 1999. “The Precautionary Principle in Contemporary Environmental Policy and Politics,” in <i>Protecting Public Health and the Environment</i>, Raffensperger and Tickner, eds. (Washington: Island Press): <i>only</i> pp.19-29. ▪ Documentary on Monsanto’s <i>Seeds of Death</i>: http://bit.ly/1mlfyvc (1:19:37). ▫ Question prompt for blog post #3 uploaded today: If your last name begins with the letters A-M: response due by Friday. If your last name begins with N-Z: response to one of the A-M posts due by Sunday. 	
Tuesday, 22 July: The role and limit of science in environmental policy-making	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vig and Kraft: pp.158-61, 169-74. ▪ [D2L] Pielke, Roger. 2006. “When Scientists Politicize Science.” <i>Regulation</i>. Vol. 29, No. 1. ▪ [D2L] Oreskes, Naomi and Erik Conway. 2010. <i>Merchants of Doubt</i> (New York: Bloomsbury Press): <i>only</i> pp.183-90. 	
Wednesday, 23 July: Midterm Exam	
Thursday, 24 July: Professional development discussion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No new readings. 	
Friday, 25 July: Environmental protection as a matter of right I	34
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Mill, J.S. 2002 [1859]. <i>On Liberty</i>, in <i>The Basic writings of John Stuart Mill</i> (New York: Modern Library): pp.77-87. ▪ [D2L] Nozick, Robert. 1974. <i>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</i> (New York: Basic Books): pp.73-83. ▪ [D2L] Glendon, Mary Ann. 1991. <i>Rights Talk</i> (New York: Free Press): pp.76-89. ▫ Assignment due: blog post #3 (for A-M students) must be posted (today) by 11:59pm. ▫ Assignment due: blog post #3 (for N-Z students) must be posted by 11:59pm on Sunday. 	

Week #4

Total pages assigned:

Monday, 28 July: Environmental protection as a matter of right II	26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Caney, Simon. 2005. “Cosmopolitan Justice, Responsibility, and Global Climate Change.” <i>Leiden Journal of International Law</i>. Vol. 18, No. 4: <i>only</i> pp.255-64. ▪ [D2L] Shrader-Frechette, Kristin. 2007. “Human Rights and Duties to Alleviate Environmental Injustice.” <i>Journal of Human Rights</i>. Vol. 6, No. 1: <i>only</i> pp.107-24. ▫ Question prompt for blog post #4 uploaded today: If your last name begins with the letters N-Z: response due by Wednesday. If your last name begins with A-M: response to one of the N-Z posts due by Friday. 	
Tuesday, 29 July: Moral responsibility and future generations	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). 1997. “Responsibilities of the Present Generations towards Future Generations.” United Nations. 12 November. 	↓

<p>Tuesday, 29 July continued...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Passmore, John. 1974. <i>Man's Responsibility for Nature</i> (London: Duckworth): pp.87-92 and 98-100. ▪ [D2L] Caney, Simon. 2005. "Cosmopolitan Justice, Responsibility, and Global Climate Change." <i>Leiden Journal of International Law</i>. Vol. 18, No. 4: <i>only</i> pp.264-70. ▪ [D2L] Hiskes, Richard. 2005. "Environmental Rights, Intergenerational Justice, and Reciprocity with the Future." <i>Public Affairs Quarterly</i>. Vol. 19, No. 3: <i>only</i> pp.186-91. 	
<p>Wednesday, 30 July: Moral responsibility and ecological consumerism I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dauvergne: pp.155-64 and 183-92. ▪ [D2L] O'Rourke, Dara. 2011. "Citizen Consumer." <i>Boston Review</i>. 1 November: <i>only</i> pp.1-7. ▫ Assignment due: blog post #4 (for N-Z students) must be posted by 11:59pm. 	26
<p>Thursday, 31 July: Moral responsibility and ecological consumerism II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] O'Rourke, Dara. 2011. "Citizen Consumer, Responses To." <i>Boston Review</i>. November/December: <i>only</i> pp.7-17. ▪ [D2L] Maniates, Michael. 2001. "Individualization: Plant a Tree, Ride a Bike, Save the World?" <i>Global Environmental Politics</i>. Vol. 1, No. 3: <i>only</i> pp.38-44. ▪ [D2L] Sinnott-Armstrong, Walter. 2005. "It's Not My Fault." <i>Perspectives on Climate Change: Science, Economics, Politics, Ethics</i>. Vol. 5: <i>only</i> pp.295-7, 304-7, 311-12. 	26
<p>Friday, 1 August: Market-greening and corporate social responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dauvergne: pp.70-77. ▪ [D2L] Clapp, Jennifer. 2005. "Global Environmental Governance for CSR and Accountability." <i>Global Environmental Politics</i>. Vol. 5, No. 3. ▪ [D2L] Cherry, Miriam and Judd Sneirson. 2011. "Beyond Profit: Rethinking CSR and Greenwashing After BP Oil Disaster." <i>Tulane Law Review</i>. Vol. 85, No. 4: <i>only</i> pp.1025-32, 1034-5. ▫ Assignment due: blog post #4 (for A-M students) must be posted by 11:59pm. 	27

Week #5

Total pages assigned:

<p>Monday, 4 August: Population growth and consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Kunzig, Robert. 2011. "Population 7 Billion: Can the Planet Take the Strain?" <i>National Geographic</i>. January: 34-69 (<i>only</i> 9 pages of text). ▪ Vig and Kraft: pp.301-313. ▪ Dauvergne: pp.135-54 and 165-7. ▪ [D2L] Henn, Steve. 2013. "Factory Audits And Safety Don't Always Go Hand In Hand." <i>NPR, Morning Edition</i> podcast (5:09). 1 May. ▫ Question prompt for blog post #5 uploaded today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your last name begins with the letters A-M: response due by Wednesday. If your last name begins with N-Z: response to one of the A-M posts due by Thursday. 	45
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<p>Tuesday, 5 August: Environmental policy and collective action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dauvergne: pp.105-14. ▪ [D2L] Handout explaining the failure of the Kyoto Protocol. ▪ [D2L] Handout explaining why large-scale collective efforts are prone to fail. ▪ Dauvergne: chapter 23. 	23
<p>Wednesday, 6 August: So where are we headed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [D2L] Nafeez Ahmed. 2014. "NASA-funded Study: Industrial Civilisation Headed for 'Irreversible' Collapse?" <i>The Guardian</i>. 14 March. (3) ▪ [D2L] Nordhaus, Ted and Michael Shellenberger. 2007. "Second Life: A Manifesto for a New Environmentalism." <i>The New Republic</i>. 24 September. ▪ [D2L] Brown, Lester. Ibid: pp.183-202. ▪ Assignment due: blog post #5 (for A-M students) must be posted by 11:59pm. 	26
<p>Thursday, 7 August: Review for final exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No new readings. ▪ Assignment due: blog post #5 (for N-Z students) must be posted by 11:59pm. 	
<p>Friday, 8 August: Final exam (in our regular classroom and at our normal meeting time)</p>	