Welcome to Environmental Values, Policy, and the Law. I’m looking forward to learning a lot next semester, and I hope you are too. For the first class, please read around in Deborah Stone’s book, Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making. This book is now available in the bookstore, and it will be the object of discussion in our first class. Stone has little to say about the environment, but she has an attitude towards policy-making that is interesting and provocative. I hope it will help sweep away some preconceptions and some excessively formal ways of looking at how policy decisions actually get made. If you don’t have time to read the entire book, read the introduction, Part I, and the conclusion. Also be sure to check out the various charts, figures, and cartoons that are scattered throughout the book.

There are a lot of books on order for this class. Most of them are easy reads so please don’t be intimidated. Moreover, we may not use all of them, so it might be best to hold off purchasing them until after the syllabus is distributed. I’m in the process now of reorganizing the syllabus. It will appear on blackboard by the beginning of next week. I’ve also decided to reduce the length of the research paper to around 20 pages.

In addition to this reading assignment, please come to class with a page about yourself, including where you are from, where you were an undergraduate, what you studied, experience that is relevant to this course, and at least one interesting, random fact about yourself.

See you on Wednesday.

DJ