

NRM 5320 (or 5303) - Environmental Law & Policy Syllabus - Fall 2015

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Office Hours: Because this is a completely online course, primary contact with the instructor is via email or phone. However, you can schedule an appointment if you need additional help and would like an office meeting. General questions about material or exams should be posted to the "Class Tuning Blog" for the benefit of all students. This Blog is also the place for you to provide informal feedback during the class. Any personal communications that you may have (i.e., questions about grades, etc.) should be emailed directly to the instructor.

Required Text: Salzman, J. and Thompson, B. H., Jr. 2013. Environmental Law and Policy. 4th edition. Foundation Press, St Paul, MN, USA, 372p.

Catalog Description: Course will provide a conceptual framework of the legal system with regards to natural resources. Examines the existing policies and laws regulating wildlife, water, and land use. Reviews the roles and philosophies of various regulating and policy-making agencies including federal, state, and private organizations.

Course Objective: On completion of this course, students will have an understanding of environmental law including: 1) historical and present philosophies of state, federal, and private administrative organizations that manage or influence natural resource policy; 2) laws and regulations on pollution of air, water, and land; 2) the public trust doctrine and the protection of wetlands and endangered species; 3) renewable energy; and 4) NEPA and environmental impact statements.

Grading:

Assignments	40%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 100%

Scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; <60% = F

Course Schedule: Under the "Syllabus & Schedule" tab in Blackboard, you will find a copy of this syllabus and a copy of the course schedule. The class is presented in weekly blocks beginning on Monday and ending on Sunday with all readings, assignments, and exams being due the last day of each week (Sunday). Check the schedule frequently for possible changes.

Weekly Assignments: Under this tab in Blackboard, you will find your readings and assignments for the week. Assignments may include research activities, written papers, and postings to the discussion board (also called discussion forum). Most will be discussion board questions that will be initiated by the instructor based on that week's topics. Each student should participate in the forum and each posting will be graded based upon the relevance, depth

of knowledge, and unique contribution that it made to the discussion. For each discussion board, you will need to make your own original post, as well as comment on posts by other students or instructors.

Exams: Exams will be short answer and/or essay questions covering the textbook and other readings assigned in class. Most questions will come directly from the “Questions and Discussions” at the end of each chapter in your textbook. Exams will be given online in Blackboard (see schedule for dates). I advise that you answer each of the questions at the end of each chapter in preparation for the exams.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes copying, sharing, or obtaining information from an unauthorized source, attempting to take credit for the intellectual work of another person, falsifying information, and giving or receiving information about a test, quiz, or assignment to another student. Any student involved in academic dishonesty will receive no credit (0) for work done and/or may be penalized in accordance with published university rules. Multiple offenses will result in expulsion from the class with the grade of F.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard, which require secure login information to verify students’ identities and to protect students’ information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Counseling and Accessibility Services: It is Sul Ross State University Policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the Counseling and Accessibility Services in Ferguson Hall (room 112) or call 432 837-8203.

Additional Outcome Objectives as Required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools:

Program Learning Outcomes for the M.Agr. in Range and Wildlife Management

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she is able to:

1. Apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data
2. Evaluate literature and references as they apply to the natural resource field
3. Demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.

Program Learning Outcomes for the M.S. in Range and Wildlife Management

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she is able to:

1. Apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data
2. Evaluate literature and references to substantiate an applied research project.
3. Examine, select, and utilize appropriate resources, materials, and data collection instruments to implement research projects.
4. Justify and defend the research questions and design.

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Week	Beginning Date	Ending Date	Topic	Exams
1	8/24	8/30	Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy	
2	8/31	9/6	Perspectives on Environmental Law and Policy	
3	9/7	9/13	Practice of Environmental Protection	
4	9/14	9/20	Enforcement	Exam 1
5	9/21	9/27	Clean Air Act	
6	9/28	10/4	Global Air Pollution	
7	10/5	10/11	Water Pollution	
8	10/12	10/18	Regulating Toxic Substances	
9	10/19	10/25	Waste Management	Exam 2
10	10/26	11/1	Wetlands, Endangered Species, & Public Trust	
11	11/2	11/8	Energy	
12	11/9	11/15	National Environmental Policy Act	
13	11/16	11/22	Conservation Law - Easements & Land Trusts	
14	11/23	11/29	Thanksgiving - no class	
15	11/30	12/6	Wrap-up	Exam 3