

Sul Ross State University
NRM 5320 - Environmental Law & Policy
Dept. of Natural Resource Management
Fall 2020 – Course Syllabus

Instructor:

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Office hours: Since this is an online class, communication will be through email or phone. If you would like to schedule a zoom meeting or phone call, please email me to schedule an appointment.

Class meeting time and space: Blackboard

Course 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.

Required Textbook:

Salzman, J. and Thompson, B. H., Jr. 2019. Environmental Law and Policy. **5th edition**. Foundation Press, St Paul, MN, USA.

Note: This book is available as a free ebook from the Sul Ross library. However, I encourage you to order your own copy of the book as access from the library is limited to 1 user at a time.

Grading:

	Total Points	% of Course Grade
Assignments (25 pts each)	600	60%
Exam 1	100	10%
Exam 2	100	10%
Exam 3	100	10%
Peer Assessment	100	10%
TOTAL	1,000	100%

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

Assignment/Course Work Details

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 (by midnight Thursday), as well as comment on at least 2 posts by other students (by midnight Sunday).

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.

Peer Assessment:

You will choose one week for which you will act as the facilitator for that week's discussion forums. In addition to your usual discussion board postings, you will also facilitate and grade the discussion forum for that week. Specific instructions will be provided in Blackboard.

Course Schedule

NRM 5320 - Environmental Law and Policy: Fall 2020 Tentative Course Schedule (see Blackboard for a more detailed schedule):

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

Distance Education Non-Participation Statement:

Policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses. The University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor may drop a student for excessive absences. In Web courses, this policy is interpreted as not participating for more than 3 weeks in a long semester, 1 week in a summer session, or 3 days in the midwinter session. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an “F” in the course dropped. Inactivity may include the following:

- Not logging on to the course
- Not submitting assignments
- Not participating in scheduled activities
- Not communicating with the instructor by phone or email, and/or
- Not following the instructor’s participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

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. Copying information verbatim from a book, another paper, or the internet is also plagiarism, instead you must paraphrase or state the information in your own words. 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 (see student handbook). Multiple offenses will result in the expulsion from the class with the grade of F.

SRSU Disability Services:

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU’s Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we’ll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

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.

SRSU Library Services:

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Additional Outcome Objectives as Required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools:*Student Learning Outcomes for the M.S. in Natural Resource Management*

1. Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to research.
2. Students will be able to evaluate literature and references to substantiate the applied research project.
3. Students will be able to justify and defend research questions and design.

Student Learning Outcomes for the M.Ag. in Natural Resource Management.

1. Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data.
2. Students will be able to evaluate literature and references as they apply to the natural resource field
3. Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.