

# **NRM 3304:W01 – Fall 2021**

## **Natural Resource Policy and Administration**

### **Instructor:**

Dr. Rob Kinucan  
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### **Communication Expectations and Office Hours:**

Because this is an online class, communication will be through a Virtual Office Discussion Forum, email, Blackboard Collaborate or by phone. I have noted my virtual office hours in Blackboard and if these times don't work with your schedule, we can plan a meeting by appointment. Your Sul Ross email is the official institutional email and is what I will use. There is a good possibility that if you use an alternate email for class, it may go directly to spam. Please use your SR email for class business. All announcements and communications from me will be through Blackboard and your Sul Ross email. For technical help, please use the Blackboard Help Desk.

### **Course Meeting Times:**

This is an asynchronous course with no formal meeting times. You should plan on spending adequate time each day on the class so that you can learn the material and complete the course assignments.

### **Required Text:**

Freyfogle, E. T., D. D. Goble, and T. A. Wildermuth 2019. *Wildlife Law: A Primer*. Second Edition. Island Press, Washington D.C., USA. ISBN: 9781610919135. This resource is available as a free eBook through the Sul Ross library. Search for the title under "All Library Search" and check Full Text (Online) at <https://library.sulross.edu>.

### **Course Description:**

My name is Dr. Rob Kinucan, welcome to NRM 3304, Natural Resource Policy and Administration! I have worked and studied in the field of natural resource management for many years, on both private and public lands, and have come to appreciate the impact of the laws, regulations and policies that affect the use and management of our natural resources. Often our laws are controversial, and they can elicit strong emotions from both supporters and detractors. In this course we will explore how and why laws originated, how they have been implemented and the impacts they have on not only wildlife, but on the use and management of a wide array of public and private natural resources. It is an intriguing journey and one that

will likely impact you in subtle and not so subtle ways as a natural resource manager. I'm excited to share this time together, not only because I find the topic fascinating, but because I learn new things every time I work with students. I look forward to working with you this semester!

### **Catalog Description:**

An advanced course in land use management and policy, administrative organizations, and public relation philosophies of private, state, and federal agencies that manage natural resources on publicly and privately owned lands.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

In this course you will gain a broad overview of natural resource laws. By end of the class, you should have an understanding of: 1) the historical and contemporary philosophies of state, federal, and private organizations that manage or influence natural resource policy, particularly as it relates to wildlife; 2) the political context of important legislation and acts; and 3) a current perspective of managing natural resources through the review of popular news and magazine articles.

Upon completion of NRM 3304, Natural Resource Policy and Administration, course participants will be able to:

- Describe and explain six historical and current natural resource management goals of state, federal, and private organizations managing natural resources.
- List and describe the ten most significant laws since 1900 impacting the management of natural resources and support their choice of each.
- Recognize and discuss five distinctions between natural resource management on private versus public lands.
- Interpret and appraise the political and social context of five key legislative acts.
- Analyze the consequences of legislation as it concerns the resource, management agency and impacted constituents as demonstrated through weekly assignments.
- Analyze popular literature and appraise how public perceptions may influence the introduction of legislation and implementation and enforcement of existing laws through weekly summaries and analysis of journal, newspaper and magazine articles.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for the B.S. In Natural Resource Management:

- Students will be able to identify species of wildland plants and wildlife common to the western United States and describe their natural history.
- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the elements of an ecosystem.
- Students will be able to communicate about natural resources and conservation both verbally and in writing.

### **Accessibility Services:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a

request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counselling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu)

### **Distance Education Statement:**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, including online data bases and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires 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. Student 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.

### **Academic Integrity:**

All students are expected to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to consequences. This relates to any form of academic dishonesty (cheating on an exam or other academic work submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials). Do your own work and use 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.

### **Online Classroom Etiquette:**

An advantage to taking an online course is a level of anonymity, which gives students the freedom to share opinions without feeling intimidated. Regardless of how bold you may feel, do not forget that a real person is on the receiving end of your emails and/or postings. Because written language can be misinterpreted, review your message and make sure it conveys precisely what you mean to say before you click "Send" or "Submit." Disruptive or intimidating behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior is defined as anything that prevents students from learning and/or prevents the professor from teaching. Especially in discussion forums, participants must be courteous and respectful. To respectfully disagree without contempt is a life skill that will serve you well in the future. You have the right to disagree with others, but you are expected to do so diplomatically.

### **Assignment Submission and Makeup Policy:**

Turn in work on time! If you have a specific circumstance that prevents you from submitting an assignment on time, reach out as soon as possible. If you have a valid reason, I will accept last work, but 10 % will be deducted from your total score each day it is late. No work will be accepted beyond one week.

**Grading:**

Assignments	70%
Midterm Journal Project	15%
Final Journal Project	15%
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>100%</u>

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

**Weekly Assignments:**

The course is structured into 15 Weekly Topics. Each week has a different set of assignments and readings that are available as links in your Blackboard menu. Weekly assignments will consist of readings, review questions, and/or summaries. All assignments are due by the end of each topic week (see schedule for dates). Assignments should be uploaded to the course website under each assignment link. MS Wordfiles are preferred using this naming convention, Assignmet\_LastnameFirstname, (for example, Week1\_KinucanRobert.docx). Each student must do his/her individual work – you may not copy other students, the textbook, articles, or information from the internet. Your materials are subject to submission to plagiarism software.

**Journal:**

Reflective practice increases self-awareness and active engagement. Each of you will create a journal that reflects on articles relevant to each week’s topics. The journal can be accessed under the “journal” menu tab in Blackboard. I expect you to find a news or magazine article related to each week’s topic and post it as a reflective journal entry. One article is required for each week (except for weeks 8 and 15 when no topics are covered). Provide a brief summary for each article and reflect on how the article is influenced by policy and how it may impact how you would approach a management position. More details are available in Blackboard. The journal will be graded as two units, your midterm journal project (end of week 8) and as your final journal project (end of week 15). Please start this project early!

**Schedule:**

NRM 3304 – Fall 2021

Week	Beginning date	Due date*	Topic (Chapter)	Activity/Assignment
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1	23-Aug	29-Aug	Week 1. The Basics	<p>Introduce yourself discussion</p> <p>Read Chapter 1</p> <p>Complete chapter 1 questions</p> <p>Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling (see Journal under course content for assignment details and completing your journal for the midterm)</p>
2	30-Aug	5-Sep	Week 2. State Ownership and the Public Interest	<p>Read Chapter 2</p> <p>Complete chapter 2 questions</p> <p>Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling (see Journal under course content for details)</p> <p>Read Public Trust Doctrine article, write and submit essay following instructions</p>
3	6-Sep	12-Sep	Week 3. Capturing and Owning	<p>Read Chapter 3</p> <p>Complete chapter 3 questions</p> <p>Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling</p> <p>Submit weekly journal entry</p> <p>Read article on Chronic Wasting, write and submit essay</p>
4	13-Sep	19-Sep	Week 4. Wildlife on Private Land	<p>Read Chapter 4</p> <p>Complete chapter 4 questions</p> <p>Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling</p> <p>Submit weekly journal entry</p> <p>Read article on The Texas Right to Hunt legislation, write and submit essay</p>
5	20-Sep	26-Sep	Week 5. Inland Fisheries	<p>Read Chapter 5</p> <p>Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts</p> <p>Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling</p> <p>Submit weekly journal entry</p>
6	27-Sep	3-Oct	Week 6. The Constitutional Framework	<p>Read Chapter 6</p> <p>Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts</p> <p>Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling</p> <p>Submit weekly journal</p>

				entry
7	4-Oct	10-Oct	Week 7. State Game Laws and Nuisance Species	Read Chapter 6 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling Submit weekly journal entry
8	11-Oct	17-Oct	Week 8. MIDTERM JOURNAL PROJECT DUE	Midterm – no chapter or article assignments this week Use this time to complete your midterm journal submission (worth 15% of your course grade) if you haven't already completed your journal assignments These journals include 7 entries, one for each week covering chapters 1-7
9	18-Oct	24-Oct	Week 9. Private Wildlife Operations	Read Chapter 8 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling Submit weekly journal entry
10	25-Oct	31-Oct	Week 9. Tribal Rights to Wildlife	Read Chapter 9 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling Submit weekly journal entry
11	1-Nov	7-Nov	Week 10. Key Federal Statutes	Read Chapter 10 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling Submit weekly journal entry
12	8-Nov	14-Nov	Week 12. Wildlife on Federal Lands	Read Chapter 11 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling Submit weekly journal entry
13	15-Nov	21-Nov	Week 13. Endangered Species Act: Listing and Critical Habitat	Read Chapter 12 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling Submit weekly journal entry

				entry
14	22-Nov	28-Nov	Week 14. Endangered Species Act: Protections	Read Chapter 13 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts Select and read relevant weekly topic for journaling Submit weekly journal entry
15	29-Nov	5-Dec	FINAL JOURNAL PROJECT DUE	Final – no chapter or article assignments this week Use this time to complete your final journal submission (worth 15% of your course grade) if you haven't already completed your journal assignments These journals include 6 entries, one for each week covering chapters 8-13

\*The beginning date is the start of the weekly assignment. You will have one (1) week to complete all readings and assignments for each topic (Monday-Sunday). Each topic should be completed in the week it is assigned and all assignments are due by Sunday at midnight of the due date. In case of technical problems with Blackboard on the weekend, you have a short grace period where I will still accept submissions until Noon on Monday. Anything submitted after the grace period will receive an automatic 0. Exceptions may be made (see makeup policy) but only under extraordinary circumstances that must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. Changes to our schedule are highly unlikely, but if circumstances warrant, notice of changes will be posted in Blackboard under Announcements