

Sul Ross State University
NRM 5320 - Environmental Law & Policy
Dept. of Natural Resource Management
Fall 2021 – Course Syllabus

Instructor:

Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson

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Office hours: My official office hours are on Mondays from 10:00-Noon and 1:30-4:30pm, but I am available to meet by appointment at other times too. Since this is an online class, most communication will be through email, phone, or Blackboard Collaborate (virtual meeting). If you would like to have an in-person meeting, virtual 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 Objectives:

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 Facilitator | 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 Facilitator:

You will choose 2 weeks for which you will act as the facilitator for the discussion forums. In addition to your usual discussion board postings, you will also facilitate the discussion forum for those weeks. Specific instructions will be provided in Blackboard.

Course Schedule

NRM 5320 - Environmental Law and Policy: Fall 2021 Course Schedule (see Blackboard for a more detailed schedule):

| Week | Beginning Date | Ending Date | Topic | Exams |
|------|----------------|-------------|--|--------|
| 1 | 23-Aug | 29-Aug | Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy | |
| 2 | 30-Aug | 5-Sep | Perspectives on Environmental Law and Policy | |
| 3 | 6-Sep | 12-Sep | Practice of Environmental Protection | |
| 4 | 13-Sep | 19-Sep | Enforcement | Exam 1 |
| 5 | 20-Sep | 26-Sep | Clean Air Act | |
| 6 | 27-Sep | 3-Oct | Global Air Pollution | |
| 7 | 4-Oct | 10-Oct | Water Pollution | |
| 8 | 11-Oct | 17-Oct | Regulating Toxic Substances | |
| 9 | 18-Oct | 24-Oct | Waste Management | Exam 2 |
| 10 | 25-Oct | 31-Oct | Wetlands, Endangered Species, & Public Trust | |
| 11 | 1-Nov | 7-Nov | Energy | |
| 12 | 8-Nov | 14-Nov | National Environmental Policy Act | |
| 13 | 15-Nov | 21-Nov | Conservation Law - Easements & Land Trusts | |
| 14 | 22-Nov | 28-Nov | Thanksgiving - no class | |
| 15 | 29-Nov | 5-Dec | Wrap-up | Exam 3 |

Distance Education Statement:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, 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. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

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 Integrity:

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

SRSU Library Services:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine 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 logging in with your Lobold and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, library.swtjc.edu. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

SRSU Disability Services:

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.

Classroom Climate of Respect:

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Diversity Statement:

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

Marketable Skills (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board):

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of key NRM topics
2. Students will be able to apply knowledge to projects that include bio statistics, research methods, and scientific writing.
3. Students will demonstrate skills in scientific writing and analysis.

Additional Outcome Objectives (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.