NRM 5320: Syllabus

Sul Ross State University
NRM 5320 - Environmental Law & Policy
Dept. of Natural Resource Management
Fall 2022 – Course Syllabus

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Office hours: Tuesday 1 – 3 PM and Thursday 8 – 11 AM, and by appointment. If you would like to meet virtually or by phone please email me to schedule an appointment.

Class meeting time and space:
Asynchronous Blackboard (Web)

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 understand 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; 3) the public trust doctrine and the protection of wetlands and endangered species; 4) renewable energy; and 5) 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.

This book is available as a free in-house use Textbook at the SRSU Library in Alpine and as a free eBook from the SRSU Library online (library.sulross.edu).

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Weekly Course Activities:

Under the **COURSE CONTENT** menu in Blackboard, find required activities for each week of the course. Activities include required reading, reviewing, and/or viewing and responding to prompts, then engaging in conversation in the **Discussion Board**.

The class is structured into weekly time periods that begin on Monday and end on Sunday. All assignments are due by Sunday. In case of a technical issue with Blackboard on the weekend, you will be given a grace period until Monday at noon to submit assignments. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Each activity will be graded based upon the relevance, depth of knowledge, and unique contribution that it made to the discussion and/or course. Each Course Activity is worth 25 points. You are graded on rubrics which are accessible in **My Grades** on Blackboard under **COURSE INFORMATION**. For example, in order to achieve maximum points for *Timely and Complete* Participation (20% of each 25 points possible), for each Discussion Board activity, make your first original post (by midnight Thursday), and **minimally** comment on at least two (2) posts by other students (by midnight Sunday).

> **Discussion Board Facilitation:**
> An additional course activity requires a student to facilitate the discussion on the Discussion Board each week. During Week 1's Activities, each student will select two weeks to act as facilitator. More instructions and information about grading are on Blackboard under **Activity Info – Discussion Board Facilitation**.

Syllabus Quiz:

Before the **COURSE CONTENT** can be accessed (including content for Week 1), students must review the **Start Here module content** and complete the **Syllabus Quiz**. The Start Here module content is available under **COURSE CONTENT** on Blackboard.

Exams:

There are three (3) short answer and/or essay question exams throughout the course: Week 4, Week 9, and Week 15. Exams cover the textbook and other readings assigned in class. Exams are given online in Blackboard and worth 100 points each, 10% each of your total grade. Review for exams by answering the questions at the end of each chapter of the textbook. A rubric will be made available before Exam 1.

Grading:

You will receive feedback on each graded assignment in the **My Grades** area of Blackboard. Grading percentage breakdowns are below. Rubrics for assignments are available in **My Grades** as well.

	Total Points	**% of Course Grade**
Course Activities (25 pts each)	600	60%
Exam 1	100	10%
Exam 2	100	10%
Exam 3	100	10%
Discussion Board Facilitation	100	10%
TOTAL	**1,000**	**100%**

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

Course Schedule

NRM 5320 - Environmental Law and Policy: Fall 2022 Course Schedule
Weekly Activities open on Mondays and close on Sundays

Week	Beginning Date	Ending Date	Topic	Activities/Exams
1	22-Aug	28-Aug	Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy	3 activities
2	29-Aug	4-Sep	Perspectives on Environmental Law and Policy	2 activities
3	5-Sep	11-Sep	Practice of Environmental Protection	3 activities
4	12-Sep	18-Sep	Enforcement	Exam 1 due 18-Sep
5	19-Sep	25-Sep	Clean Air Act	3 activities
6	26-Sep	2-Oct	Global Air Pollution	2 activities
7	3-Oct	9-Oct	Water Pollution	3 activities
8	10-Oct	11-Oct	Regulating Toxic Substances	3 activities
9	12-Oct	23-Oct	Waste Management	Exam 2 due 23-Oct
10	24-Oct	30-Oct	Wetlands, Endangered Species, & Public Trust	1 activity
11	31-Oct	6-Nov	Energy	1 activity
12	7-Nov	13-Nov	National Environmental Policy Act	1 activity
13	14-Nov	20-Nov	Conservation Law - Easements & Land Trusts	2 activities
14	21-Nov	27-Nov	Thanksgiving - no class	0 activities
15	28-Nov	4-Dec	Wrap-up (last class day is November 30)	Exam 3 due 4-Dec

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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 LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-8378123).

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 apply learning to projects including 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
- Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to research.
- Students will be able to evaluate literature and references to substantiate the applied research project.
- Students will be able to justify and defend research questions and design.

Student Learning Outcomes for the M.Ag. in Natural Resource Management.
- Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data.
- Students will be able to evaluate literature and references as they apply to the natural resource field
- Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.