



## **Fall 2023**

### **Instructor:**

Dr. Rob Kinucan

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### **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!

### **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 and downloadable PDF through the Sul Ross library. Search for the title under “All Library Search” and check Full Text (Online) at <https://library.sulross.edu>.

### **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 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: 432-837-8203. More resources can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-accessibility-services/>

### **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. More information about accessing these resources can be found on the Sul Ross Blackboard Institution Page when you log into Blackboard. You can correspond with me using Sul Ross email accounts. 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. 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.

### **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 late work, but 10 % will be deducted from your score each day it is late. No work will be accepted beyond one week.

**Grading:**

Assignments	70%
Article Essays	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 from the text. 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 screened through SafeAssign, a plagiarism screening program. You will also review outside articles and write essays that summarize and analyse these topics. They will be submitted and assessed in a similar manner to the weekly assignments.

**Schedule:**

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Week	Beginning date	Due date*	Topic (Chapter)	Activity/Assignment
1	28-Aug	3-Sep	Week 1. The Basics	Introduce yourself discussion  Read Chapter 1 Complete chapter 1 questions
2	4-Sep	10-Sep	Week 2. State	Read Chapter 2

			Ownership and the Public Interest  Essay – Public Trust Doctrine	Complete chapter 2 questions  Read Public Trust Doctrine article, write and submit essay following instructions
3	11-Sep	17-Sep	Week 3. Capturing and Owning	Read Chapter 3 Complete chapter 3 questions
4	18-Sep	24-Sep	Week 4. Wildlife on Private Land	Read Chapter 4 Complete chapter 4 questions
5	25-Sep	1-Oct	Week 5. Inland Fisheries	Read Chapter 5 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts
6	2-Oct	8-Oct	Week 6. The Constitutional Framework	Read Chapter 6 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts
7	9-Oct	15-Oct	Week 7. State Game Laws and Nuisance Species	Read Chapter 7 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts
8	16-Oct	22-Oct	Week 8. Essay – Chronic Wasting Disease in Cervids	No chapter assignment this week Read article on Chronic Wasting, write, and submit essay
9	23-Oct	29-Oct	Week 9. Private Wildlife Operations	Read Chapter 8 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts
10	30-Oct	5-Nov	Week 9. Tribal Rights to Wildlife	Read Chapter 9 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts
11	6-Nov	12-Nov	Week 10. Key Federal Statutes	Read Chapter 10 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts
12	13-Nov	19-Nov	Week 12. Wildlife on Federal Lands	Read Chapter 11 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts
13	20-Nov	26-Nov	Week 13. Endangered Species Act: Listing and Critical Habitat	Read Chapter 12 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts
14	27-Nov	3-Dec	Week 14. Endangered Species Act: Protections	Read Chapter 13 Write a chapter summary using assignment prompts
15	4-Dec	10-Dec	Week 15. Essay – Texas Right to Hunt legislation	No chapter assignment this week Read article on The Texas Right to Hunt legislation, write and submit essay

\*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 extenuating circumstances that must be discussed with and approved by me. Changes to our schedule are highly unlikely, but if circumstances warrant, notice of changes will be posted in Blackboard under Announcements