



NRM 5320: Syllabus

Sul Ross State University

NRM 5320 - Environmental Law & Policy

Dept. of Natural Resource Management

Fall 2023 – Course Syllabus

Instructor: Betsy Helesic (Evans), M.S.I.S., M.Ag.

- **Office:** WML 103 (Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, Level 1)
- **Phone:** 432-837-8312
- **Email:** betsy.evans@sulross.edu
- **Office hours:** Typically, Monday – Thursday, 8 AM to 5 PM and by appointment. Because this is an online class, and I am not always in my office, communication is best by email or phone. You are welcome to drop by the library, or schedule time to meet in person or via Teams.

Class meeting time and space:

Asynchronous Blackboard (Web)

Course Catalog Description:

This course provides a conceptual framework of the legal system with regards to natural resources; Examines the existing policies and laws regulating wildlife, water, and land use; and 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:

- Historical and present philosophies of state, federal, and private administrative organizations that manage or influence natural resource policy;
- Laws and regulations on pollution of air, water, and land;
- The public trust doctrine and the protection of wetlands and endangered species;
- Renewable energy; and
- NEPA and environmental impact statements.



Textbook (required, **see note**):

- 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 in-house use Textbook at the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine and as a free eBook from the SRSU Library online (library.sulross.edu). Use QuickSearch to search the title of the textbook, or ask a Librarian for help.

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
Discussions (25 pts each)	600	60%
Response Paper	100	10%
Exam 1	100	10%
Exam 2	100	10%
Exam 3	100	10%
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TOTAL	1,000	100%

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

How this class works:

- This is an asynchronous, web-based course in Blackboard. This is a writing-heavy course.
 - The Blackboard course content is broken down into three areas: **COURSE INFORMATION**, **COURSE CONTENT**, and **QUICK LINKS**.

Under the **COURSE INFORMATION** menu in Blackboard, find access to the syllabus, announcements, instructor contact information, and more. Announcements are typically sent via email as well.

Under the **COURSE CONTENT** menu in Blackboard, find the course broken down into Weeks 1 through 15. Before Week 1, find the Start Here (Day 1) page. Activities each week include required reading, reviewing, and/or viewing and responding to prompts, then engaging in conversation in the **Discussion Board**.

The bottom menu, **QUICK LINKS**, provides access to Blackboard tools and instructor-recommended tools. There is also a quick link to the full Discussion Board in this area.

- 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.**

- This is a writing heavy course. This is a Discussion heavy course. Each activity (discussion board posts and responses) will be graded based upon the relevance, depth of knowledge, and unique contribution that it made to the discussion and/or course. Each 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).

Assignment (Activity) Types:

- **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. The Syllabus Quiz due date is Wednesday, August 30 at 11:59 PM.

- **Discussion Posts and Responses:**

Discussions make up the majority of points in this course. Discussion participation will be graded using the listed rubric. Discussions are not graded by completion. The grader will look for: Subject Knowledge & Integration of Materials (30%), Critical Analysis of the Topic (30%); Effective Writing (20%); and Timely & Complete Participation (20%). All rubrics which are accessible in **My Grades** on Blackboard under **COURSE INFORMATION**.

- **Response Paper:**

10% of your final grade will be assigned as a response paper in Week 4, due at the end of the term. Information about the response paper will be available on Blackboard under **COURSE INFORMATION** in Week 4. Response papers will be graded using the “writing assignments” rubric, accessible in **My Grades** on Blackboard under **COURSE INFORMATION**

- **Exams:**

There are three (3) short answer and/or essay question exams throughout the course: Term Week 4, Term Week 9, and Term 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. Response papers will be graded using the “writing assignments” rubric, accessible in **My Grades** on Blackboard under **COURSE INFORMATION**.

Course Schedule

NRM 5320 - Environmental Law and Policy: Fall 2023 Course Schedule

Weekly Activities open on Mondays and close on Sundays

Term Week	Beginning Date [Monday]	Ending Date [Sunday]	Weekly Topic	Activities/Exams
1	28-Aug	3-Sept	Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy	Reading + 2 activities
2	4-Sept	10-Sept	Perspectives on Environmental Law and Policy	Reading + 2 activities
3	11-Sept	17-Sep	Practice of Environmental Protection	3 activities
4	18-Sept	24-Sept	Enforcement	Exam 1 due 24-Sep
5	25-Sept	1-Oct	Clean Air Act	3 activities
6	2-Oct	8-Oct	Global Air Pollution	2 activities
7	9-Oct	15-Oct	Water Pollution	3 activities
8	16-Oct	22-Oct	Regulating Toxic Substances	3 activities
9	23-Oct	29-Oct	Waste Management	Exam 2 due 29-Oct
10	30-Oct	5-Nov	Wetlands, Endangered Species, & Public Trust	1 activity
11	6-Nov	13-Nov	Energy	1 activity
12	13-Nov	19-Nov	National Environmental Policy Act	1 activity
13	20-Nov	26-Nov	Thanksgiving – no class University CLOSED Nov 22-26	0 activities
14	27-Nov	3-Dec	Conservation Law: Easements and Land Trusts	2 activities
15	4-Dec	10-Dec	Wrap-up (last class day is December 6)	Exam 3 due 10-Dec

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.

Libraries:

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 by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at

various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

New for Fall 2023: Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and ScanIt to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

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.