



Sul Ross State University

NRM 5320 - Environmental Law & Policy

Dept. of Natural Resource Management

Fall 2024

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.helesic@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 “Salzman environmental law and policy,” or ask a Librarian for help.*

Grading:

You will receive feedback on each graded assignment in the **Gradebook** tab of Blackboard. Grading percentage breakdowns are below.

	Total Points Poss.	% of Final Grade
Discussions (25 @ 25 points)	600	60%
Response Paper	100	10%
Exam 1	100	10%
Exam 2	100	10%
Exam 3	100	10%
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.
- See **Start Here** for important information to ensure your success in the course.
- The class is structured into weekly time periods that begin on Monday and end on Sunday. All assignments are due by Sunday at 11:59 PM. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE INSTRUCTOR.**
- This is a writing heavy course. This is a discussion heavy course.

Assignment (Activity) Types:

- **Discussion Posts and Responses:**
Discussions make up 60% of graded material in this course (600 out of 1000 points broken into 25 discussions). Discussion participation will be graded using the posted rubric. Discussions are not graded by completion.
- **Response Paper:**
10% of your final grade (100 points) will be assigned as a response paper assigned in Week 5, due at the end of the term. The response paper will be graded using the posted rubric.
- **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 potentially other readings assigned in class. Exams are given online in Blackboard and worth 100 points each. (In other words, each exam constitutes 10% of your grade.) Review for exams by answering the questions at the end of each chapter of the textbook. Exams will be graded using the posted rubric.

Course Schedule

NRM 5320 - Environmental Law and Policy: Fall 2024 Course Schedule

Weekly Activities open on Mondays and close on Sundays

Term Week	Beginning Date [Monday]	Ending Date [Sunday]	Weekly Topic	Activities/Exams
1	August 26	Sept 1	Chapter 1: <i>Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy</i>	Intros and Discussion 1
2	Sept 3 (Tues)	Sept 8	Chapter 2: <i>Perspectives on Environmental Law and Policy</i>	Discussions 2-3
3	Sept 9	Sept 15	Chapter 3: <i>Practice of Environmental Protection</i>	Discussions 4-6
4	Sept 16	Sept 22	Chapter 4: <i>Enforcement – Challenges/Players/Process</i>	Exam 1 due 22-Sep
5	Sept 23	Sept 29	Chapter 5: <i>The Clean Air Act</i>	Discussions 7-9
6	Sept 30	Oct 6	Chapter 6: <i>Global Air Pollution</i>	Discussions 10-11
7	Oct 7	Oct 13	Chapter 7: <i>Water Pollution</i>	Discussions 12-14
8	Oct 14	Oct 20	Chapter 8: <i>Regulating Toxic Substances</i>	Discussions 15-17
9	Oct 21	Oct 27	Chapter 9: <i>Waste Management</i>	Exam 2 due 27-Oct
10	Oct 28	Nov 3	Chapter 10: <i>Wetlands, Endangered Species, and the Public Trust</i>	Discussions 18-19
11	Nov 4	Nov 10	Chapter 11: <i>Energy</i>	Discussions 20-21
12	Nov 11	Nov 17	Chapter 12: <i>The National Environmental Policy Act</i>	Discussions 22-23
13	Nov 18	Nov 24	Additional topics: <i>Conservation Law: Easements and Land Trusts</i>	Discussions 24-25
14	Nov 25	Dec 1	~ ~ ~ Thanksgiving Holiday ~ ~ ~	rest/relax/study
15	Dec 2	Dec 8	~ ~ ~ wrap-up coursework ~ ~ ~ (last class day is December 4)	Exam 3 due 8-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 a 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. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as 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. Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

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 (432-8378123).

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-andborrow/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.

ADA Statement (Americans with Disability Act Statement):

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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 Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

Counseling:

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting Timelycare/SRSU. The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

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.

Support 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.). 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. 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.