

NR 5344 NATURAL RESOURCES LAW AND POLICY (SPRING 2009)

Monday, 7:00-9:45 p.m.

Instructor: **Dr. Michael Mortimer**
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Office Hours: By Appointment

This seminar-styled course will introduce the legal principles forming the basis for the management of the various natural resources of the United States. Emphasis will be placed on understanding evolution of the current state of the law, as well as the resultant management implications on both private and public land.

By the conclusion of the course students will be expected to have an understanding and appreciation of:

- the political and legal components of a variety of natural resource subject areas;
- basic administrative and legal processes and terms as they apply to natural resource management;

and should evidence an ability to critically analyze the legal components of topical natural resource management issues in both oral and written forms.

Texts: -Rasband, Salzman and Squillace. 2004. *Natural Resources Law and Policy*.
Foundation Press. New York, NY.
-Supplemental on-line readings and cases, guest lecturers

*****NOTE: This syllabus is subject to revision or update*****

Date

Week #1	Introduction Legal Analysis Techniques/Case Presentations
Week #2	Chapter 1 Natural Resources Management, pp. 35-77.
Week #3	Chapter 2 History and Geography of Natural Resource Law, pp. 104-110, 129-204.
Week #4	Chapter 3 Role of Agencies, pp. 205-283
Week #5	Chapter 4 Wildlife and Biodiversity, pp. 328-402.
Week #6	Chapter 4 continued...
Week #7	<i>Spring Break</i>
Week #8	Chapter 5 Living Marine Resources, pp. 461-552.
Week #9	Chapter 6 Protected Lands, pp. 574-650, 665-690.
Week #10	Chapter 7 Water, pp. 727-794, 819-848.
Week #11	Water continued...
Week #11	Chapter 8 Rangelands, pp. 900-940.
Week #12	Chapter 9, Minerals, pp. 998-1041, 1121-1140.

Week #13 Chapter 10, Forests, pp. 1158-1254.

Week #14 Student presentations

Grades will be determined as follows:

Problem exercises/case studies	25%
Class Preparation/Participation	25%
Case Presentations	20%
Final Topic Analysis	30%

- Each student will choose 5 of 10 possible problem exercise/case studies to complete. A written response to the exercise, not to exceed 5 double-spaced pages, is required. The assignment is due **one week** from the day we cover **that chapter** in class.

- Students will be responsible for preparing to discuss the legal cases contained within the text. Each student will be assigned five cases for presentation and to lead discussion on during the course of the semester.

- A final analysis on the legal aspects of a natural resource topic of the student's choice will be due on the final class period. The analysis should incorporate legal research, citation, and should be in the 25-30 page range. An oral presentation for approximately 30 minutes will also be given on the last day class.

-The class participation grade will be a synthesis of preparedness and participation for all discussions. There is an expectation that students will adequately prepare outside of the classroom. As this is a seminar-format course with relatively few meetings, students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions.

The Virginia Tech Honor System applies to all facets of this class. All submitted assignments shall be considered graded work and shall be completed on an individual basis unless otherwise stated. While discussing assignments and getting assistance outside of class is both authorized and encouraged, copying materials from any source without crediting that source is considered a violation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the specific terms of the honor system, and to seek clarification if a question arises about the system's application to a particular assignment.

Students with special needs or circumstances are encouraged to meet with the instructor.