

NR 5344 NATURAL RESOURCES LAW AND POLICY (FALL 2009) ON-LINE

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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.

There is no text for the class. All readings and assignments will be handled on-line through VT's Scholar web-based system

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

Week #1 (August 24-August 30)

Introduction

- Live session--Centra
- Initial blog regarding "Why is natural resources law so very, very important?"
- Instructions, expectations, and the syllabus

Weeks #2 through #5 (August 31-September 26)

Module #1 Understanding Natural Resource Administration and the Legal System

- *Management Challenges and Tools.ppt* lecture
- *Federal Administration.ppt* lecture
- Quizzes (2x)
- Cases:
 - Chevron
 - Lujan I
 - Waste Management
 - Lucas
 - Lands Council v. McNair
 - Summers v. Earth Island
 - Vermont Yankee
 - Midwest Oil
 - Robertson v. Methow Valley
 - Heartwood
 - NWF v. USFS
 - Met Ed. v. PANE

Week #6 (September 28-October 4)

Module #2 Water Resources

- *Water Resources.ppt* lecture
- Quiz (1x)
- Cases
 - National Audubon v. Sup. Ct. Alpine Co.
 - SWANCC
 - Illinois Central
 - Stewart v. Bridges
 - Oklahoma v. Atkinson

Weeks #7 and #8 (October 5-October 18)

Module #3 Wildlife, Marine Resources, and Biodiversity

- *Wildlife and Biodiverstiy.ppt* lecture
- *Marine Resources.ppt* lecture
- Quizzes (2x)
- Cases
 - Geer v. CT
 - Hughes v. OK
 - TVA v. Hill
 - Gibbons v. Ogden
 - Northern Spotted Owl v. Hodel
 - N.C. Fisheries v. Daly

Weeks #9 and #10 (October 19-November 1)

Module #4 Public Land Management

- *Public Land Policy.ppt* lecture
- *Law of Rangeland Management.ppt* lecture
- Quizzes (2x)
- Cases
 - Johnson v. McIntosh
 - Kleppe
 - PLC v. Babbitt
 - NRDC v. Hodel
 - Sierra Club v. Hodel

Weeks #11 and #12 (November 2-November 15)

Module #5 Preservation and Recreation

- *Preservation Law.ppt* lecture
- Quiz (1x)
- Cases
 - Bear Lodge Multiple Use
 - Fund for Animals v. Norton
 - Palazzola v. RI
 - Wyoming v. USDA (Roadless)
 - SUWA v. Norton
 - Tulare v. Bush
 - MSLF v. Bush
 - YSNP Bioprospecting case

Weeks #13 and #14 (November 16-November 29)

Module #6 Extractive Uses

- *Mining Law.ppt* lecture
- *Forests and the Law.ppt* lecture
- Quizzes (2x)
- Cases
 - Sierra Club v. BOF
 - Izaak Walton League
 - Sierra Club v. Marita
 - Algonquin Coal
 - Amoco v. Southern Ute
 - Martin v. Kentucky Oak
 - Idaho Sporting Congress

Week #15 (November 30- December 6)

Final Week

- Live Session—Centra
- Final papers due

Grades will be determined as follows:	Case presentations	25%
	Class Preparation/Participation/Discussion	25%
	Quizzes	25%
	Final Topic Analysis Paper	25%

-Each student will be assigned 3-4 cases for presentation to the class and to lead discussion on during the course of the semester, that will include a case summary posted to the appropriate case forum with an accompanying discussion question.

- 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 20 page range.

-The class participation grade will be a synthesis of preparedness and participation for all on-line forum 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 participate weekly on-line and to make preparations to attend the two live class sessions in Weeks 1 and 15.

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.