

Course Code & No: ENVP 425 Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Environmental Law and Policy
Term & Year: Fall/2015
Course Ref.No.(CRN): 80113

Instructor: Professor Shannon Eckmeyer, J.D., M.E.L.P.
Phone: (775)750-6798
Email: seckmeyer@sierranevada.edu
Office: TCES
Office Hours: Wednesday 5:45pm-6:45pm
Monday 5:45pm-6:45pm (by appointment only)
Can arrange other hours by appointment

Class Meeting Time: MW 7pm-9pm
Location: TCES 206

Course Description

A study of federal, state, and local environmental laws as well as international treaties related to global environmental concerns. Considers the benefits and limitations of key environmental laws, and the costs and benefits of environmental regulation. In-depth case studies including issues in the Lake Tahoe basin are used to highlight the complexities of creating and implementing environmental laws.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Identify the significance of local, regional, state, national, and international environmental laws;
2. Describe the controversies surrounding environmental laws;
3. Understand the role of laws in environmental problem solving;
4. Describe the successes and failures of environmental regulation;
5. Describe the difficulties in implementing environmental laws; and
6. Be able to read and analytically examine case law and statutes.

Methods of Assessing Student Performance

Student performance will be assessed using the following:

1. Attendance and participation in class discussion and in class assignments;
2. Submission of a written research assignment;
3. Presentation of written research assignment;
4. Attendance of one local public meeting;
5. In-class, semi-opened book Midterm exam; and
6. In-class, semi-opened book Final exam.

Instructional Strategies

In-class instruction includes lectures, movie screening and critique, class discussion, analyzing case studies, analyzing different writing methods, student presentations on writing research assignment and comment letter writing, pop quizzes, and field trips. Student presentations will be followed with interactive discussions. Reading and class preparation assignments are required on a regular basis.

Required Text

1. James Salzman and Barten H. Thompson Jr, Environmental Law and Policy, 3rd Edition, 2010, Foundation Press
ISBN-13: 978-1599417714
2. Elizabeth D. Mullin, The Art of Communicating: How to influence environmental decision making with effective comments, 2nd Ed, 2013, ELI Books,
ISBN: 9781585761692

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the outset of each class session. Full attendance is expected in that class participation based on reading assignments is an important component of a student's grade. Your instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of "Incomplete" or "Fail" to any student missing in excess of four (4) class sessions.

Computing Devices/Cell Phones

Unless cleared in advance for note-taking use by your professor, laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, or other digital computing devices may not be used during class sessions. Breaches in this policy may result in expulsion from a class session.

Consequences for Violating the Faculty/Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and consequences for violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, and FABRICATION and refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

SNC's Disciplinary Sanctions for Honor Code Violations:

- 1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the Honor Code, consequences for violating the Honor Code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the Honor Code, consequences for violating the Honor Code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on the following breakdown:

1. Class Attendance/Class Preparation/Participation/Pop Quizzes – 30%
2. Written Research Assignment – 20%
3. Presentation on Written Research Assignment – 10%
4. Mid-Term Exam – 15%
5. Final Exam – 25%

Students are required to attend one public meeting as part of participation. There is opportunity for extra credit by attending an additional public meeting.

Class Preparation Assignments/Participation Assignments/Pop Quizzes/Public Meeting Points that equal 30% of student grade will be distributed as follows:

- 20 Class Preparation Assignments (assigned with reading) (2pts Each)
- 3 Pop Quizzes (5pts Each, Total 15pts)
- Comment Letter Writing/Discussion/Presentation (10pts)
- Attending Public Meeting (5pts)

Mandatory Special Accommodations (ADA) Statement

Academic Accommodations: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester

Mission Statement

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the **liberal arts** and **professional preparedness** through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes **entrepreneurial thinking** and environmental, social, economic and educational **sustainability**.

Class Schedule

(subject to change for variations in class progress)

Reading Assignments italicized. Students must read before the following lecture. The reading will be discussed at the lecture following the date it is assigned.

8/17	Intro/Housekeeping/Intro to Research Assignment
8/19	U.S. Legal Framework (<i>Case will be handed out in class to read for and discuss next class</i>)
8/24	How to Read/Interpret A Case (<i>read Chapter 1 Environmental Law and Policy</i>)
8/26	Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy (<i>Read Chapter 2 pgs 14-27</i>)
8/31	Perspectives in Environmental Law and Policy (<i>Finish Chapter 2</i>)
9/2	Analytical Framework of Environmental Law and Policy (<i>Begin Chapter 3</i>)
9/7	Labor Day – College Closed (Have Chapter 3 Finished by next class)
9/9	Practicing Environmental Protection/Toolkit (<i>Read TRPA Bi-State Compact for next class</i>)
9/14	TRPA and Local Governments (<i>Read Chapters 1-3 in The Art of Commenting</i>)
9/16	Presenter from TRPA & Local Field Trip to EIP projects (<i>Read Chapters 4-5 in Art of Commenting</i>)
9/21	Watch <i>Blue Gold</i> and Discuss (<i>Read Chapters 6,7 in Art of Commenting</i>)
9/23	Impacts of Climate change/Intro to Comment Letter Writing (<i>Write Comment Letter for next class</i>)
9/28	Comment Letter Activity/Edit/Discussion (<i>Take home and finish editing comment letter</i>)
9/30	Comment Letter Presentations/Review Comment Letters
10/5	Midterm Review
10/7	Midterm (<i>Begin Reading Chapter 4 of Environmental Law and Policy</i>)
10/12	Introduction to Air Pollution (<i>Finish Chapter 4 of Environmental law and Policy by next class</i>)
10/14	Clean Air Act (<i>Read Chapter 5 of Environmental Law and Policy, pgs 113-121</i>) *Paper Proposal is Due
10/19	Global Air Pollution – Ozone Depletion (<i>finish Chapter 5 of Environmental Law and Policy</i>)
10/21	Global Air Pollution – Climate Change (<i>Read Chapter 6 of Environmental Law and Policy, pgs 146-150</i>)
10/26	Water Pollution Overview (<i>Finish Chapter 6 of Environmental Law and Policy</i>)
10/28	Water Pollution – Clean Water Act (<i>Read Chapter 8 of Environmental Law and Policy, pgs 198-220</i>)
11/2	Waste Management – RCRA (<i>Finish Chapter 8 of Environmental Law and Policy</i>)
11/4	Waste Management-CERCLA (<i>Read Chapter 12 of Environmental Law and Policy</i>)
11/9	Intro to National Environmental Policy Act (<i>Work on Research Paper</i>)
11/11	Veterans Day- College Closed
11/16	Field Trip to look at local projects under NEPA *Rough Draft of Paper Due (<i>Read Handout</i>)
11/18	CERCLA/Local Environmental Impact Statements (<i>Work on Presentations</i>)
11/23	Thanksgiving Holiday Break
11/25	
11/30	Presentations
12/2	Final Review
12/7	No Class/Open Days Week /Office Hours
12/9	
12/12	Final & Research Paper Due