

Abilene Christian University – Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Course Title: ENVR 410.01 – Environmental Law and Policy

Semester/Year: Fall 2013

Credit Hours: 3

Location/Time: AD 127, Lecture MWF 10:00 – 10:50

Instructor: Michael Nicodemus, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor)

Office: AD 131E

Telephone: 674-2401

Fax: 674-6936

E-mail: man08a@acu.edu

P.O. Box: ACU 27986

Office Hours: Thursday, by appointment

ACU Mission: To educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

College of Arts and Sciences Mission: To educate students for worldwide Christian service and leadership through programs of study and other learning experiences that blend a liberal arts education with professional and career education.

A & E Mission: To educate students for Christian stewardship of sustainable agricultural and environmental systems throughout the world.

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce the basic concepts and issues underlying environmental regulation. Environmental policy frameworks, protection and regulatory instruments, and major federal environmental statutes and relevant legal cases will be discussed.

Course Goal: The goal of this course is to create a body of foundational knowledge concerning modern environmental protection and to help students consider environmental issues through a Christian world view.

Course Format: This class is composed of three 50 minute sessions per week. Classroom instruction will include traditional lecture formats, group and individually led discussions based on assigned readings, and guest lectures. The instructor aims to engage the students and create an active learning environment.

Christian Perspective: Law is based in morality. Much of our law stems from the morality of the Bible (although there are notable and prolific exceptions). We will be able to discuss similarities and differences between Christian morality and US law. Our Christian ethics and morality will inform how we understand fairness in legal decisions.

Student Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to explain the themes and issues that cross-cut environmental law and policy formation.
2. Students will know the basic tenets of each of the major modern environmental statutes.

3. Students will synthesize information and formulate solutions for significant environmental policy problems.
4. Students will investigate and critique current environmental policy issues.
5. Students will organize and conduct discussions on current environmental policy issues.
6. Students will write a research paper summarizing a legal topic.
7. Students will develop a comprehensive skills and accomplishments inventory reflecting the student's scholarship (research and creative activities), accomplishments, co-curricular activities, service, leadership, internships, integrative thinking, knowledge, &c.

Texts: Salzman, J. and B.H. Thompson. Environmental Law and Policy. 3d edition. New York: Foundation Press. 2010.

- o The United States Constitution. Available online at: <http://www.usconstitution.net/const.pdf>
- o Anderson, R.S. The Lacey Act: America's premier weapon in the fight against unlawful wildlife trafficking. Public Land Law Review 16 Pub L.L.R. 27. 1995. Available online at: <http://www.animalaw.info/articles/arus16publlr27.htm>
- o Students will also be expected to read documents from the internet, such as legal cases and statutes, as assigned by the instructor.

iPhone/iTouch/iPad Applications: The following applications are not required for the course, but may be useful:

- **U.S. Code** – Contains the text of the general and permanent laws of the United States.
- **Nolo, Law Guide, and LegalTerms** – law dictionaries.
- **Constitution** – The complete text of the U.S. Constitution
- **LawStack** – The complete text of the U.S. Constitution and other legal documents.
- **Fastcase** – Gives the full text of legal cases.

Attendance: Class attendance is important and roll will be checked at the beginning of most class periods. Any student who misses greater than 20% of the course is subject to dismissal. In this case 20% is equal to 9 class meetings. Absences for illness are “excused” if accompanied by a letter of explanation from a health care professional (physician, nurse etc...). Missing class for extra-curricular activities will be counted as an “excused” absence, which will count toward total absences for the course (athletes and others should not get 6 “skips” in addition to missing for meets, games etc...). If dismissed from the course, students should expect to receive a final grade of “F”. Tardiness (arrival after the scheduled time for the class) is unacceptable. Two tardies will be counted as an “unexcused” absence. If a student is tardy, they should let the instructor know after class, so they will not be marked as absent. At the 5th “unexcused” absence, the student's grade will be dropped one letter. Both excused and unexcused absences count toward the total absences for the course.

Academic Integrity: Each member of the ACU community is expected to uphold and maintain the integrity of scholarship on this campus. Violations of the academic integrity policy (intentions to deceive, mislead, or misrepresent) are unbecoming a Christian and will be met with severe censure, including but not limited to a grade of zero on exams and/or out of class assignments, dismissal from the course, or possibly a final course grade of “F”. The full policy

is available for review at the campus life web site and at the following offices: provost, college deans, dean of campus life, director of student affairs, director of residential life education and academic departments. While the university enforces the policy, the most powerful motive for integrity and truthfulness comes from one's desire to imitate God's nature in our lives.

Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to behave and be engaged in the material covered in the class. Students should not talk when others are talking to the class, whether they are teachers, guest speakers, or other students. Mobile and other electronic devices should only be used as part of a class activity and should otherwise be put away. Lap-top computers may be used for taking notes, but not for purposes unrelated to the class session. Students who disrupt the class may be asked to leave and will be counted as "tardy" for that day.

Christian Perspective: This course will discuss some issues that may be challenging to Christians. It is the intention of this course to equip the students with the knowledge to articulate their positions on environmental and technology issues. It is not the intention of this course to promote opinions on issues as the absolute Christian stance, but to promote dialogue between opinions.

Students with Disabilities: Abilene Christian University is committed to providing a learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you feel you have a disability which may impair your capacity to successfully complete this course, please contact the Director of Disability Services (674-2667) in Alpha Academic Services. Student Disability Services assists students with disabilities in obtaining appropriate academic accommodations.

Assignments and Grading:

Exams – There will be four exams this term (three midterms and a final), each exam will be worth 100 points. They will be non-comprehensive.

Class Participation and Homework – Students will be required to read legal documents, scholarly articles, and other documents and write short summaries covering the pertinent and important information as prescribed by the instructor. The students will also be giving a brief overview of their reading to the rest of the class. Each of these assignments will be worth 10 or 20 points depending on the extent of the assignment. Included in this is the skills inventory.

Paper – Students will write a paper citing specific legal cases and statutes or regulations on an issue related to some facet of environmental law. This paper will be at least seven pages in length and properly cite at least five appropriate sources.

Skills Inventory – students will complete a skills inventory, as described in the student outcomes section.

Course Grade:

Exams	400 points (57%)
Class Participation and Homework	200 points (29%)
<u>Paper</u>	<u>100 points (14%)</u>
Total	700 points

Your grade will be calculated on an accumulated point total basis. Therefore any student that accumulates 90% (630) of the total points will receive an “A” for the course, 80% (560) a “B”, 70% (490) a “C”, 60% (420) a “D”, < 60% an “F”.

An easy way to keep track of your grades is to mark down each grade as you receive it in an Excel file (or in a notebook) as well as the total possible for the assignment.

Additional Course Policies:

1. Late work will not be accepted! Assignments are due at the beginning of class!
2. No “extra credit” will be offered, do not ask.
3. All out of class assignments are to be “word-processed” in “*Times New Roman*” font and at a font size of 12, with one inch margins top-bottom-sides.
4. Make-up tests will be given only to students who have a note indicating an excused absence. The test must be completed within a week of the test date or a zero will be given (barring extenuating circumstances). It is the student’s responsibility to arrange for a time to make up the test.
5. Students are expected to adhere to the university dress code outlined in the student guide. The guide is available on-line and may also be found in the campus life office on the main floor of McKinzie Hall.

Course Schedule and Material Coverage (subject to change) Environmental Law and Policy: ENVR 410

Week	Topics	Reading Assignments*
August 27	General Introduction to Law	U.S. Constitution Salzman Ch. 3
September 3	Skills inventory due	
10		
EXAM 1: September 21		
17	Intro continued Environmental Policy	Salzman Ch. 2
24		
October 1		
EXAM 2: October 10		
8	NEPA Wildlife	Salzman Ch. 12
15		
22		
EXAM 3: October 29		
29	Wildlife Pollution	Salzman Ch. 10, 4-5 Anderson 1995
November 5		
12		
EXAM 4: November 19		
19	Pollution Oil and Gas Law PAPER DUE DECEMBER 3 rd	Salzman Ch. 6-8, 11 Supplemental Reading
26		
December 3		
FINAL EXAM: December 11, 10:00-12:00		

*There will also be cases to be read and summarized that relate to the law being studied as part of the class participation grade. Some of the statutes discussed in class will be required reading as well.