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**Office hrs** : **Tues** - by appointment only ([LIM](#))  
1200-200pm PT  
*Other days & times available by email request*

Class Days/Time: T/R- 10:30-11:45

Classroom: Dudley Moorhead Hall (DMH) 164

- Basic computer specifications for Canvas: <https://guides.instructure.com/m/4214/1/82542-what-are-the-basic-computer-specifications-for-canvas>
- Browsers supported by Canvas: <https://guides.instructure.com/m/4214/1/41056-which-browsers-does-canvas-support>

## Course Goals

This is a survey course that will give you a broad, practical understanding of important federal environmental statutes and case law. Environmental law (aka: environmental and natural resources law) covers regulations; statutes; local, national, and international legislation and treaties designed to protect the environment and delineate the legal ramifications of damage towards different actors (e.g., governments, private landowners, businesses).

Environmental law is extremely complex and deep. No one person can master them all, and a single-semester course is not sufficient for exploring each law in-depth (or even covering them all). The goal in this course is to introduce you to the major environmental laws in different segments of environmental regulation, land management, species conservation, etc. to ensure you have familiarity with the environmental laws that structure how we manage our environment and also intrinsically impact natural resource and environmental jobs—from being a summer water quality technician to Chief of the USDA Forest Service or Director of The Nature Conservancy.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- (1) Identify and explain the applications of key environmental and natural resource laws in the US
- (2) Describe how environmental issues are handled by elected officials, regulators, and the courts.
- (3) Describe environmental and natural resource policy development in the contexts of North American history and social institutions, including US Federal, State and Tribal governments, interest groups, the media, and international/global relations.
- (4) Understand basic concepts, processes, and practices of American government and civics relating to the development, implementation, and evaluation of environmental and natural resource policy.
- (5) Decipher formal legal writing and apply it to your future (ideal or a hypothetical) environmentally related career or lifestyle (manager, private lawyer, etc.)



Your success in this course requires you to spend three hours per unit per week (9 hrs/week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities. Readings and lecture time will not take up this entire time. Please use this time to study for quizzes and work on your assignments.

### Final Examination or Evaluation

The take-home final exam may involve multiple-choice questions, short-answer, and essay or reading assessment questions.

### Grading Information

A rubric will be provided for every assignment on the assignment description page before that activity is assigned.

### Determination of Grades

- Letter grades are assigned as follows:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>518 to 540</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>502 to 517</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>486-501</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>464-485</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>448-463</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>432-447</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>410-431</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>394 to 409</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>378 to 393</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>356 to 377</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>340 to 355</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>324 to 339</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

- Late submission** of written assignments will result in a 10% reduction of grade for each day late. After 10 days, your grade will be a 0.
- Quizzes** are to be completed on your own time within the 24 hours they are assigned. There is no partial or late credit for quizzes. Quizzes may be multiple choice, short answer, or ask you to apply concepts or lessons from class to an environmental situation or case.
  - The first quiz you miss will be your one quiz grade you drop.
  - Make-up quizzes will be made available if the student has an excused absence and has reached out to the instructor for an accommodation.
- These are crazy and uncertain times. **Accommodations can and will be made for excused absences and unforeseen circumstances.** Please communicate with the instructor as early in the process as possible to discuss extensions or make-ups.
- Written assignments** will be graded on accuracy of content, quality, effectiveness of message and presentation, diction, punctuation, correct citations, and spelling.
- Plagiarism** will not be tolerated—this includes quiz answers that copy directly from the PowerPoint and not appropriately citing the work you are referencing to write an assignment. Your argument/writing gets stronger with in-text citations, too. Please use them!

### University Policies

There are several University Policies that will frame our work together. We will go over these policies and our expectations of each other on the first day of class, and we will update the syllabus as needed with these rules to guide our work together. The framework of policies that represent the backbone of our semester can be

found here: [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), and cover topics such as

professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

\*Note that all federal, state, CSU system, and campus regulations on conduct including harassment and discrimination against other students or faculty apply to the online environment, just as in face-to-face instruction.

## Resources

**Accessible Education Center:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with AEC to establish a record of their disability. Academic Senate Policy F06-2. Please reach out to me if you have any concerns or questions about this process.

**Writing Center:** Many of our assignments are written. **A portion of each graded assignment is grammar, spelling, and the clarity of the ideas you present.** It is expected that all the assignments you hand-in are your original work. I encourage you to utilize peer review (partner with a classmate to edit each other's papers) and the additional resources available to you through SJSU. The San José State University Writing Center offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, and all of their services are free for SJSU students.

*“Our mission is to enhance the writing skills of SJSU students so they can communicate clearly in any setting (informal, academic, or professional). We accomplish this goal through creating original writing resources, offering workshops, and conducting one-on-one and small-group tutoring sessions.*

*The SJSU Writing Center has two locations: We conduct drop-in tutoring sessions in Clark Hall, Suite 126; we conduct scheduled appointments on the second floor of the MLK Library. We also offer online tutoring sessions using the Zoom web conferencing platform. All appointments can be made online at [sjsu.mywconline.com](https://sjsu.mywconline.com) (Links to an external site.). All our writing tutors have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment, register for a workshop, or to refer to the numerous online resources (r)-1 (i)-2*



**Week 5**  
Tuesday, 2/22

T- Clean Water Act (CWA)

**Readings:**

(1) **Watch:** Cadillac Desert: R5 T7 (a)14.2 (r)1 (t 1)15.9 (: M)13.

Thursday, 2/24



*Bland, A. (2019).*

Thursday, 3/17

Tuesday, 4/5		<p>(1) <a href="#">Solomon, C. (2017)</a>. Op-Ed: 5 lies being used to get mountain bikes in Wilderness. <i>Outside Magazine</i></p> <p>(2) <a href="#">Peruzzi, M. (2017)</a>. An eminently reasonable take on MTB v. Wilderness. <i>Outside Magazine</i></p>
Thursday, 4/7		<p><b>Due: Comments on Case Law Submissions!-4/5</b></p>

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<b>Week 15</b> Tuesday, 5/10	M- Energy Policy 1: the Energy situation	<b>Reading:</b> TBA
Thursday, 5/12	W- Energy 2: Transportation— problems and opportunities	<b>Reading:</b> What's ANWR?: 1) <b>Watch</b> (~6 minutes): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw6VPqQ4Ixc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw6VPqQ4Ixc</a> 2) <b>Optional</b> , but encouraged: Story map/timeline of ANWR policies: <a href="http://openanwr.com/history/">http://openanwr.com/history/</a> 3) <b>REQUIRED:</b> <a href="https://www.theregreview.org/2021/04/14/pugh-what-comes-next-for-anwr/">https://www.theregreview.org/2021/04/14/pugh-what-comes-next-for-anwr/</a>  <b>Due: Final Law Critique/Policy Brief Paper! 5/17</b> <b>Quiz #6- Energy</b>

**Final Exam**  
(take home, online)

ENVS/POLS 124:  
 Friday, May 20  
 9:45 AM-12:00PM

- \*Your final exam is take home (open book, open internet)
- \* You will have 1.5 hours to take the final exam
- \*You can take it anytime between 9:45AM-12:00PM.
- \*The administration of the final may be modified due to