

Public Lands Law and Policy
NRM 204, 3 Credits
Spring Semester 2007
Natural Sciences Building, Room 136
Tuesday & Thursday, 3:40 - 5:10

Syllabus

Instructor: Julie Lurman
Assistant Professor of Resources Law and Policy
364 O'Neill
Office Hours: TBD (or by appointment)
474-6794
ffjll@uaf.edu

If you have a physical or learning disability, please advise me in writing of any special consideration necessary by the beginning of the second class. I will do everything possible to accommodate you in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This class covers the major laws and policies governing the management of federal public lands. The goals of the course are to gain an understanding of the agencies that manage the different land units and the laws which animate their management strategies. Additionally, we will cover important issues that affect public lands in the Western United States and Alaska.

Class Schedule

Tuesday January 16

1. First Day of Class - Course Introduction

Thursday January 18

2. The Philosophy of Public Land
 - Wise Use v. Preservation (Pinchot v. Muir) [Reading packet 1-15]
 - Tragedy of the Commons [Reading packet 16-18]

Tuesday January 23-Thursday January 25

3. The National Forests
 - Organic Act and Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act (MUSY) [Reading packet 19-27; Wilkinson 120-142]
 - National Forest Management Act and Forest Management Planning [Wilkinson 142-174]

Tuesday January 30- Thursday February 1

4. The National Rangeland
 - Taylor Grazing Act [Wilkinson 75-113]
 - Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) [Reading packet 28-36]

Tuesday February 6

5. Wild and Scenic Rivers
 - Wild and Scenic Rivers Act [Reading packet 37-44]

Thursday February 8- Tuesday February 13

6. The National Park Service
 - National Parks Organic Act [Reading packet 45-49]
 - Antiquities Act [Reading packet 50-59]

Thursday February 15- Tuesday February 20

7. Wildlife Refuges [Reading packet 60-81]
 - National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 and the Refuge Recreation Act
 - 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act and “Compatibility”

Thursday February 22- Tuesday February 27

8. Wilderness
 - The Preservation Ethic [Reading packet 82-139]
 - The Wilderness Act [Reading packet 140-170]

Thursday March 1

In class review for midterm

Tuesday March 6

Midterm

Thursday March 8

9. Migratory Birds
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act [Reading packet 171-184]

Tuesday March 13- Thursday March 15

Spring Break

Tuesday March 20- Thursday March 22

10. Public Lands and Land Law in Alaska
 - Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) [Reading packet 185-200]
 - Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) [Reading packet 207-221]

Tuesday March 27- Thursday March 29

9. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [Reading packet 222-243]
 - About NEPA
 - When must an EIS be prepared?
 - How to tell if the EIS is adequate?
 - Does NEPA work?

Tuesday April 3- Thursday April 5

10. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) [Reading packet 244-257]
 - About MMPA
 - Management Principles
 - Tuna-Dolphin Conflict

Tuesday April 10- Thursday April 12

11. Water Law
 - Riparian Rights v. Prior Appropriations [Reading packet 265-287]
 - Tribal Land, Federal Land, Wildlife [Reading packet 288-289]
 - Damming the West [Wilkinson 219-292]

Tuesday April 17- Thursday April 19- Tuesday April 24

11. Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - Why Should We Save the Endangered? [Reading packet 290-300]
 - About the ESA [Reading packet 301-319]
 - Tellico Dam, the Snail Darter, and the God Squad [Reading packet 320-327]
 - Endangered species today: polar bear, grey wolf

Thursday April 26

12. Constitutional Law
 - Property Clause [Reading packet 328-345]
 - Fifth Amendment [Reading packet 346-350]
 - Treaty Power [Reading packet 351-357]

Tuesday May 1

In Class Review for Final

Thursday May 3

Final Exam in class

Course Requirements and Grading:

Textbooks:

There is a required reading packet, as well as a text book, that you must purchase at the campus book store. The text is *Crossing the Next Meridian: Land, Water, and the Future of the West*, by Charles F. Wilkinson (Island Press, Washington DC, 1992). In the syllabus, readings in the text will be denoted as “Wilkinson” and those in the reading packet as “Reading packet.”

Exams:

There will be one mid term exam and one final exam, the final exam is cumulative. Each exam will account for 35% of your total final grade. Exams will take place in class and will be **closed book**. Exam questions will be drawn from the required readings, lectures, and the classroom discussions. A close understanding of the course material is important as exam questions may require you to apply information you learned in class to new situations, rote memorization will often not be enough to get an A. Exams will include essay and short answer questions. Please make sure that you write legibly as illegible answers may not be graded. There will be no makeup exams, if you are unable to take the exam on the date scheduled and you have a good reason, please see me as soon as possible.

Assignments:

There will be 2-4 take home assignments worth a total of 20% of your final grade. Assignments will be **open note**, and may require additional research. You may not work together. Assignments must be typed and must be handed in on time. Late work will lose 10% of the total available points each day it is late.

Attendance, Preparation, and Class Participation:

Attendance and proper preparation for each class session are mandatory. Regular class participation is strongly encouraged and will impact your grade. Together these three components will make up 10% of your final grade.

Grades:

This course is graded with a letter grade.

For exams and final grades, numerical grades will correspond to the following letter grades:

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89.5
C	70 - 79.5
D	60 - 69.5
F	0 - 59.5

Extra Help:

If you find, at any time during the semester, that you are having trouble understanding the concepts discussed in class, please see me before you fall behind. I am happy to provide additional explanations and other help to any student who is interested.

Good luck to each of you this semester.