

**Public Lands Law and Policy
NRM 204, 3 Credits
Spring Semester 2005
Irving I, Room 201
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
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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

Thursday January 20

First Day of Class - Course Introduction

Tuesday January 25

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

Thursday January 27-Tuesday February 1

2. 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]

Thursday February 3- Tuesday February 8

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

Thursday February 10

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

Tuesday February 15- Thursday February 17

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

Tuesday February 22- Thursday February 24

6. 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”

Tuesday March 1- Thursday March 3

7. Wilderness
 - The Preservation Ethic [Reading packet 82-139]
 - The Wilderness Act [Reading packet 140-166]

Tuesday March 8

Prepare for Midterm

Thursday March 10

Midterm

Tuesday March 15- Thursday March 17

Spring Break

Tuesday March 22- Thursday March 24

8. Public Lands and Land Law in Alaska
- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) [Reading packet 167-196]
 - Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) [Reading packet 197-227]

Tuesday March 29- Thursday March 31

9. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [Reading packet 228-264]
- About NEPA
 - When must an EIS be prepared?
 - How to tell if the EIS is adequate?
 - Does NEPA work?

Tuesday April 5- Thursday April 7

10. 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 12- Thursday April 14- Tuesday April 19

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]

Thursday April 21

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

Tuesday April 26- Thursday April 28- Tuesday May 3

13. Current Topics:
- Roadless Areas [Reading packet 351-365]
 - Snowmachines and ATVs on Public Lands [Reading packet 366-410]
 - Marine Conservation Zones [Reading packet 411-427]

Thursday May 5

Last Day of Class

Prepare for Final

Thursday May 12

Final Exam 3:15 pm

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 40% 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 course 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.

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 20% of your final grade.

Grades:

This course is graded with a letter grade.

For exams 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

Email:

Students are required to have an email account and send a message to the instructor within the first week of class, include your name and “NRM 204” in the text of the message.

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.

Class Cancellations:

Class will be canceled if the temperature at the Fairbanks airport registers -50 F or lower at 10:30am.

Good luck to each of you this semester.