TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI  
College of Science & Engineering  
Department of Physical & Life Sciences  
Environmental Laws & Regulations  
COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Title:** ESCI 4301.001 - Environmental Laws & Regulations  
ESCI 5302.001 - Environmental Laws & Regulations

**Semester:** Fall 2011  
**Instructor:** H.A. Tony Wood

**Official Room Assignment:** Center for Sciences, 115  
**Office:** NRC 1105  
**Class Meets @** NRC 1101

**Class Hours:** Tues 4:20-6:50

**Office Hours:** 6:50 to 7:30 Tues. or by Appointment  
**Phone:** 825-3063

**E-mail:** tony.wood@tamucc.edu

**Course Description:** This course requires the study and understanding of the major legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks that define environmental programs and regulations in the United States. A practical review of environmental regulatory compliance and enforcement, as well as the successes of such programs will also be discussed. There will also be a short discussion of international environmental regulations and agreements.

**Required Textbook:** Federal Environmental Law, The User’s Guide by O. Moya and A. Fono, 3rd Ed. 2010. Students are expected to read the textbook.

**Prerequisite:** Understanding of tri-partite multi-level Government or permission of the instructor.

**Course Objectives:** Successful participation and study in this course will enable students to:

1. Understand how environmental laws and regulations are developed.
2. Know which agencies regulate environmental laws.
3. Demonstrate how to locate specific environmental laws and regulations.
4. Understand the primary components of major environmental laws including CAA, CWA, RCRA, CERCLA and NEPA.
5. Read and interpret environmental regulatory permits and reporting forms.
6. Understand how environmental compliance inspections are conducted.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Regular class attendance and class participation is expected. Students who must miss a class are responsible for obtaining notes and instructions or assignments from other class members.
2. A full three page, single spaced, summary in APA format describing an International, Federal, State, regional, or tribal environmental/regulatory agency will be required of each student. Students should declare the agency they intend to profile by the second week of the class. Summaries should describe the roles and responsibilities of the selected agency and include contact information (address, phone, website, etc.). No more than 3 students may choose the same agency.
3. Each student will prepare an environmental regulatory current events notebook. The notebook should be brought to class each week. It will be comprised of web citations, newspaper clippings or magazine articles regarding recent issues relative to environmental regulations. Students should be prepared to engage in discussions regarding their articles and articles brought by others during each class. (A minimum of 10 articles is required.)

4. Up to five take-home assignments will be given over the semester and are due the next class period after the assignment. Late assignments will be docked 5 points per weekday. Assignments will not be accepted after one week past the due date and a grade of “0” will be assigned for that assignment.

5. Three major examinations will be given during the semester. Students are expected to be prepared and complete these exams on the scheduled exam dates (see topic schedule attached). Students with an excused absence from the professor must make up the exam prior to the next class period. (Note: Having more than one exam on the same date does not warrant an excused absence.) Unexcused absences for a scheduled exam will result in a grade of “0” for that exam.

6. The course will include several guest speakers during the semester representing a wide variety of expertise and experience in environmental issues. Students will be responsible for material covered by these speakers and it will be included on exams.

**Graduate Credit Requirements:**
In addition to the above requirements graduate students will be required to attend at least one environmentally oriented public meeting in Texas. It should relate to natural resource regulation and management. Regulated and managed resources may include water, air, soil, or minerals. Regulatory issues may include resource management, waste, pollution control, or energy. The student will identify the resource and its relevance to this course, describe the hosting organization, and indicate the date and frequency of organizational meetings. The student will identify at least some of the key board members and stakeholders, describe one or more topics on the agenda in detail, and explain the expected outcome of the agenda item. Finally, the student must identify the relevance of the organization and its discussions to pertinent federal and state regulations. The public meeting can be anywhere but ideally should be in Texas.

**General Information:**

**Make Up Exams:** Make up exams will only be given for University excused absences to attend University sanctioned events (i.e. athletic teams, environmental conference) or documented medical reasons. In those cases it is the responsibility of the student to arrange for scheduling of a make-up exam no later than one week after the regular scheduled exam.

**Class Conduct:** All students are expected to follow proper Classroom behavior and treat other students and the instructor with respect. Disruptive behavior will cause the student to be asked to leave the class for the day. Repeated disruptive behavior will make the student subject to dismissal from the class for the semester. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off during class time. Texting during classes is not allowed. If cell phones are used during a class the user will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to return during that class period. No food or drink will be allowed in the classroom.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty:** All students are expected to conform to college-level standards of ethics, academic integrity and honesty. By enrolling in this course, you agree to be bound by the Regulations and Procedures published in the TAMU-CC STUDENT HANDBOOK. Students are expected to
do their own work and not duplicate that of others. Duplicative work will be considered cheating and the student will receive a zero on that assignment/exam.

*Notice to Students with Disabilities: *Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING: **The College of Science and Technology requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in the Faculty Center.

*** Grade Appeal Process. As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Evaluation Criteria:**
- Class Participation 5%
- Environmental Agency Summary Report 10%
- Current Environmental Events Notebooks 5%
- Take-home Assignments 25%
- First Exam 15%
- Second Exam 15%
- Comprehensive Final Exam 25%

**Course Outline:**

**TOPICS AND TENTIVIVE SCHEDULE**

Week 1
- Overview of Textbook
- Introductions & Expectations
- Discussion - Why regulate?

Week 2
- Read Environmental Compliance Inspections (Chap. 1)
Week 3
  - Agency Summaries Due
  - Read National Environmental Policy Act and Environmental Impact Statements (Chap 2)
Week 4
  - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Chap 3)
Week 5
  - Exam I
Week 6
  - Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (Chap 4)
  - Superfund Amendments & Reauthorization Act
Week 7
  - Exam II
Week 8
  - Clean Air Act (Chap 5)
Week 9
  - Clean Water Act (Chap 6)
Week 10
  - Endangered Species Act
Week 11
  - Grad student Presentations
Week 12
  - Grad Student Presentations/Review
  - Current Environmental Events Notebooks Due
Week 13
  - Final Exam