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

Course Titles:
ESCI 4301.001 – Environmental Regulations (Classroom Version, Undergraduate Level)
ESCI 4301.W01 – Environmental Laws & Regulations Online (Undergraduate Level)
ESCI 5302.001 – Federal Environmental Laws & Regulations (Classroom Version, Grad Level)
ESCI 5302.W02 – Federal Environmental Laws & Regulations Online (Graduate Level)

Special Note: The four Environmental Regulations course sections offered this semester have the same core foundation. Two are graduate level and two are undergraduate level. Sections of both levels are being offered this semester as classroom and as online versions. All four course sections have been merged in Blackboard so that class discussions can be shared throughout the various versions of the course. The most significant difference between the classroom sections and the online sections is that classroom sections have 3 classroom exams and the online sections have 7 timed quizzes. Graduate students, whether classroom or online, will have a special project related to the legal/political processes in the development of environmental regulations.

Semester: Fall 2013

Instructor: H.A. Tony Wood
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Instructor Office: 6300 Ocean Drive, NRC Suite 1105, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Office Hours: By Appointment. Generally 9-5:30 M-Th

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

Official Room Assignment: EN-104

Classroom Hours:
The classroom sections of this course will meet on Mondays from 5:30-8:00 pm. Students who are registered for the web based sections of this course will be welcome to sit in if (and only if) space is available.

Online Course Hours:
The course week will be from 00:00 Hours CST on Mondays through 23:59 on Sundays. Assignments will be posted on Monday afternoons each week. All weekly assignments must be turned in within the course week. Weekly discussion board assignments should be completed by Thursdays if possible so that classmates will have the opportunity to read them and comment on them.
Course Description: Environmental laws and regulations establish the parameters of environmental resource management for our society and establish the framework under which environmental professionals work. This is an extremely important course for environmental science majors and is recommended for anyone expecting to work in areas related to environmental policy, regulation, or management. This course requires extensive readings from the text, study of regulatory agency websites, and a review of briefings and presentations each week. The successful student will gain an understanding of the major legal, regulatory, historical, 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. International environmental treaties, regulations, and agreements, and their implications for the United States may also be discussed as a part of this course.


Prerequisite: Successful completion of a high school or collegiate level course in U.S. Government, or an understanding of tri-partite multi-level Governments as practiced in the U.S. constitutional republic, 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, EPCRA, OPA, and NEPA.
5. Read and interpret environmental regulatory permits and reporting forms.
6. Understand how environmental compliance inspections are conducted.

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance at lectures is not required. Course participation is required. Students who have registered for this course in the online sections should realize that this form of study is ideally suited for individuals who are self-motivated, who can make and stick to their own schedules, and have an innate quest for learning about the subject matter. Classroom section students must indicate when they participate in classroom discussions by posting a short synopsis of their comments into the discussion board. Classroom section students who miss a classroom session should participate in the online discussion for the weeks they miss.
2. Readings - A weekly reading assignment must be completed. Federal environmental laws will be studied individually, with a focus each week on one area of the law. There will generally be readings each week that come directly from the textbook. There will also be a web based research effort each week. There may also be special assignments from the professor.
3. Briefings & Lectures - One or more PowerPoint briefing(s) will be provided each week by the instructor. Students are required to review the briefing(s) and will be responsible for knowing and understanding the content.
4. Internet Research - Specific websites pertinent to the weekly topic will be identified each week. On other occasions the students will be given a topic and must research and be able to
discuss relevant websites that they have found. Students must share these websites with other classmates and may be asked to discuss them.

5. Participation - Regular weekly class participation is mandatory. Participation may be in the classroom or online. Each week the instructor will give a discussion board assignment. Each student is required to make one initial weekly posting to the discussion board, to review the postings of other students, and to make some substantial comment to at least two of the other student’s initial postings. A substantial posting will not be just “I agree.” or “That’s what I thought too.”

6. Course Assignments - There will be 3 major assignments: Current Events, Agency, and Industry

   a. Agency Essay - A 2-3 page, single spaced, essay describing the role of an International, Federal, State, regional, or tribal agency with environmental responsibilities (other than the USEPA) will be required of each student. These essays should describe the roles and responsibilities of the selected agency and its organizational structure. For extremely large agencies, a smaller subset of the agency should be chosen. The essay should be completed in APA format.

   b. Current Events Folder - Each student will prepare an environmental regulations current-events folder. At least one article related to current events in environmental law should be placed into the student folder each week. The weekly posting in the folder should include the web citation and a brief discussion (1-3 paragraphs) explaining why this article is relevant to the course topic. Students should post their weekly current events for other students to see. (A minimum of 10 articles over 13 weeks are required.) The student should post a one-page listing of articles and their dates (like a Table of Contents) at the end of the semester.

   c. Industry Report – Each student will select a specific industry to focus on throughout the entire semester. The student will profile this industry and identify its NAICS code(s), its products, and its potential for affecting the environment. The student will research how each federal law we discuss could affect that specific industry, which regulations apply, and what permits are required. The student will also identify what that industry does to assure compliance. The student should discuss engineering controls and the level of economic commitment evidenced by the industry's efforts. Page limits: 10-20 pages, single spaced, completed in APA format.

7. Exams -

Classroom sections will have three graded exams over the course of the semester. There will be one mid-semester exam, an exam at week 11, and a comprehensive final exam.

Online sections of this course will not have major examinations this semester. In lieu of major exams there will be seven (7) timed quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will be based upon the readings, briefings, current events, and discussion postings. Quizzes will be posted at the beginning of the week and you must complete the quiz in one sitting. Any quiz or assignment not completed by the end of the week will be given a score of zero.
Graduate Credit Requirements:

In addition to the above requirements graduate students will be required to attend at least one environmentally oriented public meeting. The meeting should relate to natural resource regulation and/or 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. Possible examples of acceptable public meetings include meetings on specific environmental issues; or recurrent meetings with some environmental topics on the agenda such as city council, water board, municipal planning, parks, LEPC, or other similar meetings.

If a student is unable to attend any meetings related to the environment then alternative assignments may be discussed and mutually agreed upon with the professor. An example of a possible alternative assignment would be a thorough review of an environmental issue posted for public comment and making a personal written comment on the subject.

A short written report must be submitted after attending the meeting and a 12-25 slide PowerPoint briefing will be presented to the class between the 10th and 13th weeks of the semester.

General Information:

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 that requires such accommodations please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need and qualify for disability accommodations in this online class, please notify me as soon as possible.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING: The College of Science and Engineering 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
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 on 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 on the process, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, consult Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01 Student Grade Appeal Procedures (http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school or the College of Science and Engineering Dean’s Office.

Evaluation Criteria:
- Classroom Discussions and/or Discussion Board Participation 15%
- Environmental Agency Essay 10%
- Environmental Laws & Regs Current Events Notebook 10%
- Industry Report 30%

Classroom Sections ONLY (Exams Only)
- Exam 1 10%
- Exam 2 10%
- Final Exam 15%

Online Section ONLY (Timed Quizzes Only)
- Quiz 1 5%
- Quiz 2 5%
- Quiz 3 5%
- Quiz 4 5%
- Quiz 5 5%
- Quiz 6 5%
- Quiz 7 5%
Course Outline:
TOPICS & TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
This schedule is intended to serve as general guidance. It will be expanded over the course of the semester, especially if current events offer opportunities for real-time lesson development. Student abilities, extended discussions on specific and current topics, or other factors may result in some adjustments to this schedule. Students should budget time each week for:

- Reading textbook
- Researching current events
- Discussion and documentation
- Lecture/briefing review
- Researching EPA & other regulatory agency websites
- Preparing industry report

Week 1
- Introduction
- Discussion 1: Introductions, Virtual Introductions & Expectations
- Briefing: Course Introduction & Expectations
- Overview of Textbook

Week 2
- Reading: Administrative Law (Chap. 1)
- Briefing: Environmental Compliance Inspections & Preparing for a Regulatory Inspection
- Industry Selection Due
- Discussion 2: Why and how do we regulate? For the industry you have selected, discuss which historical era of environmental regulation and management they are currently living in and why.
- Assignments: Select Agency for Essay

Week 3
- Agency Summary Essays Due
- Reading: National Environmental Policy Act and Environmental Impact Statements (Chap 2)
- Quiz 1
- Discussion re: NEPA

Week 4
- Reading: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Chap 3)
- Discussion re: Hazardous waste TSDF sites

Week 5
- Reading: Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (Chap 4)
- Superfund Amendments & Reauthorization Act
- Discussion: Superfund sites near you
- Quiz 2

Week 6 REVIEW

Week 7
- Reading: Clean Air Act (Chap 5)
- Discussion: The difference between stratospheric and tropospheric ozone
Week 8
  • Reading: Clean Water Act (Chap 6)

Week 9
  • Reading: Endangered Species Act

Week 10
  • Video: Frontline-Climate of Doubt
  • Grad student Presentations

Week 11
  • Grad student Presentations

Week 12
  • Grad Student Presentations/Review
  • Current Environmental Events Notebooks Due

Week 13
  • Final Exam