Meeting Times

Thursday 4:20-6:50, Center for Instruction 108

Faculty Communications

Dr. Richard McLaughlin, Harte Research Institute Bldg. 311, Tel. 825-2010
richard.mclaughlin@tamucc.edu

Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 2:00-3:00 or by appointment.

Introduction and Course Goals

To introduce the major topics in coastal and ocean policy and law through lectures, readings, written and oral exercises, presentations and discussions.
To provide an introduction to domestic and international law and how to engage in research on legal topics.
To describe the uses of coastal and ocean areas, technology and trends in use, and the major policy issues created by such use.
To explore how users of the sea and coast are embedded in ocean and coastal regimes and institutional arrangements at the international and domestic scales.
To identify multiple sources of information available to students such as specialized books and text, general books, periodicals, web sites, exhibits, tours and videos.

Organization of the Course

The course is organized to provide students with a classroom experience similar to that provided in U.S. law schools. Students will be expected to read and discuss assigned judicial decisions, statutes, regulations, and secondary literature sources. Additional explanations and introductory materials will be provided so that students will have the requisite background to understand and apply the assigned course materials. The professor will engage in both lecture and Socratic teaching methods. Class participation and discussion will be emphasized and encouraged.

Attendance and Late Assignments

Students are expected to attend all classes. However, students may have two unexcused class absences. More than two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your grade by one full
letter grade. All assignments are expected to be turned in on time. Unless the instructor provides prior approval of a late assignment, the grade for that assignment will be reduced by ten percent for each day that the assignment is late.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will not be tolerated.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **November 7th** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Classroom/professional Behavior**

Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in Article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. The prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Grade Appeals**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeals Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate 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 Procedures 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeals Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Sciences and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeals process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

**Disabilities Accommodations**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University Facilities (i.e. emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Student Assignments and Grading**

Required readings are listed below. Students are expected to have assigned readings completed before each class. The readings provide the background and substantive information required to fully understand a particular topic and to allow students to engage in meaningful discussion. Grading will be based on the following:

- **30 percent** – mid-term exam
- **60 percent** – final exam
- **10 percent** – class participation
### Required Text


### Course Schedule and Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class #</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction and Shark Hypothetical; Tragedy of the Commons; U.S. Law and Policy</td>
<td>No assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>U.S. Law and Policy (cont.); How is Law Determined &amp; Found? Reading Law Cases</td>
<td>Handouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>International Law of the Sea</td>
<td>pp. 1-6; 19-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>International Law of the Sea (cont.) Western Gap</td>
<td>pp. 47-56; 68-71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Taking Issues in Coastal Areas; Exactions; <em>Nollan v. California Coastal Comm.</em></td>
<td>pp. 238-244; 334-347; 348-368; 364-383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Guest Lecture: Tony Wood International Dumping in the Ocean</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Mid-term Exam;</strong> Public &amp; Private Interest in Coastal Lands &amp; Waters; Accretion, Erosion, Avulsion &amp; Reliction</td>
<td>pp. 73-74; 125-142; 163-178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Beach Access Video; Implementing the Coastal Zone Management Act</td>
<td>pp. 216-238; 249-280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Pages/Handout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Regulation of U.S. Fisheries; Essential Fish Habitat</td>
<td>pp. 571-573; 596-599; 610-616; Handout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fisheries Management (cont.)</td>
<td>pp. 616-657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Marine Mammal Protection Act; Endangered Species Act; Trade Versus the Marine Environment</td>
<td>pp. 745-766; 786-796; 807-817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Guest Lecture Dr. Fabio Moretzsohn Oil Spills</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Offshore Renewable Energy; Offshore Wind Video. Course Review</td>
<td>pp. 490-509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINAL EXAM** (December 4th)