

# ENV 161

## Introduction to Environmental Compliance

### COURSE OUTLINE

#### Prerequisites:

None

#### Course Description:

Examines the statutory history of significant environmental legislation and the promulgation of rules and regulations attendant to these laws. Emphasis will be placed on 40 CFR and appropriate Virginia environmental code. Students will gain basic proficiency in the proper sampling protocols for soil, water, and air.

**Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3**

#### Course Outcomes

**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- Describe where environmental laws come from and discuss how attendant rules and regulations are promulgated.
- Be familiar with the major Federal Environmental Statutes, including, but not limited to, NEPA, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, ESA, CERCLA and RCRA.
- Discuss Federal vs. State Jurisdiction in environmental regulations.
- Explain the role of science in environmental policy.
- Explain the context and status of ecosystem services in terms of environmental law and policy (= a key concept relating economics to environmental protection)
- Suggest new laws and policy for providing and protecting ecosystem services.



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## Required Materials:

Access to the Internet will also be essential for completing course assignments.

## Textbook:

The Law and Policy of Ecosystem Services. J.B. Ruhl, S.E. Kraft and C. L. Lant. 2007. Island Press. ISBN # 978-1-55963-095-5

## Topical Description:

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Topic</u>   | <u>Text/reading</u>   |
|-------------|--|---|
| #1          | Introduction to Course<br>Introduction, "Ecosystem Services"                               | Syllabus<br><b>ES</b> , Introduction (pp. 1-10)<br><b>Internet readings</b> |
| #2          | Politics, Environment & Sustainability   | <b>Internet readings</b>  |
| #3          | Politics, Environment & Sustainability   | <b>Internet readings</b>  |
| #4          | Context for Ecosystem Services - Ecology<br>Context for Ecosystem Services - Geography     | <b>ES</b> , Chapter 1 (pp.15-35)<br><b>ES</b> , Chapter 2 (pp. 36-56)       |
| #5          | Context for Ecosystem Services - Geography   | <b>ES</b> , Chapter 2 (pp. 36-56)   |
| #6          | Status of Ecosystem Services - Economics<br>Status of Ecosystem Services - Property Rights | <b>ES</b> , Chapter 3 (pp. 57-84)<br><b>ES</b> , Chapter 4 (pp. 85-126)     |
| #7          | Status of Ecosystem Services - Property Rights   | <b>ES</b> , Chapter 4 (pp. 85-126)  |



| <u>Week</u> | <u>Topic</u>  | <u>Text/reading</u>   |
|-------------|---|---|
| #8          | Status of Ecosystem Services - Regulation<br>Introduction to NEPA   | <b>ES</b> , Chapter 5 (pp. 127-157)<br><b>Internet Readings</b>   |
| #9          | Introduction to NEPA  | <b>Internet Readings</b>  |
| #10         | Introduction to Case Study: I-73 EIS  | <b>Internet Readings</b>  |
| #11         | I-73 Project research project   | <b>Internet Readings</b>  |
| #12         | I-73 Presentations<br>Details on Major Environmental Laws   | <b>Internet Readings</b>  |
| #13         | Details on Major Environmental Laws   | <b>Internet Readings</b>  |
| #14         | Empirical Case Studies – selected examples from<br>Designing New Law & Policy - Drivers & Models<br>Designing New Law & Policy - Trade-offs | <b>ES</b> , Chapters 7-15<br><b>ES</b> , Chapter 16 (pp. 249-257)<br><b>ES</b> , Chapter 17 (pp. 258-264) |
| #15         | Designing New Law & Policy – Final Project<br>Exam Review   | <b>ES</b> , Chapter 18 (pp. 265-292)  |

FINAL EXAM (COMPREHENSIVE)

Notes to Instructors

1. Departmental policy dictates that instructors do not allow students to keep tests.
2. A comprehensive final exam counting 15% - 20% of the total grade will be given at the end of the semester.
3. Syllabus should state what the course grade will be based on, such as tests, quizzes, a comprehensive final exam, and any other assignments made by the instructor.
4. The VWCC Biology Department uses a 10 point grading scale.

