

Virginia Western Community College

ENV 161

Introduction to Environmental Compliance

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 understand proper field techniques in sampling protocols for soil, water, and air.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

Textbooks:

The Law and Policy of Ecosystem Services. Ruhl, Kraft, Lant. 2007 edition. Island Press. ISBN: 9781559630955

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.

Topical Description

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text/Reading</u>
1	Introduction to Course Introduction, "Ecosystem Services"	Syllabus ES, Introduction (pp. 1-10) Internet readings
2	Politics, Environment & Sustainability	Internet readings
3	Politics, Environment & Sustainability	Internet readings
4	Context for Ecosystem Services – Ecology Context for Ecosystem Services – Geography	ES, Chapter 1 (pp. 15-35) ES, Chapter 2 (pp. 36-56)

5	Context for Ecosystem Services – Geography	ES, Chapter 2 (pp. 36-56)
6	Status of Ecosystem Services – Economics	ES, Chapter 3 (pp. 57-84)
	Status of Ecosystem Services – Property Rights	ES, Chapter 4 (pp. 85-126)
7	Status of Ecosystem Services – Property Rights	ES, Chapter 4 (pp. 85-126)
8	Status of Ecosystem Services – Regulation	ES, Chapter 5 (pp. 127-157)
	Introduction to NEPA	Internet readings
9	Introduction to NEPA	Internet readings
10	Introduction to Case Study: 1-73 EIS	Internet readings
11	1-73 Project Research Project	Internet readings
12	I-73 Presentations	
	Details on Major Environmental Laws	Internet readings
13	Details on Major Environmental Laws	Internet readings
14	Empirical Case Studies – selected examples from	ES, Chapters 7-15
	Designing New Law & Policy – Drivers & Models	ES, Chapter 16 (p. 249-257)
	Designing New Law & Policy – Trade-offs	ES, Chapter 17 (pp. 258-264)
15	Designing New Law & Policy – Final Project	ES, Chapter 18 (pp. 265-292)
	Exam Review	
	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. The 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.

[ADA Statement](#) (PDF)

[Title IX Statement](#) (PDF)