

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 Environmental Case. 6th Ed. J.A. Layzer, S.R. Rinfret. 2023. Sage Publications, Incorporated. ISBN: 9781071870259.

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

Week	Topic & Readings
Week 1	Syllabus/Course Overview, Intro; Ch. 1. – A Policymaking Framework
Week 2	Ch. 2. – The EPA & Clean Air & Water Acts
Week 3	Ch. 3 – Love Canal – Hazardous Waste and the Politics of Fear
Week 4	Ch. 4 – Ecosystem-Based Management in the Chesapeake Bay
Week 5	Ch. 5 – Market-based solutions – Acid Rain & Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
Week 6	Wednesday – Exam 1 – Chapters 1–5
Week 7	Ch. 6 – Oil vs. wilderness in ANWR; Group 1 leads discussion
Week 8	Ch. 7 – Federal Grazing Policy; Group 2 leads discussion
Week 9	Ch. 8 – Jobs v. Environment – Northern Spotted Owl; Group 3 leads discussion
Week 10	Ch. 9 – Playground or paradise? Snowmobiles in Yellowstone; Group 4 leads discussion
Week 11	Ch. 10 – Lessons from the fish – crises and recovery in NE; Group 5 leads discussion
Week 12	Wednesday, Nov 12 – Exam 2 – Chapters 6 – 10
Week 13	Ch. 11 – Climate change – crisis of our time
Week 14	Ch. 11 – Climate change – crisis of our time (cont. if needed)
Week 15	Ch. 12 – Cape Wind: If not Here, Where? Not Now, When? Friday: Final Project Due
Week 16	Ch. 13 – Fracking Wars: Local and State Responses
Week 17	Exam 3 during Final Exam Period

Notes to Instructors

1. Departmental policy dictates that instructors do not allow students to keep tests.
2. A comprehensive final project counting 15%-20% of the total grade will be given near 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.