
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 61A

Env. Protection and Pollution Prevention **ES -061A.-61** **Call #00543**
Instructors: Mark Sullivan and Alicia De Toro **Winter 2011** **4.0 Units**

De Anza College, Division of Biological, Health, and Environmental Sciences, Environmental Studies Department
Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies-See Pat Cornely in KC 218 (408) 864-8628

Course Theme: Our laws and regulations shape our world.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Office Hours: Monday 4:30-5:30 pm, or by phone, or other times by arrangement
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore environmental protection and pollution prevention. Topics discussed will include agency missions and guiding principles, agency philosophies, and agency contacts. Agencies include Cal/EPA, Air Resources Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Department of Water Resources. Current events and citizen action and their impacts on various cultural, ethnic, and gender groups will be discussed.

*Your ideas and/or suggested topics are appreciated and will be considered for discussion.

ADVISORIES

ES 6 (concurrent enrollment is sufficient), EWRT 100B, Reading 100 or LART 100, ESL 173 is strongly advised as you will be expected to complete several written assignments using an academic essay format. A good attitude and a willingness to learn by problem solving are essential to receiving good grades.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO's)

After completing reading assignments, assessments, journals, projects, field assignments, and attending class, you should be able to:

1. Assess (apply) the criteria necessary to be successful in this course.
2. Investigate and communicate the relationship between state governmental processes and the interactions of the stakeholders in establishing environmental protection and pollution prevention. Understand the principles and concepts of state governmental processes.

COURSE MATERIALS

Handouts

Website Assignments

Check out at SRC: Kubasek, Nancy K. and Silverman, Gary S. 2008. Environmental Law, 6th Edition. Prentice Hall/Pearson Education Inc. Publishing Co. (Copies available in the SRC.)

SUGGESTIONS/TEACHING METHODS

This course will cover a large amount of material in a short amount of time. Therefore, it is crucial to attend **all lectures**, take good notes, and complete the readings prior to attending lectures. In the event that you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from one of your classmates. Our teaching style is designed to engage you in a more active fashion. In order to meet this goal, we will combine the following teaching methods: lectures that make use of videos, field trips, handouts, and slides; hands-on activities such as active group/discussion sessions (participation is crucial); current events assignments; and student presentations.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Two exams: One midterm and one final exam of equal weight will be given. The midterm will include the material covered in the first half of the course and the final will include the material covered in the second half of the course.
2. Regulatory agency/issue presentation: Each student will be assigned a regulatory agency or issue, and will present a discussion of this agency or issue to the class. Further information will be provided.
3. Regulatory agency research paper: Each student is required to research, write, and submit a 6 to 8-page paper regarding the above discussion topic by March 14th. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Further information will be provided.
4. Current event assignment: One current event assignment will be required. This will involve reading, summarizing, and presenting to the class a newspaper article pertaining to environmental law or regulation. Further information will be provided.
5. Class Journals: Each student shall document class activities in a provided class journal. Journal entries will be a daily class event and will include lecture notes, field trip notes, group work, Internet searches and writings, class discussions, thoughts, etc.
6. Class Participation: Each student is expected to attend all classes and to participate in class activities and discussions. Your punctuality and participation are important!
7. Field Trips: Each student is required to attend the two field trips.

GRADING CRITERIA:

2 Exams (Midterm and Final)	30% (15% each)
Regulatory Agency Presentation	15%
Regulatory Agency Research Paper	15%
Current Event Assignment	5%
Class Journal	10%
Class Participation	10%
Field Trips	15%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale (%): 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, Below 60 = F

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/POLICIES

General Information

- 1) Please be prepared to dedicate sufficient time and energy to this course
- 2) Classroom etiquette matters (i.e. arrive to class **on time**, do not talk during lecture or video, turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class).
- 3) This class is based upon honesty, trust, respect, fairness, and responsibility. We always appreciate your cooperation. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.
- 4) Please know the correct procedures to follow in the case of an earthquake or other emergency.

Exams/Homework/Attendance/Add Drop Procedures

- 1) There will be no make-ups for the exams or homework assignments. (Except under extraordinary circumstances; see me if you anticipate problems.)
- 2) Attendance. Regular attendance is required - and critical to your success in this class. You must contact me immediately if you miss a class or if you decide to drop. Attendance at the final exam session is required. Attendance will be taken at each class session. Students may be dropped after their second unexcused absence. Each tardy (unexcused late arrival for class) counts as one half of an absence. You are late if you are not in the classroom at the scheduled class time. You must speak to the instructor at the end of class if you are late and make sure that your attendance was noted. Students who arrive late for class four times without a valid reason may be dropped. You must contact the instructor immediately if you have to miss class for a valid reason - your absence is considered *unexcused* until you do this.
- 3) Add/Drop. You are subject to being dropped from the class for excessive absences or tardiness. However, there is no guarantee that you will automatically be dropped in time to meet deadlines if you stop attending without notifying me. It is your responsibility to be aware of drop deadlines and to make timely arrangements with me and the registrar if you decide to drop this class. The class schedule lists deadlines for dropping with no record or for dropping with a "W" grade. To meet these deadlines you must contact me during a regular class meeting or at a scheduled office hour beforehand. We will not back-date drop requests submitted after deadlines.

Environmental Protection Tentative Schedule		Winter 2011
ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES	This Week's Topics	Text Pages
Week 1: January 3rd	Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Syllabus, field trip forms, agency presentation information, agency research paper information, current events assignment information• Introduction to Agency Law	
Week 2: January 10th	Introduction to Agency Law Part II Cal-EPA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission/History/Organizational Functions• Current Issues/Job Descriptions	Kubasek pp. 89-122

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES	This Week's Topics	Text Pages
Week 3: January 17th	No Class: MLK's Birthday Observed	
Week 4: January 24th	Agencies: Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment/Department of Pesticide Regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission/History/Organizational Functions • Current Issues/Job Descriptions 	Check Out Agency Websites
Week 4.5: January 29th	All Day Field Trip 7 am – 7pm Planning and Conservation League Annual Environmental Legislative Symposium in Sacramento	
Week 5: January 31st	Agencies: CIWMB and Department of Toxics Substances Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission/History/Organizational Functions • Current Issues/Job Descriptions • Take-Home Midterm Distributed 	Check Out Agency Websites
Week 6: February 7th Take-Home Midterm Due	Agencies: State Water Resources Control Board/ Regional Water Quality Control Board/DWR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission/History/Organizational Functions • Current Issues/Job Descriptions 	Check Out Agency Websites
Week 7. February 14th	Agencies: California Natural Resources Agency/Department of Conservation/Department of Forestry and Fire Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission/History/Organizational Functions • Current Issues/Job Descriptions 	Handouts
Week 8: February 21st	George Washington's Birthday Observed	
Week 8.5. February 26th (Saturday) 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm	San Luis Reservoir Field Trip More details later.	
Week 9: February 28th	Water Law Roundtable Discussion Part 1	Website Links Provided
Week 10: March 7th Turn in Class Journal	Department of Fish and Game/ Department of Parks and Recreation/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission/History/Organizational Functions • Current Issues/Job Descriptions 	Check Out Agency Websites
Week 11: March 14th Regulatory Agency Research Paper Due	Water Law Roundtable Discussion Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take-Home Final Distributed 	Website Links Provided
Week 12: March 21st Take-Home Final Due	Agencies: The California Air Resources Board/Bay Area Air Quality Management District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission/History/Organizational Functions • Current Issues/Job Descriptions 	Check Out Agency Websites