

The Law and Politics of Public Land Political Science 4705

Instructor

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Office Hours

2-3 pm Tuesdays, or by appointment

Course Description

This course will provide students with an understanding of the statutory, common, and constitutional law relevant to regulation of public land in the United States (LAW). This course will also examine the political forces that have shaped public land policy in the United States over time, including public opinion and political controversy (POLTICS).

Required Texts

Modern Public Land Law in a Nutshell. Robert L. Glicksman, 5th ed. (2019) ISBN: 978-1684676774

<https://a.co/d/eijzMvQ>

America's Public Lands: From Yellowstone to Smokey Bear and Beyond. Randall K. Wilson, 2nd ed. (2020) ISBN: 978-1538126394

<https://a.co/d/akiylRF>

Course Requirements

The assignments listed below are intended to provide each student with several opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the course objectives. Specific requirements are as follows:

1. Exam 1	25 percent
2. Exam 2	25 percent
3. Class Participation	15 percent
4. Quizzes/ Writing Responses	15 percent
5. Group Research Project	20 percent

Description of Course Requirements

Midterm exam (25%): The first examination will be given after the 6th week of class unless otherwise noted in class. Students are responsible for all background and related material offered in the text and lectures. Students who have a legitimate reason for missing the exam must notify the professor before the exam and provide the professor with validating evidence (e.g., note from doctor). Students with a valid excuse will be allowed to makeup the first exam during the professor's office hours

no later than one week after the regularly scheduled examination date. Be forewarned: I will make exceptions under only the most unusual of circumstances.

Final Examination (25%): There will be a non-comprehensive final examination. It will cover all course reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions beginning at the midterm. Similar to the midterm, make-up examinations will be permitted under only the most extraordinary circumstances.

Class Participation (15%): You should attend class, as much as possible, all of the time. That's a good general rule to follow for all of your classes, not just mine. It ensures that you don't waste your money, or your parent's money, or the money you've earned with all of your high school diligence. Still, you should do more than simply "show-up." Participation represents an integral part of this course, and attendance will be observed (and also formally taken) in all classes. Participation points are partly based upon regular attendance. The other portion of the grade is derived from actual class participation. To receive an A or B for class participation you must attend all classes, discuss the assigned reading and cases, and participate daily in class discussions and class activities.

Quizzes and Writing Responses (15%)

Research Group Projects (20%): This assignment requires graduate students to propose and complete a group research project. The project must critically analyze a proposed or existing public land statute or regulation, focusing on the: 1) goals of the statute or regulation, and 2) means to achieve those goals. Groups will present the findings of their research in class in the final weeks of class.

Projects will be evaluated based on five criteria:

Overall clarity (including grammar and spelling) and correct format (5 points)

Concision (5 points)

Review of existing or proposed statute or regulation (10 points)

Critical Analysis and use of statutory design and strategy information, theories, and literature we discussed in class (25 points)

Originality of thought (5 points)

GRADING

A	94-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-93	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D	60-69
B-	80-82	F	below 60

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PROFESSIONALISM

Standards of Conduct for Students: Students should behave in a professional manner at all times. It is essential that the environment in this classroom and any other classroom be conducive to learning and tolerant of all races, ethnic groups, and gender. Any student behaving in a manner that is in any way disruptive or

inappropriate to the professor or to other students in the class will be referred to the appropriate authority.

Academic Honesty: All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. For related information on University policy, see *A Culture of Honesty at the University of Georgia* issued by the Office of the Vice President for Instruction.

COURSE OUTLINE

Specific reading assignments are announced in class and posted on ELC. I have provided below a useful outline of what we will cover in this course with an approximate timeline. If you miss a day, then you should contact a classmate to get the notes for the missed class and to get the assignment for the next class.

Intro	Syllabus review, how to read a case and do legal research
Topic 1	Introduction and History of Public Lands
Topic 2	Constitutional and Statutory Foundations
Topic 3	NEPA
Topic 4	Role of Congress, President, and the Courts
Topic 5	Interest Groups
Topic 6	Public Opinion and Political Parties

EXAM 1

Topic 7	National Forests
Topic 8	BLM Land
Topic 9	National Parks and Monuments
Topic 10	National Wilderness
Topic 11	Mining and Energy
Topic 12	Wildlife and Ecosystem Management

EXAM 2

Final Group Presentations