

Natural Resource Policy & Administration

Course Syllabus

NRSM 422 – Spring 2016
3 credits, CRN# 30401
Tues/Thurs 12:40-2:00pm
Chemistry Building Room 123

Instructor Info

Brian C. Chaffin, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

College of Forestry & Conservation

Clapp Building (CHCP) #409

406.243.6575

brian.chaffin@umontana.edu

Office Hours

Wed 1:00-2:00pm

Thurs 2:30-4:00pm

Or by appointment

Course Description

This course examines U.S. public land and natural resources policy, law and administration from multiple perspectives. It covers environmental and administrative decision making and various contemporary resource management problems and conflicts. A number of substantive policy areas are examined including national forests, public rangelands, water, wildlife and biodiversity, and protected areas, among others. The approach and analysis of these substantive policy areas is designed to foster a better understanding of the relationships between law, policy and resource management in the U.S., with a focus on the primary majors in the College of Forestry & Conservation (forestry—as required by SAF, wildlife biology, resource conservation, recreation (PTRM) and ecological restoration), as well as other environmental science related disciplines.

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Acquire a substantive understanding of natural resources law, policy and management in the United States
 - Understand basic decision-making and planning processes applied to manage natural resources and public lands in the U.S.
 - Understand key environmental laws and policies as well as how they work on-the-ground in diverse management settings

- Understand and be able to articulate several approaches to different natural resource and public land policy problems
2. Be able to think critically about a number of natural resource policy problems and solutions.
 - Understand the nature of various policy disputes and the root causes of conflict
 - Evaluate the assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of various reform measures and policy proposals
 - Approach problems and issues in an integrated and intellectually rigorous fashion
 3. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to apply acquired knowledge to their field of study or professional/personal interest(s)
 - Specifically, students will be able to articulate both verbally and in writing important connections between law and policy and contemporary management problems in forestry, resource conservation, wildlife management, recreation and related environmental sciences.

Required Text

- 1) Rasband J, Salzman J, Squillace M. 2009. *Natural Resources Law and Policy*, 2nd ed. New York: Foundation Press. 1340pp.*
- 2) Occasional readings posted to Moodle as assigned.

**This textbook is outrageously expensive and I apologize for the cost. Please feel free to use a cheaper 1st edition of the text if you can find it at the UM Bookstore or elsewhere (the syllabus includes page numbers for following along with the 1st edition). In the past, the 2nd edition could be rented from Amazon.com for the semester at a much more reasonable price. In addition, thanks to a generous grant awarded to Dr. Martin Nie of the College of Forestry & Conservation, 9 copies of the book are on reserve at the library and available for 4 hours at a time. Please utilize this resource. The UM Bookstore has paid students a little under half the price of the text during book buyback. I have decided to stay with this textbook because of feedback from prior classes that strongly recommended its continued use.*

Student & Instructor Expectations

Participation

My courses are fueled by class discussion. Thus, I expect *all* students to not only have read the reading assignments prior to class, but *be prepared to discuss the readings* on a regular basis. I seek input from the entire class, not just from a few committed students, and I will randomly

call on students to solicit their input and to assess comprehension of difficult topics. I reserve the right to initiate daily reading quizzes if I find that students are generally unprepared for class. Therefore, it is in the collective interest of the class to be prepared and participate. Any student who misses class will be held responsible for all materials covered and all announcements made during his/her absence. Do not ask me for missed handouts or about material that was covered unless the absence was University-approved.

The UM "Class Attendance/Absence Policy" can be found in the [UM Catalog \(2015-2016\) Academic Policies and Procedures](#).

Respect, Inclusiveness and Diversity of Thoughts, Ideas and People

In teaching courses, I believe and act upon the idea that all students are entitled to and deserve respect, courtesy and tolerance, regardless of their race, background, religious affiliation, gender, sexual preference, disability or any other perceived difference. Likewise, faculty, staff and fellow students deserve the same treatment from other students. Therefore, within the bounds of my courses and professional responsibilities as a university instructor, I make every effort to promote and create a safe space for diverse thoughts, regardless of the form of communication. I ask that you do the same.

Given the amount of discussion expected in this course, showing respect for others is paramount and is taken very seriously. We will strive towards an engaging, respectful, open forum in which numerous opinions related to the course material can be discussed and explored.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Plagiarism

The following is taken directly the [UM Catalog \(2015-2016\) Academic Policies and Procedures](#):

"Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion.

Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one's own original work is the proper and honest

use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one's own original work is plagiarism.”

Equal Access

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors and [Disability Services for Students](#) (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommason 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate modification.

Assignments & Assessment

Exams

There will be two regular exams and one final exam in this course consisting of short answer essay questions. I will post potential test questions on Moodle at least one week prior to each exam and two weeks prior to the final. The final will be cumulative, but I will place an emphasis on the material covered since the previous exam. The final exam is scheduled for **Tuesday May 10th from 1:10pm to 3:10pm**. Make-up exams will only be given for University-excused absences on the day of exam and they will be re-scheduled at my convenience. Exams are graded by a teaching assistant and myself.

Policy reflection papers

During the semester, I will ask you to complete four (4) “policy reflection papers” consisting of a **1-page, single spaced, typed** response to a writing prompt that I will provide to you at least two weeks before the paper is due. I expect you to respond to the writing prompt or question based on a combination of your assessment of the readings, personal experience and additional research or reading as necessary. In some cases I will ask you for your opinion, but I will require you to support your opinion with evidence from the text or other sources. If you need to cite a resource other than the text (e.g., newspaper, magazine or law review article), please list the reference at the end of your reflection essay following APA citation guidelines. A great reference for how to format citations in APA style can be found on the [Purdue University Online Writing Lab website](#). Some important details about the policy reflection papers: 1) they are to be **handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are due** or earlier (late work will not be accepted without a written notification of a University-excused absence). 2) DO NOT hand in more than one piece of paper; practice writing concisely and to the point; if you spill over to a second page, make sure it is printed on the back of the first. 3) Use 12-pt font, no bigger, no smaller. 4) Put your Name, 790# and Assignment number at the top of the page like this:

First and last name

790-XXX-XXX

Policy Reflection Paper #1

Grading Scale & Points

This course is graded on the traditional A – F letter grade scale only, it is not offered under the credit/no credit option. Upon completion of the course, your points earned on exams and policy reflection papers will be expressed as a percentage of total points possible in the course and translated into a letter grade as follows:

Grading scale	Points available
A 93-100%	Exam 1: 100 points
A- 90-92%	Exam 2: 100 points
B+ 88-89%	Final Exam: 100 points
B 83-87%	Policy reflection papers x 4
B- 80-82%	@ 25 points each
C+ 78-79%	= 100 points
C 73-77%	
C- 70-72%	<u>Course total:</u> 400 points
D+ 68-69%	
D 63-67%	
D- 60-62%	
F 59% and below	

Extra credit

As a general rule, I do not give extra credit, but I will note your level of participation in class and your diligence in keeping up with the readings as a method for determining whether to reevaluate a final grade at the end of the semester (e.g., an 89.4% is a B+ unless a student has been very engaged in class in a productive and respectful manner—in this case I will consider this grade an A-). In order to quantify this process, I will occasionally give an in-class quiz on the readings at the beginning of class. Taking the quiz will be mandatory, but incorrect answers WILL NOT hurt your overall grade. Instead, the quizzes will be used by me to determine your diligence in completing the readings as well as the general class level of comprehension and progression with the course subject matter. Quiz scores will be reviewed at the end of the semester if a student's grade is on the fence between grades.

Course Readings & Class Schedule*

Reading the Text

You have likely noticed (or will soon) the density of our text for this semester. I have chosen it because of its integrated and comprehensive approach to public land and natural resources policy, law and administration. Previous surveys of this course have indicated that the majority

of students prefer a comprehensive and detailed text that they can keep and use as a future resource and reference. Please do not be intimidated by this book: we will work our way through it together and I will tell you exactly what pages to read and what concepts are important. In general, it is a good idea to read the selected sections (see below) while skipping the extended question and case law sections, as this will make the reading much lighter. Students interested in the subject matter, however, are encouraged to read more in this text and beyond (see “additional resources” section below). You are not expected to memorize the cases, nor understand the intricacies of the American legal system in this course. We will discuss these related issues in class as necessary to gain context.

If you are using a 1st edition of the Rasband et al. text, use the page numbers in (parentheses) below. All readings are to be completed BEFORE the class period assigned below.

Course Schedule

Class	Topic	Reading/Assignment
1/26	Introduction to Natural Resource Policy & Administration	Read the syllabus
1/28	Why are natural resources so difficult to manage?	pp. 36-62 (1 st ed. 35-56)
2/2	Acquisition of public lands & allocation of natural resources	pp. 82-88 (1 st ed. 80-89) pp. 94-95, 115-126, 129-133, 139-141 (1 st ed. 94-95, 115-126, 129-132, 139-140)
2/4	Federal power over natural resource management	pp. 146-148, 156-157, 184-185 (1 st ed. 144-146, 154-157, 182-184) <u>Optional/suggested</u> : <i>Kleppe v. New Mexico</i> , pp. 148-153 (1 st ed. 146-151)
2/9	Federal natural resource agencies; agency decision making; the role of nongovernmental organizations	pp. 214-220 (1 st ed. 207-216) pp. 223-233 (1 st ed. 220-227) pp. 236-241 (1 st ed. 233-240, 251-253)
2/11	The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) & environmental assessment	pp. 258-268, 277-279, 285-286, 288-289, 290-292 (1 st ed. 253-263, 271-273, 283-294) Policy reflection paper #1 Due
2/16	<i>(finish up NEPA/EIS discussions)</i> Introduction to water resources policy, management and administration	pp. 739-758 (1 st ed. 703-727)
2/18	The law of water allocation	pp. 758-825 (1 st ed. 727-794)
2/23	Water federalism & other important issues for understanding water allocation (e.g., reserved rights; <i>Winters</i> rights)	pp. 825-888 (1 st ed. 794-802) Policy reflection paper #2 Due

2/25		Exam #1
3/1	Introduction to mining; mining on public lands	pp. 1022-26 (1 st ed. 980-984) pp. 1077-86 (1 st ed. 1033-41)
3/3	Environmental regulation of mining	pp. 1170-74 (1 st ed. 1121-36) pp. 219-220 (1 st ed. 58-62)
3/8	Public rangeland policy	pp. 913-934 (1 st ed. 880-896)
3/10	Environmental law & rangelands	pp. 949-973, 1011-15 (1 st ed. 915-921, 937-938)
3/15	Rangeland reform	pp. 975-983 Policy reflection paper #3 Due
3/17	Guest speaker <i>TBA</i>	Reading <i>TBA</i>
3/22	Introduction to America's forests, use and allocation	pp. 1195-1227 (1 st ed. 1142-1174) <i>(You can skip cases and questions & discussion sections in these pages)</i>
3/24	Forest law and policy	pp. 1227-1316 (1 st ed. 1175-1253) <i>(You can skip cases and questions & discussion sections in these pages)</i>
3/29	Forest & natural resource planning on public lands	pp. 292-319 (1 st ed. 283-294)
3/31		Exam #2
4/12	Wildlife and biodiversity policy	pp. 320-348 (1 st ed. 310-332)
4/14	The Endangered Species Act	pp. 348-426 (1 st ed. 339-425)
4/19	<i>(finish up ESA discussions)</i> Protected lands policy	pp. 577-599 (1 st ed. 553-572) Policy reflection paper #4 Due
4/21	National Parks & Monuments	pp. 599-635 (1 st ed. 574-609)
4/26	National Wildlife Refuges & Wild and Scenic Rivers	pp. 662-673 (1 st ed. 641-648)
4/28	Wilderness	pp. 636-661 (1 st ed. 609-641)
5/3	Alternatives to public lands preservation; private lands conservation	pp. 727-738 (1 st ed. 690-700)
5/5	Last Class—wrap up and review	
5/10	1:10-3:10pm	Final Exam

**This course schedule is tentative and subject to change. Please be attentive to announcements in class and on Moodle that amend this schedule. I will update the syllabus on Moodle regularly. Be sure you are working off the most updated version in Moodle or that you bring a copy of this schedule to class with you regularly in order to record adjustments.*

Additional Resources

There are an incredible amount of internet resources available (of various quality) to learn more about Natural Resource Policy & Administration. I recommend the following websites:

Redlodge Clearinghouse "[Know the Law](#)" Legal Summaries

News Coverage

Greenwire, Energywire or Climatewire by [Energy & Environment Publishing](#)

[Headwaters News](#)