

Syllabus Fall 2004

ESH 341 Environmental Regulations

Instructor:

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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 10:00-12:00, Wednesdays: 10:00-12:00, or by appointment.

Meetings:

Thursdays 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m., Room 304, Payson Smith Hall, Portland Campus.

Course Materials:

- *Environmental Law Handbook, Eighteenth Edition*, 2005. Ed., Thomas F. P. Sullivan, Government Institutes, Rockville, MD.
- Course PowerPoint Slides, external links, additional readings, and all quizzes and exams will be posted on Blackboard.

Introduction:

This course is an intensive introduction to the federal and Maine environmental regulatory structure. Successful completion of the class is a crucial element in achieving basic competency in the environmental management and health and safety fields.

By its nature, the environmental regulatory field is based on jargon, specialized definitions, and seemingly illogical structures. Nevertheless, understanding all these components will provide you with a valuable professional skill. In this upper-level course, you are expected to go beyond mere factual recall of definitions and regulations. You are expected to understand the requirements sufficiently to apply them in appropriate circumstances (and of course the quizzes and exams). To practice the application aspect, we will be reviewing and discussing newspaper and other articles offered by myself and the students to identify timely relevant applications of the regulations.

Tentative Schedule of Topics*

Class	Topics	Assignments+	
Sep. 8	INTRODUCTION Regulatory Process Overview Enforcement Citations	Read Chapters 1 & 2	
Sep. 15	CERCLA - Part I Background Overview NCP Liability Removal Response Remedial Response <i>Current Topics</i>	Read Chapter 9 (except for sections 6, 7, & 8)	Quiz 1 Article
Sep. 22	OSHA Background Overviews Requirements Indoor Air Quality (Radon and mold) Background Overviews Requirements <i>Current Topics</i>	Chapter 15	Quiz 2 Article
Sep. 29	RCRA D & I Background Overview Municipal Solid Waste Non-hazardous Industrial Waste Underground Storage Tanks <i>Current Topics</i>	Read Chapter 3 (sections 1 -3, 5, 6, & 11) and Chapter 4	Quiz 3 Article
Oct. 6	RCRA C Background Hazardous Waste <i>Current Topics</i>	Read Chapter 3 (sections 1 through 4)	Quiz 4 Article
Oct. 13	CWA - PART 1 Background Overview Point Source NPDES TMDL <i>Current Topics</i>	Read Chapter 6 (sections 1-6)	Quiz 5 Article
Oct. 20	CWA - PART 2 Pretreatment Non-point Discharges Wetlands SPCC <i>Current Topics</i>	Chapter 6 (sections 7 – 12, except for section 10.2)	Quiz 6 Article

Oct. 27	MID-TERM Review Exam	<i>Review all materials</i>	
Nov. 3	CERCLA – PART 2 Background Emergency Spill Response OPA <i>Current Topics</i>	Read Chapter 7 & Chapter 9	
Nov. 10	CAA – PART 1 Background Overview NAAQS AQCRs State Implementation Plans NSPS <i>Current Topics</i>	Chapter 5 (sections 1, 2.1 & 2.2)	Quiz 7 Article
Nov. 17	CAA – PART 2 Permits MACTs Control Technology <i>Current Topics</i>	Chapter 5 (sections 2.3 & 2.4, 3, & 4)	Quiz 8 Article
Nov. 24 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING			
Dec. 1	<i>Non-Sudden Release Reporting</i> EPCRA <i>Sudden Release Reporting</i> CERCLA CWA TSCA HMTA <i>Current Topics</i>	Chapter 6 (sec. 10.2 only), Chapter 9 (section 6 only), & Chapter 14	Quiz 9 Article
Dec. 8	TSCA, FIFRA, SDWA, PPA Background Overviews Requirements <i>Current Topics</i>	Chapters 8, 11, 12, & 13	Quiz 10 Article
Dec. 16	Final Exam <i>Tentative Date</i>	Review All Materials	

* The topics are subject to change.

+ Readings are to be completed before class

Performance Evaluation:

Class Attendance	15 points
Article	10 points
Quizzes (10)	100 points
Mid-term Exam	50 points
Final Exam	75 points
TOTAL	250 points

Articles:

Each week I will be summarizing a few newspaper articles regarding the currently assigned topic for the class. This is used for you to understand the applied nature of environmental regulations. Each student is required to locate and summarize briefly in class an article regarding the topic discussed during the previous class. In other words, on the third course meeting, selected students will discuss an application of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund).

Quizzes:

There are 10 Quizzes. Each Quiz generally will have three sections to: (1) test your knowledge of definitions covered during the previous week, (2) test your basic knowledge of the material covered in the previous week (including the article), and (3) assess your ability to apply what you have learned.

The Quizzes will be offered on-line through Blackboard only. They will be available within approximately 24 hours of the end of class until three hours before the next class. An online announcement will be made when they are available. The times will NOT be extended for any reason so plan your week accordingly.

You will have 75 minutes to complete the Quiz, but you can start it at anytime it is available. I strongly suggest you complete your studying and be well organized to take the quiz because of the time limit. It is an open-book quiz, but cutting and pasting from the Internet or other sources is considered a violation of academic honesty (see below). However, I strongly suggest you type the answer in Word and paste the answer into the quiz. This way you will have your answer sheet to compare with the course answer sheet as I will not be grading quizzes by hand. Moreover, you can use spell check.

Regulations rely heavily on acronyms. Consequently, knowing these acronyms is an important element in this course. Although I will use acronyms in the questions, you may not use acronyms in the answer. They must always be spelled out. Not doing so will result in a reduced grade.

Exams:

The mid-term exam will follow the structure of the Quizzes and include all material discussed up to that point. A review will be offered for the mid-term.

The final exam will be comprehensive.

Course Policies:

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is taken very seriously in this course. Instances of Academic Integrity will be dealt in accordance with USM's Academic Integrity Code. When in doubt, ask me! Types of academic integrity violations include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication:

Cheating = Using unauthorized notes, study aids, or information on exams.

Plagiarism = Submitting material that in part or whole is not entirely your own work without proper attribution. For example, copying information from textbooks or the Internet in your papers without proper referencing. This also includes attempting to submit another person's data/results as your own regardless of whether you have their permission.

Fabrication = Falsifying or inventing any information, data, or citation.

Grading

You will be graded based on your performance throughout the course. Not only are you expected to come to class, you are expected to contribute to discussions as appropriate; it is your responsibility to yourself, to your fellow classmates, and to me. If you miss class, obtain the notes from a classmate, access Blackboard, and keep up on the readings. If you become confused about lecture or reading material (or intrigued) stop by during my office hours, make an appointment, call, or email me.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation count for 15 percent of your grade. I reserve the right to employ additional quizzes on the readings as part of this grade if I feel it is necessary (i.e., I will use quizzes on the readings if it is apparent you are not completing the reading).

Missed Classes and Late Assignments

There are no make-up Quizzes or exams unless the need for one is discussed prior to the scheduled exam time and even then, it is at my discretion. Late assignments are not accepted unless it is arranged in advance or it is necessary due to a documented emergency. Acceptance of a late assignment, which is at my discretion, will be penalized 10% for each day late. Remember that if you miss a class in which there is a Quiz or an in-class assignment, your grade will be affected twice (attendance and Quiz scores). Thus, it is imperative to contact me with problems before they arise. I have voice mail and email so I can be contacted day or night (note: both voice mail and email time and date your message.) If you start to feel like you are falling behind or are having difficulty, see me immediately.

Incompletes

Life presents unexpected surprises and an incomplete is sometimes a necessary choice. I will only give an incomplete for reasons that arise in the last two weeks of the semester. If you need to take an incomplete, you must meet with me before the end of the semester. According to USM guidelines, if you take an incomplete, you must complete the course by the end of the following semester or your grade automatically becomes an F.

The Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 is a federal law mandating the elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities. If you need course adaptations or accommodations, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. Only students who are registered with the Office of Academic Support for Students with Disabilities (237 Luther Bonney, 780-4706) are eligible for accommodation. Students experience difficulty in courses for a variety of reasons. For problems in writing skills and time management, make an appointment to see a student tutor at the Academic Support Center, 242 Luther Bonney (780-4470). Help is also available through the Counseling Center, 106 Payson Smith (780-4050). In addition, the Learning Centers in Portland, 253 Luther Bonney Hall (780-4228) and Gorham, Costello Sports Complex (228-8224) offer a series of academic workshops.