ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
BLW 478.020

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Office & Office hours: McGee Business Bldg. (BU) 121. I am available for questions and consultations for approximately 30 – 45 minutes before and after each class period.
Department/school: Business Communication & Legal Studies/Nelson Rusche College of Business
Class meeting time and place: 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m./McGee Business Bldg. (BU) 127

Course Description:
The study of the basic framework of environmental law including its philosophy and applicability in the business environment.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp.

Text and Materials: There is no required textbook for this class. Course content will be provided in lectures and supplemental materials.

Course Requirements and Grading – Grades will be based upon a 400 point scale. There will be three Exams and each Exam will account for 100 points. There will be two research assignments and each research assignment will account for 50 points. Tests will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false and short answer. Each test will be completed in a blue-book. Research assignments are all or nothing. The work must be substantially complete and submitted in a timely manner, for the student to receive credit.

Make-up exams – Make-up exams will consist of two or three essay questions designed to test the student’s knowledge of material from the previous exam until the present. All make-up exams will be in this format regardless of the reason for having missed the regularly scheduled exam.

Attendance – Regular attendance is absolutely necessary. As there is no textbook, the only way to acquire the required information is to attend class. Exam material will consist primarily of application of a legal concept to a set of facts. Proper understanding is difficult to develop by reading someone else’s notes.
Electronic Devices - Electronic devices shall be turned off during class.

General Policies:

Student Academic Dishonesty (University Policy 4.1)
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any assignment or exam; (2) falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author credit. Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

Course Grades (University Policy 5.5)
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy related to active military service. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please refer to the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Room 325 in the Human Services Building, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Conduct (University Policy 10.4)
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the full Student Conduct Code at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf.) Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
Proposed Schedule of Class Topics

Aug 29 – Introduction and Class Overview

Aug 31 – Different Philosophies in Environmental Regulation, What are we Trying to Solve?

Sept. 5 – Introduction to the Study of Law

Sept 7 – Introduction to the Study of Law continued.

Sept 12 - Administrative Agencies in Environmental Law

Sept 14 – Administrative Agencies in Environmental Law, continued

Sept 19 – The Courts in Environmental Law

Sept 21 - The Constitution and the Executive in Environmental Law

Sept 26 - Chapter 5, Protection of the Environment at the Local and International Levels (Research Assignment)

Sept 28 – EXAM

Oct 3 - Due Diligence in Transactional Law

Oct 5 - Due Diligence in Transactional Law, continued

Oct 10 - National Environmental Policy Act

Oct 12- (Research Assignment Due) You will present your findings in class

Oct 17 - The Air We Breathe

Oct 19 - The Air We Breathe, continued

Oct 24 – EXAM

Oct 26 – Surface Water Rights

Oct 31 – Ground Water Rights

Nov 2 – Water Quality

Nov 7 – Water Quality, continued
Nov 9 - CERCLA, SARA, EPCRA, and TSCA

Nov 14 – Pesticide Registration under FIFRA

Nov 16 – Use and Enforcement under FIFRA

Nov 28 – Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste


Dec 5 - TBA

Dec 7 – Research Assignment Due, Review for Final Exam

Dec Tuesday Dec 12, 5 - 7 p.m. Final EXAM