

Environmental Law and Management

EN/CM 587-A

Spring 2023/Room Gateway South 025 (M: 6.30pm-9.00pm)

Instructor:	Angelo Elmi, P.E.
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Office hours:	Mondays 5 -6pm/upon request

Textbook (Required):

Environmental Law Handbook

Christopher L. Bell, et al

(Available to Rent on Amazon)

Optional Materials:

Books: *Environmental Law – A Very Short Introduction*, Elizabeth Fisher; *Sustainable Mass Transit*, Thomas Abdallah

Recommended films: *A Civil Action*, *Erin Brockovich*, *Deepwater Horizon*, *Dark Waters*

Course Description:

This course, as the name implies, addresses environmental law and the management of those laws in the real world. Environmental law and environmental management are meant to minimize, prevent and mitigate environmental impacts on humans and the natural environment. The law greatly affects engineering, architecture, corporate policy, etc., in that it establishes rules and regulations on how to do conduct business. The course entails a survey of legal and regulatory approaches and best practices to minimize environmental impacts and be compliant with the law of the land.

This course will focus on the prominent environmental laws of the United States. These will include the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its State equivalents, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act—to name a few.

Managing those laws as an engineer, architect, plant manager, planner, etc, can be complex and requires significant know-how. The course will focus on best practices and practical guidance for capital public projects; however, many of the concepts can be applied to private projects as well. The success of launching a new project or policy weighs heavily on thorough planning and environmental review and management.

Sustainability and its implementation within each project is greatly affected by environmental laws—as what is voluntary and optional one day, may become law the next.

Course Objectives:

This course will provide students with the skills and knowledge to understand and manage major environmental laws. The objectives of the course will be for the students to achieve the following:

- obtain an overview and awareness of the myriad of Environmental Laws in this country
- be able to describe which environmental laws may affect a particular project or action
- be able to read complex environmental laws and documents
- work as a team on presenting environmental impacts of a project or action

The course will provide students with guidance on how to manage large complex projects in the public and private realms. Students will be prepared to lead a project through the myriad environmental regulations at the federal, state, and local levels. As an engineering or sustainability manager, the student will be able to use the tools discussed throughout this course to properly plan a project that ensures compliance and success. The students will be given an opportunity to present and plan a project of their own at the end of the semester.

Policies

Everyone must use their Stevens email account and/or Canvas for communication. All announcements and communications will be made via Canvas and/or emails. You are responsible for checking and responding to all information given in class/Canvas.

You are required to read materials identified in the syllabus before coming to class. Online readings and library research outside what is presented in the text book will be required.

Participation in class activities is mandatory and will be graded.

Late reports will be penalized at 20% per day late.

Mobile phone use is NOT allowed in class. Recording is not permitted without permission.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Students are expected to be honest in all their academic work. It is assumed and expected that work you hand in will always be your own. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be handled in accordance with school policy.

Grading:

Participation/ Attendance	10%
Homework:	20%
Mid-term quiz	20%
Presentations	50%

Grade Distribution:

$\geq 95\%$	= A;
90 – 94.99%	= A-;
85 – 89.99%	= B+;
80 – 84.99%	= B;
70 – 79.99%	= C;
< 70%	= F

Schedule of Classes:

Class number		Topic(s)	Guest speaker	Assignments *due before the class indicated
Week 1	Jan 23	What is Environmental Law and Management? /Ethics		Read text Chapter 1 (Enviro Law Handbook)
Week 2	Jan 30	Introduction to NEPA and Environmental Quality Review		Read text Chapter 10
Week 3	Feb 6	NEPA Case Studies	Steve Eget, VP WSP	<i>HW: Read and summarize an EIS (1-2 pgs):</i> http://www.nj.gov/dep/floodresilience/rbd-hudsonriver.htm
Week 4	Feb 13	Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts		Read text Chapters 6 and 8
Week 5	Feb 22 (Wed)	OSHA, Right-to-Know, Toxic Substances	Mark Drozdov, VP Lozier, Prof @ Cooper Union	Research OSHA scope and policy directives
Week 6	Feb 27	Climate Change and Sandy		<i>HW: White Paper on Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath (1-2 pgs)</i>
Week 7	March 6	Natural Resources	Mike Francis, Catalyst Group	Read/Research Wetlands Laws
Week 8	March 20	Hazardous and Contaminated Sites	Ritu Mody, FPM	<i>HW: Read and summarize a Superfund site (1-2 pgs): Hoosick Falls, NY</i> https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&id=0202702
Week 9	March 27	Clean Air Act	Steve Eget, VP WSP	Read text Chapters 3, 9 Read Chapter 5
Week 10	April 3	Class mid term review and team presentation prep		Start forming teams for Final
Week 11	April 10	Mid-term Exam The Energy Code	Fatou Jabbe, President USL	Read NYC Local Law 97 Executive Order 22 (City of NY)
Week 12	April 17	Environmental Justice (EJ)	Josh Gillespie, Principal Planner, HDR	Read Executive Order 12898
Week 13	April 24	Parkland and Historic Preservation	Zach Davis, Dewberry, Principal Archaeologist	Read Section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act and 4(f) of USDOT Act of 1966
Week 14	May 1	Sustainability in Mass Transit	Tom Abdallah, MTA Professor Columbia U.	Sustainable Mass Transit - selected chapters <i>HW: Write a White Paper on the latest transit initiatives and what laws are affected</i>
Week 15	May 8	Environmental Management Systems	Kate Aglitsky, MTA Prof Stevens	Read Chapter 17
Week 16	May 15	Class Presentations on an EIS/EA with Discussion	FINAL	Team Presentations