

# BUTTE COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

**NR 60 - Natural Resources Law**

**3 Unit(s)**

**Prerequisite(s):** NONE

**Recommended Prep:** Reading Level IV; English Level III; Math Level II

**Transfer Status:** CSU

51 hours Lecture

This course introduces students to federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the management and protection of natural resources. Topics include the history and development of environmental law including Air and Water Quality Acts, National Environmental Policy Act, and Endangered Species Act. Graded only.

### II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the pertinent legislative entities and environmental laws, their history and development.
- B. Describe how the laws of a community reflect moral and ethical commitments to the environment and sustainability.
- C. Locate and analyze the federal and state acts, statutes and regulations which protect the environment.
- D. Explain the biological, chemical and physical reactions of the environment to deleterious acts and processes.
- E. Identify the procedures required by law for the purpose of mitigating damage to the environment by industry and human development.

### III. COURSE CONTENT

#### A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Introduction to the Law	3.00
2. The American Legal System: The Source of Environmental Law	6.00
3. The Litigation Process and Other Tools for Resolving Environmental Disputes	6.00
4. Administrative Law and Its Impact on the Environment	3.00
5. An Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy	6.00
6. Air-Quality Control	3.00
7. Water-Quality Control	3.00
8. Controlling Toxic Substances	3.00
9. Waste Management and Hazardous Releases	3.00
10. Energy	3.00
11. Natural Resources	6.00
12. International Environmental Law	3.00
13. Environmental Impact Report	3.00
Total Hours	51.00

#### **IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture
- B. Group Discussions
- C. Guest Speakers
- D. Collaborative Group Work
- E. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- F. Multimedia Presentations

#### **V. METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Quizzes
- B. Research Projects
- C. Oral Presentation
- D. Written Assignments
- E. Mid-term and final examinations
- F. Essays and research papers

#### **VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Reading Assignments
  - 1. Read an article on a violation related to hunting out of season and be prepared to discuss in class.
  - 2. Read a case law regarding controversial development on forested land and summarize your findings.
- B. Writing Assignments
  - 1. Pick one of your favorite environmental laws and write a 1500 word paper identifying how it impacts you personally.
  - 2. Attend a County Board of Supervisors meeting and write a 300 word report on the meeting.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
  - 1. Attend a government meeting related to environmental issues and make a report on the issues and outcome.
  - 2. Work with other students to prepare a "skit" based on case law, to be shared with the class.

#### **VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

##### Textbooks:

- A. Kubasek, N.K. and Silverman, G.S. Environmental Law. 8th Edition. Pearson Custom Business Resources, 2014.

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