

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation , Health, and Tourism

PRLS 501 – Natural Resources Law (3)
Fall 2009

DAY/TIME:	Televideo GMU-TV	LOCATION:	Televideo (GMU-TV)
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OFFICE HOURS:	By Appointment	CELL NUMBER:	703 455 8474 (preferred)

PREREQUISITES: PRLS 460 OR graduate status OR permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Examines selected legal issues involving conflicting use and preservation demands on our nation's limited natural resource base, particularly those involving public lands, open space, and recreation resources. Uses case studies of recent court decisions.

COURSE OVERVIEW: Through the case study method, this course examines the role of the courts and federal and state law in addressing a variety of issues involving the acquisition, management and preservation of natural resources, specifically public park and recreation resources. Natural resource law will be defined by the administrative and environmental review process used by citizens and interest groups to challenge governmental actions. Further, the course will examine the mission and authority of individual federal resource agencies within the context of specific environmental and resource conservation laws. In particular, this course will examine a number of natural resources legal issues involving recreation resources on federal lands.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Define the role of the courts in balancing conflicting use and preservation demands on our nation's limited natural resource base, particularly those involving public lands, open space, and recreation resources.
2. Analyze the relevance and significance of specific facts in a particular case involving the acquisition, management and preservation of natural resources, specifically public park and recreation resources.
3. Identify the issues/questions of natural resources law to be resolved by the court in a particular case involving the acquisition, management and preservation of natural resources, specifically public park and recreation resources.

4. Identify the relevant sources and rules of law applied by courts to resolve issues of natural resources law involving the acquisition, management and preservation of natural resources, specifically public park and recreation resources.

5. Describe the legal analysis and methodology applied by courts to resolve issues of natural resources law, including the role of cases, regulations, legislative materials, and other relevant law related information used by courts to resolve natural resources law issues.

REQUIRED READINGS & TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Students are expected view each weekly class lecture on the GMU-TV website.

Students will be required to read and study a compilation of court opinions, case reports and related articles and materials addressing issues in natural resources law. The tentative course schedule with links to case reports and related articles will be available for reading, downloading and printing on the PRLS 501 site at the following address:

<http://classweb.gmu.edu/jkozlows/501.html>

EVALUATION

3 exams (open book, weighted equally 33.3% each)

Exams in PRLS 501 will be computer based on CE6 Blackboard.

Each exam is composed of approx. 50-75 questions (multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer) The exams are based on required readings and video lectures. To prepare for the exams, students will be required to focus on the applicable rules of law illustrated and distinguished by the case reports and court opinions in the required readings.

Each exam will test students' understanding of general principles of natural resources law and case examples described in the required readings and lectures. Exam questions will measure students' abilities to identify general legal principles used by the court to resolve questions of natural resources law generally and in particular cases.

In addition, a number of questions may be based on recent related court opinions which are not covered in the class lectures. In these unfamiliar case studies, students must be able to identify the issues, rules of law, and the manner in which the court applied significant facts to the relevant rules of law to resolve identified issues and reach its conclusion.

Grading Scale Curve

Final Grades will be calculated based on the percentage of correct responses to questions on all 3 exams:

Grade/ Percentage

A+	80-100	120
A	70-79	105
A-	60-69	90
B+	55-59	82
B	50-54	75
B-	45-49	67
C+	40-44	60
C	35-39	52
F	0-34	

GMU e-mail will be the primary means of communication to respond to student inquiries and update the class on any course schedule changes. University policy requires all GMU students to activate and access their GMU e-mail.



- ❖ All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor12>]
- ❖ University policy states that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the professor
- ❖ Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See www.gmu.edu/student/drc]
- ❖ For additional School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism information, please visit the website at <http://rht.gmu.edu>