

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism**  
**PRLS 501 (Section 001) –Natural Resources Law (3)**  
**Fall 2015**

<b>DAY/TIME:</b>	Web based Tele video	<b>LOCATION:</b>	Web based Tele video
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. James C. Kozlowski	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	jkozlows@gmu.edu
<b>OFFICE:</b>	220a Occoquan Bldg.	<b>PHONE:</b>	703.993.2027
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	by appointment	<b>CELL:</b>	703.455.8474

**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 OBJECTIVES:** At the completion of the 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.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION STANDARDS**

Further, upon completion of this course, students will meet the following professional accreditation standards: 2013 Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Related Professions (COAPRT) standards met:

- 7.03 Students graduating from the program shall be able to demonstrate entry-level knowledge about operations and strategic management/administration in parks, recreation, tourism and/or related professions.

**DELIVERY METHOD**

This course will be delivered online using an **asynchronous** (not “real time”) format via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the [MyMason](#) portal. You will log in to the Blackboard course site using your Mason email name (everything before “@masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on May 19, 2014.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To participate in this course, students will need the following resources:

High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox. Opera and Safari are **not** compatible with Blackboard;

Consistent and reliable access to GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course

Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of the course requirements.

The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs respectively, available for free downloading by clicking on the link next to each plug-in:

Adobe Acrobat Reader: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Windows Media Player: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/downloads/windows-media-player>

Apple QuickTime Player: [www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

SKYPE: <http://www.skype.com/en/>

A headset microphone may be needed (not required) for use with SKYPE the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool

## EXPECTATIONS

- **Course Week:** Because online courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday, and finish on Sunday.
- Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, at a minimum this should be 4 times per week.
- Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which include viewing of all course materials, completing course assignments and assessments.
- Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students are expected to seek assistance if they are struggling with technical components of the course.
- Students should expect that they could experience some technical difficulties at some point in the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- **Workload:** Expect to log in to this course at least three times a week to read announcements and work on course materials. Remember, this course is not self-paced. There are specific deadlines and due dates listed in the COURSE SCHEDULE section of this syllabus to which you are expected to adhere. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assessments due.
- **Advising:** If you would like to schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues, we can meet via telephone or web conference on SKYPE. Send me an email to schedule your one-on-one session and include your preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.

## REQUIRED READINGS & CLASS ITEMS:

The "textbook" in this course is a compilation of case reports and related articles which I have written, in particular my monthly "NRPA Law Review" column in *Parks & Recreation* magazine (the official publication of the National Recreation and Park Association). These case reports and related articles will be available for reading, downloading and printing on the PRLS 501 site of my GMU homepage at the following address: <http://classweb.gmu.edu/jkozlows/501.htm>

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** I take the GMU Honor Code very seriously. Allowing students to take PRLS 501 exams off campus on a more flexible schedule is a privilege which PRLS 501 students have traditionally appreciated and have conducted themselves responsibly, but it may be subject to abuse. I expect every PRLS 501 student to know and adhere to their personal duties and responsibilities under the GMU Honor Code.

Individual exam questions on each exam are randomly selected by Blackboard from question sets in the PRLS 501 question database. All PRLS 501 exams are open book, but you are limited to primary course materials and video lectures posted to the PRLS 501 course webpage, as well as your own notes prepared prior to the exam.

Further, you are not to discuss the exam with any other student during or after the time which the exam is accessible. Providing or reproducing any information to another student about any questions on a PRLS 501 exam would constitute cheating within the context of the Honor Code, i.e., unauthorized use of study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information.

Any reproduction, electronic or otherwise, of any exam questions and materials at any time is prohibited by the Honor Code. Further, all course materials, including all exam questions and materials, are the intellectual property of James C. Kozlowski protected by federal copyright law.

### Responsibility of the Students

Students are responsible for understanding this PRLS 501 policy with regard to the Honor Code. Students are also responsible for understanding the provisions of the Honor Code. Students should also request an explanation of any part of the policy they do not understand.

All students have a duty to report to a suspected violation of the Honor Code to the course instructor.

### **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.

**EVALUATION:** 3 EXAMS on Blackboard (open book, weighted equally, each exam worth 33.3%)

### **GRADING SCALE**

Final grades are based solely on the percentage of points earned out of the total number of points available on all THREE exams. THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT. The grading scale for final grades based on the number of points earned out of a possible 150 on all THREE exams:

Grade Total Points Earned & Percent

A +	120 and above	80%
A	105 - 119	70%
A -	90 - 104	60%
B +	82 - 89	54.6
B	75 - 81	50
B -	67 - 74	44.6
C	60- 66	40
F	59 and below	

### **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

The tentative course schedule is listed on the PRLS 501 Course Webpage:

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

Students are expected to read and study the required readings for each unit as well as view the video lectures which accompanies each unit. The links to the video lectures are posted to the PRLS 501 course webpage:

In addition, to prepare for each exam, students are encouraged to access and complete the practice questions which will be provided on Blackboard.

*Note: Faculty reserve the right to revise the course schedule.*

### *Student Expectations*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of

professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].

- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu/>].

**PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:** Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

**CORE VALUES COMMITMENT:** The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

