

Water Law, Policy, and Institutions

AREC 342, Fall 2012 *Online*

Colorado State University

Instructor: Larisa Serbina and Chris Goemans

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Virtual Office Hours: Google Hangout (times to be announced) as well as scheduled by appointment

Course Website: RAMCT

Course Overview: The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the laws and policies governing the allocation of water throughout the United States; with particular attention being paid to the southwestern United States. Comparisons to alternate systems utilized internationally will be presented when relevant. Students will also be provided an overview of the institutions and parties that influence the allocation, administration, and development of policies (e.g. state and federal agencies, conservancy districts, utilities, etc.).

Objectives:

Students will develop an in-depth understanding of the following:

- Surface Water Allocation Law and Water Institutions at the Federal, State, and Local Levels
- The Fundamentals of Groundwater Law and Management
- Water Quality Law and its Interaction with Allocation Law
- Interstate and International Agreements
- Water Policy Design
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Textbook: Required reading materials will be posted online.

Student Evaluation (dates are indicated on the schedule below):

2 Quizzes	50 Points (25 points each)
Midterm	100 Points
Discussion Board	150 Points
<u>Final Project</u>	<u>100 Points</u>
Total	400 Points

The cutoff points for the different grades are:

A/A+	372	(93%)
A-	360	(90%)
B+	344	(86%)
B	332	(83%)
B-	320	(80%)
C+	304	(76%)
C	280	(70%)
D	240	(60%)
F	Below 240 points	(<60%)

Discussion Board:

Discussion Board questions or assignments will be posted each week on Thursday night. You are responsible to post your original response by Sunday of that week by 11:59 pm. To fully complete the Discussion Board assignment, you are then responsible for at least 2 quality response posts to your other classmates. The response posts are due by Thursday at 11:59 pm. Each week the discussion board is worth 10 points. In order to earn all the points the original question/assignment must be answered/completed in full detail and at least two quality responses must be posted in a timely manner.

Exams and Quizzes:

Exams will be administered only on the scheduled dates listed in the syllabus. NO make-up exams OR quizzes will be given unless the student notifies the instructor prior to the date of the exam that she/he will be gone for a University approved trip. Students missing exams due to DOCUMENTED medical reasons will be allowed to make up the exam. Substitute grading assignments will not be offered to those students who miss exams or quizzes. Reasonable accommodations will be given to those persons with documented disabilities.

Final Project:

A detailed description of the Final Project expectations will be provided later in the course.

Communication:

In addition to the assigned Discussion Board participation, you are provided with several other forums. One is “Course Questions and Clarifications”. This is where you are to submit questions regarding course work. Please post general questions there and use e-mail when the question pertains only to you personally. The second forum is called “Water News”. Please share articles, issues and current events that you come across on daily basis that pertain to water. This is your opportunity to bring your knowledge to the class. Post, share, respond! For course announcements from me look under “Announcements”. If you have a personal question regarding the class, you are welcome to email me. Otherwise, please use the forums provided.

***You have one week after receiving a graded assignment or exam to provide the instructor with a written grade appeal. The appeal should identify which question(s) is believed to be incorrectly scored. Note that the instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire work, potentially resulting in a lower overall grade.

Additional Notes/Thoughts:

- It is YOUR responsibility to be prepared for the exams and to understand what is expected for the written assignments. If you have questions come to me BEFORE the exam or the assignment is due.
- Cheating will NOT be tolerated. Cheating will result in a zero score on the exam/assignment and possibly a failing grade in the course.

- Please send emails with the header AREC 342. Otherwise, your email is not going to be recognized.
- If you are finding that you have difficulties in this course, ask for help as soon as possible. The instructor wants you to do well and meet your academic goals. The sooner you ask for help, the sooner you can get back on track.

Given that this is an online class your active participation in the discussion board and email communication with me will be important to your success. Please let me know if at any point in time you are struggling or if clarification is needed.

Course Schedule:

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 (8/21 & 8/23)		
Week 2 (8/28 & 8/30)		
Week 3 (9/4 & 9/6)		
Week 4 (9/11 & 9/13)		
Week 5 (9/18 & 9/20)		Quiz 1
Week 6 (9/25 & 9/27)		Project Proposal Due
Week 7 (10/2 – 10/4)		
Week 8 (10/9 – 10/11)		Midterm Exam
Week 9 (10/16 – 10/18)		
Week 11 (10/23 – 10/25)		Quiz 2
Week 12 (10/30 – 11/1)		
Week 13 (11/6 – 11/8)		Project Progress Due
Week 14 (11/13 – 11/15)		
FALL BREAK (11/19 – 11/23)	NO CLASS	NO Class
Week 15 (11/27 – 11/29)		Final Project Due
Week 16 (12/4 – 12/6)		
Final Exam 12/11: 6:20 PM to 8:20 PM		