

TITLE: Natural Resources Conservation and Policy
NUMBER: NRM 101
CREDITS: 3
PREREQUISITES: Placement in Writing F111x
LOCATION: Murie 107
MEETING TIME: 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. MWF
COURSE TYPE: F2F

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Peter J Fix
OFFICE LOCATION: 323 O'Neill; contact by email
OFFICE HOURS: M & W 12:30 to 2:00, or by appointment
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Catalog listing

History of natural resources conservation and policy in the United States, including the evolution of federal land and water management agencies and policies. Case studies of current natural resource conservation issues, both in the United States and internationally, that examine the interaction of society and the environment and explore solutions.

Additional course description

Natural resources form the basis of human existence, from food and shelter to non-essential goods we consume. While there are differing perspectives on the appropriate relationship between humans and the environment, there is a need to manage (even deciding to "leave alone" requires management actions). Lessons from the past have resulted in more sustainably managed natural resources, and perspectives on sustainability continue to evolve. This course will cover the historical aspects of natural resource conservation, current aspects of conservation, and explore case studies of current conservation issues faced by society.

- x Historical aspects of conservation
- x Terminology: preservation, conservation, etc.
- x Contemporary thoughts/practices: ecosystem services, sustainability, adaptive management
- x Brief introduction to economics
- x Key environmental laws
- x State and Federal agencies involved in conservation
- x AK Natives: ANCSA, AK Native Corporations and resource mgt.
- x Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- x Contemporary issues: waste, biodiversity, water, sustainable agriculture, transportation

After completion of this course, students will:

- x Correctly identify the key events forming the foundations of the modern conservation era, as well as key environmental laws
- x Accurately discuss the recent developments in the conservation field (e.g., resilience, adaptive management)
- x Articulate the differences among natural resource management agencies, including the role they play in natural resources conservation and policy
- x Apply critical thinking skills to contemporary conservation issues, applying course principles

We will use two text books for this course.

Sparling, D. W. (2014). *Natural resource administration: wildlife, fisheries, forests, and parks*.

Waltham, MA: Elsevier, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-12-404647-4

Carolan, M. (2020). *Society and the environment*. 3rd ed. New York: Routledge.

Students must have regular access to the Internet to connect with Canvas. Students will be expected to download course material as well as upload assignments.

The course will consist of a combination of lectures, case studies and discussions.

The general schedule is below. A detailed calendar, with daily tasks and assignments, is included at the end of the syllabus. Note, topics might change.

Week

Topics

You are expected to not only attend every class but to have read the materials assigned for that day (of course illness, family emergencies, travel for sports are an exception). Late assignments are accepted for reasons of illness or other unavoidable situation (e.g., family emergency), otherwise a 10% reduction in points will be applied each day the assignment is late. Notify me in advance if you need to miss a class or have circumstances that will result in a late assignment.

As part of this course, you will be asked to participate in discussion forums in Canvas. Your posts will be visible to those in the class, but not the general public. You will also be required to participate in class discussions.

Your grade will consist of attendance, weekly quizzes, three short written assignments, weekly discussion posts, class discussions, and four exams. Six written assignment topics are posted. One topic (ANCSA corporations) is required, you can select the other two topics you'd like to write about.¹ One written assignment will be a poster format. The points assigned, total points, and weight are shown below. Note, the weight is what I will use to calculate the final score, for example, the total points of the four exams are 22% of the overall class points, but will make up 28% of the final grade. Class discussion will be evaluated by an overall grade based on discussions throughout the semester. (Note, the weights are used to even out the components of the grade without adjusting the point values.)

Component	Total #	Pts per	Total points	Percent of total	Weight assigned
Attendance ²	42	2.38	100	5%	5%
14 quizzes	14	40	560	31%	25%
3 written assignments	3	50	150	8%	8%
14 discussions posts	14	40	560	31%	30%
Class discussion			50	3%	2%
4 exams	4	100	400	22%	30%
Total points			1820		

*Allows for 2 unexcused absences. It is 2.38 points per class because Canvas records as 100 points.

Class attendance is scored as 2.38 points per class period in attendance.² Quizzes will be scored based on the correct answer as indicated in the class notes. Written assignments and discussion posts will be graded on critical thinking (7

“C” (including C+ and C-) indicates a satisfactory level of acquired knowledge and performance in completion of course requirements.

To check your grades for assignments/quizzes and find comments from your instructor, click "Grades" in the sidebar menu in Canvas. All assignments and due dates are listed in Canvas.

Specific instructions for viewing instructor comments and other nuances of checking grades in Canvas will follow.

The expectations for a 3-credit lecture course are 3 hours of in-class meeting time (i.e., lecture) and 6 hours of work outside of class (course readings, assignments).

COVID19 statement

Student Resources:

- x Disability Services (907-474-5655, uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu, Whitaker 208)
- x Student Health & Counseling (free counseling sessions) (907-474-7043, <https://www.uaf.edu/chc/appointments.php>, Gruening 215)
- x

Detailed Class Schedule Note adjustments will most likely be made throughout the semester

Part 1				
	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Week 1	28-Aug	Course introduction		
	30-Aug	Key terms; preservation vs. conservation	Sparling Introduction and Ch. 1 pg. 3 through pg. 13 up to "Sustainability"	
	1-Sept	Social ecological systems, sustainability, adaptive management.	Sparling Ch. 1 "Sustainability" to end	- Discussion post due Thursday/ reply to a post due before class: Human focused conservation
Week 2	4-Sept	Labor Day- No Class		

PART II				
	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Week 5	25-Sep	Department of Interior(DOI)– overview, land mgt. agencies -begin discussing FWS, NPS, BLM	Sparling Ch. 6 through pg. 159	- Quiz 4, due at 9:15 a.m. - Exam 1, on Part I, due at midnight
	27-Sep	DOI– FWS, NPS, BLM (cont)	Sparling Ch. 6 through pg. 159	
	29-Sep	DOI– FWS, NPS, BLM (cont)		- Discussion post due Thursday/ reply to a post due before class Renewable energy on BLM lands
Week 6	2-Oct	DOI– BoR	Sparling Ch. 6 pg 169 & 170 View Cadillac Desert Part 1: Mulholland's Dream - YouTube link posted in Canvas	- Quiz 5, due at 9:15 a.m. In class project/case study TBD
	4-Oct	DOI– BoR	View Cadillac Desert Part 2: An American Nile	In class project/case study TBD
	6-Oct	DOI– BoR	View Cadillac Desert Parts 2 & 3: The Merc...	
