

## **Environmental Law**

PST 661

Intersession 2010

Meeting Time: Online

January 4<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

**Professor Chad J. McGuire, JD, LL.M.**

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**Course Website:** [dartmouth.umassonline.net](http://dartmouth.umassonline.net)

**About me:** [http://works.bepress.com/chad\\_mcguire/](http://works.bepress.com/chad_mcguire/)

### **Course Description**

Environmental Law explores the foundation of legal principles that apply to U.S. environmental laws. Students will learn the basic premises of environmental law, and then apply these premises to current environmental issues. The goal is to expose students to a broad understanding of the scientific and socio-economic elements that go into environmental regulations. Current environmental issues, such as climate change, will be discussed. The course is meant as an introduction into environmental law.

### **Requirements**

1. **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Attendance is monitored by online discussion responses. Each week, a number of online questions are asked in conjunction with the reading and written lecture materials. You are required to respond to these questions (called discussion boards) by the stated deadline. In addition, you are required to “interact” (comment on at least one other students response) in each discussion board question. These responses are considered your “attendance” and will form, in large part, the basis for your “class participation” grade.
2. **Online Access:** Course materials will be housed at “MyCourses” (formerly WebCT). The address to the site is: [dartmouth.umassonline.net](http://dartmouth.umassonline.net). The username is password is *exactly* the same as your UMass Dartmouth email username and password. All of your online courses are located at this site.
3. **Outside Readings/Personal Interests:** Students are encouraged to develop a dialogue in the online setting based on outside readings, experiences, or personal interests that are related to the subject matter. Because we are dealing with subjects of health, welfare, and justice (“sustainability”), each student undoubtedly has personal experiences/viewpoints that will add to the discussion. You are encouraged to share such viewpoints.

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### **Required Readings**

Firestone, *Environmental Law for Non-Lawyers*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (2008). We will rely heavily on the Firestone book for your background reading. I will supplement this material in the written lectures, and with recommended readings posted on the website. The exams will be based mainly on the information contained in Firestone.

### **Student Behavior/Conduct**

UMass-Dartmouth has developed a detailed student handbook to deal with various issues of student behavior. Each student should consult this resource for a better understanding of issues surrounding academic dishonesty. Any perceived negative behavior in this class will result in the student being reported and disciplined. I strive to treat each student as an adult, and will do so unless I am given a reason to act otherwise.

### **Course Outline**

#### **Topics**

- Why do we need laws to protect the environment? Values and Reasons.
  - Firestone, Chapter 1
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - What actions trigger the consideration of environmental consequences?
  - Firestone, Chapter 2
- Pollution – Where does it come from, and how do we control it?
  - Firestone, Chapter 3
- Land Use – How do we control land to protect environmental interests?
  - Firestone, Chapter 4
- Energy – Can we satisfy our energy needs while protecting the environment?
  - Firestone, Chapter 7
- Global Environmental Law – How do we protect the environment of the world?
  - Firestone, Chapter 8

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<u>Grading</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Class Participation	25%
Midterm	35%
Final	40%

The **Midterm** will be given during the middle of the course.

The **Final** will be made available during the last week of class.

All of these grading components will be more clearly discussed on the course website throughout the semester.

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