

WILD 420: RANGE & WILDLIFE POLICY AND PLANNING

CATALOG DATA: Spring, 3 cr.

Course explores primary rangeland and wildlife policy in North America, how it developed and how it is currently administered. Emphasis will be on the multidisciplinary application of policy for land resource and wildlife management planning.

CLASS SCHEDULE: T,R 10:50am – 12:05pm

COURSE WEB SITE: D2L is used in this course for:

- Providing copies of all materials used in class
- Required readings
- Quiz and exam answers
- Assignment scores and course grade

TEXTBOOK: Selected readings from *Natural Resource Administration: Wildlife, Fisheries, Forests and Parks*, which is available as an e-book through the MSU library. Assigned readings will be made available through D2L and search engines supported by the MSU library are available to students for primary literature searches.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lance McNew, 211 Animal Biosciences Building, 994-6645,
lance.mcnew@montana.edu

Office Hours: After class, or by appointment.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will be able to describe key legislation establishing and affecting public and private rangeland and wildlife resources (e.g., Lacey Act, Pittman-Robertson Act, NEPA, ESA) in the U.S. and especially the West
- Students will be able to name and describe the federal and state agencies that set and administer wildlife and land management policy
- Students will be able to explain the processes of establishing natural resource law, statutes, and regulations; how these processes differ, and how they are administered
- Students will be able to describe the diverse natural resource constituencies that influence wildlife policy in the U.S., and the democratic process required for consensus
- Students will be able to describe the legislative and regulatory requirements that should be considered when developing rangeland and wildlife management plans
- Students will be able to critically review published information and use peer-reviewed and white literature to develop support or opposition to policy positions.

PREREQUISITES: BIOE 103 or NRSM 101 or ENSC 110, junior standing

GRADING (subject to change):

Attendance and participation (50)	100 (15%)
Exams (3 @ 75 pts)	225 (35%)
Policy shorts (3 @ 25 pts)	75 (12%)
Paper Topic/Outline	30 (5%)
Position paper	120 (18%)
Class debate / Oral presentation	<u>100 (15%)</u>
Total:	650

*I may throw up to 5 quizzes into the semester work (5-10 points each)

Exams:

- Module 1: History of land resource and wildlife law in North America
 - Critical legislation and regulations affecting wildlife and their habitats during 1600-present
- Module 2: Government and non-government administration
 - Organic Acts, statutes, appropriations, and litigation affecting the major wildlife and land management agencies in the U.S.
- Module 3: The policy process: constituents and the legal framework of natural resource policy
 - Case studies of wildlife and rangeland policy issues in the West

Monthly Policy Shorts:

- Every student is required to write three independent short papers (1-page) called policy shorts describing how a current event or topic in the news is affected or addressed by the laws, rules, and regulations we cover in this course. So keep an eye on the national and local news for issues important for range and wildlife management. Potential sources of information:
 - Montana State Legislature: <http://leg.mt.gov/css/Default.asp>
 - Montana State House news: <http://lastbestnews.com/site/tag/montana-legislature/>
 - U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/management/>
 - High Country News
 - SRM Capitol Blast
 - TWS Policy Resources (<http://wildlife.org/policy/policyresources/>)

Position Paper:

- Students will be divided into groups that represent variable resource interests and constituencies (e.g., wildlife biologists, range managers, industry). Groups will choose or be assigned a contemporary policy and/or management issue with each member of the group representing a different constituency or organization. Each student will write a position paper that presents and defends your organization's position. Refer to the Debate and Paper Guidelines.

Class Debate / Oral Presentation:

- Students will be evaluated on their preparation and participation in a team debate or oral presentation related to a contemporary policy issue.

Travel:

Students will be required to attend 1–2 field trips to public meetings of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, federal regulatory meetings of federal agencies, and the Montana State Legislature during the semester. These meetings may require travel away from Bozeman and attendance outside of regularly scheduled class time. Attendance will count toward a percentage of a student's grade, but absences with valid excuses can be mitigated through additional work as assigned by the instructor.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION

1/10 Introduction, Syllabus, and Overview

MODULE 1: HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND & WILDLIFE LAW

1/15 Historical Perspective

1/17 Introduction to Law and Policy

1/22 North American Model

1/24 *No Class* – Conference in Lewistown

1/29 Major Legislation 1

1/31 *Field trip* – State Capitol

2/5 Major Legislation 2 – NEPA

2/7 Major Legislation 3 – ESA; **Paper and debate topics due**

2/12 Major Legislation 4 – The Farm Bill

2/14 Federal Agencies 1

MODULE 2: AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

2/19 **Exam 1**

2/21 Federal Agencies 2; **Policy Short 1 due**

2/26 Federal Agencies 3

2/28 *No Class* - TWS Conference

3/5 State Agencies; **Paper outlines due**

3/7 NGOs, People, and Money

3/12 Review; **Policy Short 2 due**

3/14 **Exam 2**

3/18 – 3/22 *SPRING BREAK* – no class

MODULE 3: THE POLICY & PLANNING PROCESS

3/26 Funding for Fish, Wildlife, and Land Management

3/28 *Guest lecture* – Howard Burt, MFWP, MT Wildlife Management

4/2 *Guest lecture* – Jeff Mosley, MSU, Bison Management in the GYA

4/4 *Guest Lecture* – Claire Gower, MFWP, waterfowl policy; **Policy Short 3 due**

4/9 *Guest Lecture* – John Carlson, BLM Sage-grouse Coordinator, BLM land use planning

4/11 *Guest lecture* – Jim Stone, Blackfoot Challenge, Local Conservation Cooperatives

4/16 Class debates / presentations

4/18	Class debates / presentations
4/23	Class debates / presentations
4/25	Class debates / presentations
5/3	FINAL EXAM

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES:

Philosophy: My goal is to help students learn the principles of ecology and natural resource management. In order to meet University requirements, I must evaluate the progress of students and assign grades. I provide longer test times, special testing facilities, and clarify test questions during exams to allow students every opportunity to do well.

Fairness: My primary obligation is to insure that all students who are prepared for class on the assigned dates are not competing with other students who receive extra study time.

Class Notes: It is the responsibility of the student to copy any missed notes from other students.

Assignments: All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Any assignments turned in after that time, but within one day, will receive 50% credit. Students will receive a zero on any assignment turned in later than one day past its due date. There is no extra credit available to make up for missed assignments.

Quizzes or Class Discussions: Cannot be made up without an excused absence (see below). Students will not be allowed to make up quizzes and in-class discussion points for unexcused absences. Quizzes or discussions may be given at any time during the class. Students are expected to arrive on time and stay until the class is over.

Exams: All examinations are listed in the syllabus on the first day of class. Students who wish to receive credit for any quiz or exam must be present at the scheduled time and date.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES on STUDENT CONDUCT

Montana State University expects all students to conduct themselves as honest, responsible and law-abiding members of the academic community and to respect the rights of other students, members of the faculty and staff and the public to use, enjoy and participate in the University programs and facilities. For additional information reference see:

www2.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/student_conduct-code_2008-2009.htm

Collaboration:

University policy states that, unless otherwise specified, students may not collaborate on graded material. Any exceptions to this policy will be stated explicitly for individual assignments. If you have any questions about the limits of collaboration, you are expected to ask for clarification.

Plagiarism:

Paraphrasing or quoting another's work without citing the source is a form of academic misconduct. Even inadvertent or unintentional misuse or appropriation of another's work (such as relying heavily on source material that is not expressly acknowledged) is considered plagiarism. If you have any questions about using and citing sources, you are expected to ask for clarification. **I fail all plagiarists.**

Academic Misconduct:

Section 420 of the Student Conduct Code describes academic misconduct as including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, multiple submissions, or facilitating others' misconduct. Possible sanctions for academic misconduct range from an oral reprimand to expulsion from the university.

Academic Expectations:

Section 310.00 in the MSU Conduct Guidelines states that students must:

- A. be prompt and regular in attending classes;
- B. be well prepared for classes;
- C. submit required assignments in a timely manner;
- D. take exams when scheduled;
- E. act in a respectful manner toward other students and the instructor and in a way that does not detract from the learning experience; and
- F. make and keep appointments when necessary to meet with the instructor.