Introduction to Environmental Law Syllabus

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Course Times
MW 10:10am-11:25am

Course Text
ISBN: 9780761832942
Title: Environmental Law: Cases and Materials
Author: Philip Weinberg
Publisher: Lanham, Md.: University Press of America
Copyright Date: c2006

Learning Objectives
The course provides an overview of environmental law for students without a legal background. It examines U.S. statutes and regulations regarding air, water, hazardous and toxic materials, land use, climate change, endangered species, and the like, as well as international environmental issues. After completing the course students should be equipped to understand how the environmental laws operate, the role of the courts, international treaties and government agencies in implementing environmental protection, and techniques used in addressing these issues.

Course Website
The website can be accessed through Columbia Courseworks (https://courseworks.columbia.edu) and will contain all materials pertaining to this class. These materials include class syllabus, handouts, problem sets, and quizzes and exams.

Evaluation and Grading
Midterm 25%
Final 75%
Additional points may be awarded for in-class participation
Honor Code & Academic Integrity

As a consequence, all Columbia College students will now make the following pledge: We, the undergraduate students of Columbia University, hereby pledge to value the integrity of our ideas and the ideas of others by honestly presenting our work, respecting authorship, and striving not simply for answers but for understanding in the pursuit of our common scholastic goals. In this way, we seek to build an academic community governed by our collective efforts, diligence, and Code of Honor.

Course Schedule, Introduction to Environmental Law, Spring 2018

The online syllabus at https://courseworks.columbia.edu

Week 1: Intro, The Environment and the Courts (Scope of Judicial Power, Standing to Sue and Jurisdiction)
Reading: Chapter 1

Week 2: Common Law Remedies (Nuisance, Trespass)
Reading: Chapters 2 & 3 (1st case)

Week 3: Land Use I (Zoning, Limits on Development)
Reading: Chapter 3A, B

Week 4: Land Use II (Critical Areas (Landmarks, Wetlands, Flood Plains), Riparian Rights, Public Trust Doctrine)
Reading: Chapter 3 C-E

Week 5: Land Use III (Takings, Coastal Zone Management), Fish & Wildlife
Reading: Chapters 3 F-I & 4

Week 6: Air Quality I (Stationary Sources)
Reading: Chapter 5 A-D

Week 7: Air Quality II (Mobile Sources)
Reading: Chapter 5 E & F

Week 8: Noise, Water Quality I (Rivers & Harbors Act)
Reading: Chapters 6 & 7A

Week 9: Water Quality II (Clean Water Act)
Reading: Chapter 7B-D(1)

Week 10: Water Quality III (Oil Drilling & Transport), Energy, Solid Waste
Reading: Chapters 7D (2-4), 8, 9A

Week 11: Hazardous Waste
Reading: Chapter 9 B, C

Week 12: Pesticides, Toxic Torts
Reading: Chapter 9D

Week 13: Environmental Quality Review
Reading: Chapter 10

Week 14: Electric Generation, International Environmental Law
Reading: Chapters 11 & 12