

LAW 6472: Natural Resources Law

Spring 2026 Syllabus: 3 Credits

Monday and Wednesday 1:15 – 2:40 PM

Room: HOL 382

Contact Information

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Office Hours: M/W: 3-4

Course Description

The purpose of this survey course is to introduce you to the fundamentals of natural resources law. The course will primarily focus on the major federal statutes that govern access, use, and conservation of natural resources such as wildlife, water, wetlands, forests, and public lands more generally. We will cover: the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, portions of the Clean Water Act, the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act, and various organic acts. Course readings will involve analyzing and interpreting statutory text, case law, and agency rules and regulations. In class we will discuss the readings and focus on answering discussion questions.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- Students will gain knowledge and substantive understanding of the major federal natural resources law statutes and doctrines
- Students will deepen their understanding of constitutional law, property law, and administrative law as they relate to the field of natural resources law
- Students will develop their ability to assess the lawfulness of administrative agency and private action towards natural resources by the application of relevant statutes or agency regulations
- Students will develop an appreciation for the role of the federal and state judiciaries, legislatures, and agencies in formulating and implementing natural resource policy
- Students will be able to identify, analyze, and formulate both legal and non-legal strategies in solving problems related to natural resource law and policy.
- Students will learn about the field of natural resources law as an area of legal practice
- Students will be able to effectively communicate legal reasoning and analysis both orally in class and via a written exam

Required Materials

The assigned book for this course is: Klein, Birdsong, Klass, Biber, and Owen's *Natural Resources Law: A Place-Based Book of Problems and Cases* (5th ed., 2022) (ISBN:

9781543838909) as the casebook. You can buy the book new, used, or a digital edition. Occasionally supplemental material will be posted on Canvas. Daily reading assignments and a list of topics to be covered are provided in the linked schedule below.

Office Hours

I intend to hold both physical and virtual office hours. Office hours will be determined on the first day of class. I will update this section of the syllabus at that time. If the chosen times do not work for you, please reach out to me via email. I am always happy to meet you outside of these hours.

I will be physically available in my office (HOL 337) during that time, but I will also be available via Zoom during this window. For Zoom, I will use a virtual waiting room, and it will be first come, first served (unless you have a scheduled appointment). I am also available outside of these windows by appointment.

The office hour zoom information is posted both here and on Canvas:
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99463502400?pwd=7PmE27bf5biaMX3EACfSYthIjpIlGK.1>
Meeting ID: 994 6350 2400
Passcode: Office26

Additionally, I am requiring every student to come to my office hours at least once during the semester. Failure to attend office hours at least once will result in a forfeit of 50% of your participation points.

Pedagogical research supports the idea that students that come to office hours tend to do better in their courses. Research also suggests that students that would benefit the most from attending office hours are the least likely to attend. I want you to feel comfortable reaching out to me, asking questions, and attending office hours. I am here to be a resource for you in whatever capacity you might need. I understand that my class, and law school as a whole, is just one part of your life, and I understand that life happens. Just know that I am here to chat about natural resources law, law school, or anything else you think I can help you with. You can use me as a resource, naturally

Grades

Your grade in this course will be determined based on the following:

- Final Exam – 80%
- Class Participation – 20%

Final Exam – 80%

Full exam instructions will accompany the exam and will be posted on Canvas prior to the exam. This exam will make up 80% of your grade. The exam will be an in-person limited open book exam with access to notes and other printed materials. More information will be made available about the exam later in the semester.

Class Participation – 20%

Class participation (including attendance) will make up the remaining 20% of your final grade. My expectation is that you will be physically present for each and every class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. If you will miss class entirely, you will need prior approval. Each missed class without approval will result in a loss of 5% of your overall grade. Missing more than three class will result in the loss of all of your participation points.

Class participation requires more than simply showing up to class. I will routinely ask for participation and will not hesitate to cold call students if necessary. Coming to class prepared involves having done the assigned readings and participating insightfully in discussions. I do not always expect you to have the “correct” answer. All I expect is a good-faith effort. I expect you to demonstrate that you have read the material and are doing your best to engage with me, the material, and your fellow classmates.

If there is a day on which you will be unable to prepare adequately for class, please email me in advance (see Pass policy below).

Failure to attend office hours at least once over the semester will also result in a loss of half of your participation score. The Introduce Yourself discussion will count towards your participation grade.

Pass Days

Each student may take up to 3 passes over the course of the semester without penalty. A pass can be used in two different ways. A pass may be used to miss class entirely. Alternatively, if you pass on a day where you attend class, I will not call on you or expect you to have read the material. You can use a pass for any reason – you do not need to explain yourself. To use a pass to avoid being called on, you just need to send me an email more than one hour before the start of class. If you are using your pass to miss class, you need to email me in advance if possible. If you find yourself seriously ill or if you have something come up that will impact your regular attendance to class, please reach out to me and we can find a solution that will work for everyone.

Online Tools

Canvas is our main digital platform, and I will use Canvas to disseminate relevant information for the course. Lecture slides and other materials will be posted on Canvas. Due to scheduling conflicts, class might occasionally be pre-recorded and moved onto Canvas. Additionally, class may occasionally be held remotely over Zoom. If there is a reason we need to hold class remotely, I will post that to Canvas, send an email, and remind students in the previous class.

UF Levin College of Law Standard Syllabus Policies

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies can be found at [this link](#).

UF Academic Policies and Resources

Other information about UF academic policies and resources can be found at [this link](#).

Compliance with UF Honor Code

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Law Honor Code located [here](#). The UF Law Honor Code also prohibits use of artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to, ChatGPT and Harvey, to assist in completing quizzes, exams, papers, or other assessments unless expressly authorized by the professor to do so.

ABA Policy

Per American Bar Association Rule 310, a “credit hour” is “an amount of work that reasonably approximates: (1) not less than one hour of classroom time or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.” As this is a 3-credit course, you are required to spend at least six hours per week, on average, outside of class studying. This is in addition to the three hours a week we spend in class.

Course Schedule and Readings

I keep a live, updated schedule on Google Sheets. You should **always** refer to the live Google Sheets schedule for the most up-to-date information on class readings. The link to that schedule is [here](#).

First Class Assignment

Read pages 1-24 of the Klein casebook.

Class coverage may be faster or slower than these specific assignments; assignments may be modified in the interest of student learning or based on coverage considerations.