

GEOGRAPHY 491/598

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Dr. John Wright, Fall 2013

Weds: 2:30-5:00, 194 Breland Hall

Office Hours: 145 Breland Hall, Tu/Th 9-10, 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

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Environmental planning focuses on managing land uses to minimize and mitigate damage to the natural world and society. Issues and approaches often vary on public and private land based on laws and cultural values. The purpose of this class is to introduce you to some of the conflicts, laws, techniques, and policies used in environmental planning. The class is based on real-world experience and will involve field work.

TEXT: None. I will post materials free on Canvas.

GRADING:

- 1) 2 Group Exercises (10% each, 20% total)
- 2) A 3 page Field Trip Report on the Carrizo Valley Ranch (10%)
- 3) A 10-page research paper (see below for content) (20%)
- 4) 2 Exams: Exam #1 (25%) Exam #2 (25%)

Identification of terms and list/short answer questions.

I will hand out a study guide one week prior to each exam.

RESEARCH PAPER:

Students in this class are at very different stages of work. Some of seniors, others are Masters students. Therefore, undergrads are expected to write a paper analyzing the issues and methods associated with one of the following topics: Hazards (choose one), Conservation Easements, NEPA/Environmental Impact Statements, CERCLA, or another topic approved in advance by Dr. Wright. Grad students must focus on a topic of relevance to their thesis research which must be approved in advance by Dr. Wright. Papers are to be 10 pages, double-spaced, 12 font, 1" margins, at least one map (that does not count as a page), and at least 10 sources. The purpose of the paper is for you to learn. Choose a topic of real personal interest.

CLASS SCHEDULE

8/28: Intro to Environmental Planning: Private/Public Land Issues

Biophysical Land Analysis

9/4 Natural Hazards: Floodplain Management, Seismic Risk

9/11 Biophysical Land Analysis - Group Exercise #1

Group work in class

9/18 Land Capability Analysis - Group Exercise #2 (**Group Exercise #1 due**)

Group work in class

9/25 Mesilla Field Trip: Land Capability Analysis (**Group Exercise #2 due**)

10/2 Open Span Planning: Land Conservation Strategies and Techniques

10/9 Conservation Easements

10/16 **EXAM #1**

10/23 NEPA and EIS Process

10/30 Bureau of Land Management Planning: NEPA Compliance in Practice

Guest: Randy Stovall, Chief Operations Officer, BLM, Las Cruces

11/6 No Class due to upcoming field trip

11/9 Saturday Field Trip to Carizzo Valley Ranch Conservation Easement

Hosts: Sid and Cheryl Goodloe

11/13 CERCLA and Superfund – Toxic Waste cleanup

11/20 Topic to be determined by the students. Review for Exam #2

11/27 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

12/4 **EXAM #2** (No class meeting during Finals Week)

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE