

COURSE SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

University College - University of Denver
Environmental Policy and Management Program

Term: Spring 2004
Course No. EPM 4010 (On-Line Version)
Course Title: Introduction to Environmental Management

Instructor: Timothy R. Gablehouse "Tim"
Course Schedule: 3/22/2004 - 5/24/2004
All projects are due to me by May 24, 2004

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Office Hours: Call anytime

On-Line Information: Course information is at www.gcgllc.com Use the link for University of Denver.

E-mail: tgablehouse@gcgllc.com Please note that I use a variety of e-mail addresses to send messages depending upon where I happen to be - I check them all so do not be worried that I am missing your messages unless you do not get acknowledged.

Questions: I will routinely engage in e-mail dialog with the class. Unless you tell me otherwise, I will e-mail questions and answers to the entire class. Class members will be able to do the same by simply using the "reply all" function in your e-mail software.

Textbook: *Practical Guide to Environmental Management, 9th ed. Friedman*
I will also distribute sessions notes as we proceed.

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the evolution of environmental policy and law, with emphasis on the major historical, scientific, legal and political concepts within the field of environmental management. Topics include air and water pollution, solid and hazardous waste regulation and related policy items. Emphasis on the roles and organization structure of federal, state and local environmental agencies, a survey of major environmental laws, and an overview of the concept of integrated environmental management. The organization and strategies of compliance programs in regulated entities will be reviewed. Students are introduced to the complexity of environmental decision-making, the need for multi-disciplinary analysis, and a variety of related topics.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course is designed for students who are new to the field of environmental management, and for those students who have worked within a very narrow focus of the environmental field. The objectives of the course are to 1) introduce students to the major environmental issues confronting environmental managers working in corporations, businesses, government, industries, and non-profit groups; 2) provide students with a brief history of the environmental field; 3) introduce students to the law and the federal and state agencies

governing activity in the environmental field; 4) introduce students to the strategies and organization of environmental compliance programs within regulated entities; and 5) provide students with the necessary foundation to proceed with the balance of their education in this Program.

Course Requirements and Organization:

There are five sessions described in these materials. These are intended to correspond to five two week sessions during the quarter. Within this syllabus students will find reading assignments followed by some questions.

The questions typically flow from the session notes which I distribute via e-mail. The reading assignments from the book are intended to supplement the notes and to provide you with additional background and information as you get to the last few assignments.

For each session you are to complete an essay addressing the questions. **THE ESSAYS ARE DUE NOT LATER THAN MAY 24, 2004.**

You are limited to one page for each question. You may produce assignments in paper form or attach your projects to an e-mail message to me. I can deal with most any word processing format. Make sure that you put your name in the attachment and it would be really nice if you would name your file with something like your name and session number. You may also submit the essays by e-mail, fax, mail or in person. I strongly recommend that if you want to get an early "feel" for my grading style, then you should submit one or more of essays during the earlier weeks of the course rather than wait to the end of the class.

My expectation is that the participants in this course should be able to produce a professional quality product that is useful to senior management in its evaluation of the entity's role or position in the project. (In other words, neatness counts - your work must be readable and articulate.) The product must present sound reasoning which demonstrates more than a superficial understanding of the law, regulations and other issues surrounding the topic. If you only quote statutes, regulations or the book I have no way of knowing whether you understand the material.

These projects are not to be academic presentations. They are to be the kind of communication that will be useful to management. As an example, introductory paragraph(s), organization and overall length consistent with the efficient presentation of the material is expected. Documentation may be limited to the materials provided and the assigned reading. I do not expect that any outside research will be necessary to establish credibility for the report. I do not expect footnotes, bibliography or citations.

If your particular situation or employment presents a topic which you would like to review in one of these assignments or even substitute for one of these assignments, I am agreeable provided that you review it with me in advance. For example, a former student was establishing the environmental management function within a new organization. In that case, the student used the development of internal policy standards for the assignments. I have no objection to this work being relevant to your day-to-day activities.

Course Outline:

Session I:

Background and legal structure of government, law and regulation relative to the environment and management. Reading assignment: Chapters 1-3

Questions:

- a. What legal limits exist on the authority of regulatory agencies such as EPA?
- b. Can regulation of a property owner's use of property give rise to a "taking" and, if so, when?

- c. Discuss the differences between “common law” and the use of environmental statutes in setting standards for conduct.

Session II:

Management aspects of laws dealing with major environmental media. Chapters 4-6

Questions:

- a. The regulatory approach of both the CWA and CAA is “command and control” meaning that standards are set and regulated facilities are required to meet the standards through a permit process. Is the process for setting standards based upon an evaluation of risks to human health, environment receptors or technology factors? Explain your answer.
- b. Describe the differences in how states can influence standards and enforcement of the CWA and CAA.
- c. One of the obvious management structures to cope with command and control regulations is to organize by regulatory program. In other words a facility with clean water issues and clean air issues might organize so that separate groups deal with each area. What strengths and weaknesses do you see in this approach?

Session III:

Management overview of laws continued.

Questions:

- a. In the context RCRA what does the term “cradle to grave” mean?
- b. Is the RCRA term “generator” the same as the CERCLA term “arranger” and if not, why?
- c. Is the RCRA term “hazardous waste” the same as the CERCLA term “hazardous substance” and if not, why?

Session IV:

Management overview of laws continued. Chapters 8-10

Questions:

- a. LEPCs have no authority to write regulations; however, they do have broad authority to request information from facilities. Is the authority of an LEPC to request information limited in any way? Does this mean that emergency plans will vary from planning district to planning district? Is this “command and control” regulation?
- b. Assuming that these programs address risk in a subjective manner which leaves planning and reaction pretty much to the local people and governments impacted by a facility, how do these local people or governments change the practices of facilities in their area?

Session V:

Management and the future of environmental regulation.

Questions:

- a. Are self-audit privilege or voluntary reporting statutes likely to improve environmental compliance and why?
- b. What corporate organizational structure is suggested by a future regulatory approach that emphasizes community interaction, overall facility performance and impacts on the environment rather than command and control?