Module 4 CSUS 843-730 Legal, Financial and Institutional Frameworks in Watershed Management

Instructor Information

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Course Description

Watershed management laws and regulations. Resolving financial and human conflicts arising from regulation.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text


Course Instructions and other readings are available online through Desire 2 Learn.

Course Requirements

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Access to Desire2Learn at https://d2l.msu.edu/

Course Structure

- This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system Desire2Learn. You will need your MSU NetID to login to the course.
- In Desire2Learn, you will access online lessons, course materials, and additional resources.
Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem, you can:

- Visit the Distance Learning Services Support Site http://www.lib.msu.edu/dls/
- Visit the Desire2Learn Help Site http://help.d2l.msu.edu/

Course Objectives

This course introduces the key legal, financial and institutional dimensions of watershed management in the United States. While the course uses many Michigan examples, the information and resources can be used in any U.S. state.

At the end of this course students will gain a practical understanding of the types of information that need to be gathered to address watershed issues; the institutional structure surrounding watershed issues; a basic understanding of how to find the laws that apply to the issues-such as eutrophication, nonpoint source pollution, and habitat loss- that need to be addressed; how to reach and get information from federal, state and local decision-makers about problems in a watershed; the types and sources of funding that might be able to utilize for problems in a watershed; and how to understand and address conflicts in watershed issues.

Course Outlines

Here is an overview of the topics covered in this course:

Unit 1: Introduction to Course and Overview of Watershed Characteristics
Unit 2: A History of Water Pollution Control in Michigan
Unit 3: State and Citizen Initiatives Supporting Watershed Management in Michigan
Unit 4: Socioeconomic Issues in Watershed Management
Unit 5: Understanding Watershed Conflicts
Unit 6: Analyzing Watershed Conflicts
Unit 7: Handling Watershed Conflicts
Unit 8: Stormwater Regulations
Unit 9: Developing Local Policy
Unit 10: Case Studies in Local Action
Unit 11: Reflections On Your Home Watershed
Unit 12: Great Lakes Policy and Institutions

Analysis of Watershed Strategy: Students are required to select and study an actual watershed strategy (for a river or lake) of their choice (or within their community). In the process, students are encouraged to contact local watershed stakeholders in the selected watershed to learn more about actual watershed plans and issues facing the watershed. Weekly homework assignments and discussions will help students collect information and gather data that can be used for their final analysis at the end of semester.

Course Schedule

Refer to the Course Calendar in the Desire2Learn calendar tool for each week’s corresponding learning topics and important assignment due dates. The course has no ‘assigned’ log-in or meeting times, and no campus visits are required, however a course calendar indicates dates you should be working on specific units and homework assignments.

Grading Policy

Grades are based on homework exercises, two exams, an analysis of watershed strategy, and weekly discussions. All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Desire2Learn unless otherwise instructed. Late or missing assignments will affect the student’s grade.

Assignments will be weighted as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis of Watershed Strategy</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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Late Work Policy

Homework: You will have a 2-day grace period from the listed due date on the course calendar. After that, you will be deducted 3 points per every day past this grace period. Exceptions may be made for technical problems or student conflicts.

Midterm: Midterm examination is open for 1 week. You can go in and out, saving your answers and return to it later throughout the week.

Final: Final examination is available for completion for 1 full day, however once you log-in you will only have 2 1/2 hours to complete it and cannot go in and out.

Both tests are open books, Internet, course, notes. But not open neighbor.

In the past, occasional technical difficulties resulted in temporary problems accessing the course web page or certain links. Please inform your TA or course assistant or contact the MSU Distance Learning helpline at (800) 500-1554. Usually, if a link is broken or a server is down, it can be fixed quickly or an alternative will be suggested.

Course Policies

Students are expected to participate in all assignments/activities. If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor or your TA know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Commit to Integrity

Academic Honesty

Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course
work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html).