

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK**



**COURSE OUTLINE**

CONS 388 – Environmental Law

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**CANINO SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY  
Department of Construction and Transportation Technologies  
APRIL 2012**

## CONS 388 – Environmental Law

- A. **TITLE:** Environmental Law
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** CONS 388
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 2
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** This is not a writing intensive course.
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 Weeks
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall/Spring
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**  
Lecture: 2 hours

**H. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to the many aspects of Environmental Law. Students learn the main structure of the American Legal System: sources of law, classification of law, constitutional principles, and administrative agencies that are involved in environmental issues and concerns. The litigation process for environmental disputes are examined. The evolution of environmental policy is examined and primary national policies are introduced. Environmental laws that relate to air-quality control, water quality control, toxic substance control, waste management and hazardous releases, energy, and natural resources are examined. International environmental laws, particularly those of Canada, are discussed.

**I. PRE-REQUISITES:**

None

**J. GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<b><u>Course Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Institutional SLO</u></b>
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the structure and function of the American legal system.	2. Critical Thinking
2. Apply the litigation process to common environmental issues.	2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional Competence
3. Differentiate between important agencies affecting environmental law.	2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional Competence
4. Discuss the evolution of environmental policy in the United States.	2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional Competence
5. Interpret common environmental regulations and standards.	2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional Competence
6. Apply water-quality related regulations to common problems encountered on engineering sites.	2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional Competence
7. Apply air-quality control regulations to development of air-	2. Critical Thinking

quality control plans for construction projects.	3. Professional Competence
8. Develop response plans to releases of hazardous substances.	2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional Competence
9. Implement standard procedures and requirements established in RCRA to the design and management of solid waste facilities.	2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional Competence

**K. TEXTS:**

- Kubasek, Nancy K. and Silverman, Gary S. (2008). *Environmental Law, 6<sup>th</sup> edition*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.

**L. REFERENCES:**

- Simonsen, Craig B. (2007). *Essentials of Environmental Law, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Benidickson, Jamie (2002). *Environmental Law*. Toronto, Canada: Irwin Law.
- Knocke, William R., van Benschoten, John E., Kearney, Maureen (1990). *Alternative Oxidants for the Removal of Soluble Iron and Manganese*. Denver, Colorado: American Water Works Association Research Foundation and American Water Works Association.
- The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council Perchlorate Team (2005). *Perchlorate: Overview of Issues, Status, and Remedial Options, Technology Overview*. Washington, D.C.: Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council.
- Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council In Situ Bioremediation Team (2002). *A systematic Approach to In Situ Bioremediation in Groundwater, Technical/Regulatory Guidelines*. Washington D.C.: Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council.

**M. EQUIPMENT:**

None

**N. GRADING METHOD: (P/F, A-F, etc.)**

A-F

**O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Examinations,
- Homework assignments,
- In-class exercises,
- Quizzes
- Attendance

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. Introduction
- II. The American Legal System
  - A. Sources of Law
  - B. Classification of Law
  - C. Constitutional Principles
- III. The Litigation Process
  - A. The Adversary System

- B. Principle Figures in the Legal System
- C. Steps in Civil Litigation
- D. Alternatives to Civil Litigation
- IV. Impact of Administrative Law on the Environment
  - A. Creation and Function of Administrative Agencies
  - B. Limitations of Agency Powers
  - C. Important Agencies Affecting the Environment
- V. Foundations of Environmental Law and Policy
  - A. The Need for Regulations
  - B. Evolution of Environmental Policy
  - C. National Environmental Policy Act
- VI. Water-Quality Control
  - A. Major Water Pollutants
  - B. Water-Quality Problems
  - C. Water Quality Protection and Governance
  - D. Safe Drinking Water Act
- VII. Waste Management and Hazardous Releases
  - A. Waste Control Techniques
  - B. CERCLA
  - C. RCRA
  - D. Petroleum Releases and Underground Storage Tanks
- VIII. Toxic Substances
  - A. Types of Toxic and Hazardous Substances
  - B. Torts and Regulations on Toxic Substances
- IX. Air-Quality Control
  - A. Major Air Pollutants
  - B. Air-Quality Problems
  - C. Approaches to Air-Quality Control
  - D. Clean Air Act
- X. Natural Resources
  - A. Regulations to Preserve Coastal Areas, Estuaries, and Wetlands
  - B. Forests
  - C. River Systems
  - D. Endangered Species
- XI. International Environmental Law
  - A. The Need for International Environmental Laws
  - B. Institutions Affecting International Environmental Law
  - C. Canadian Environmental Law