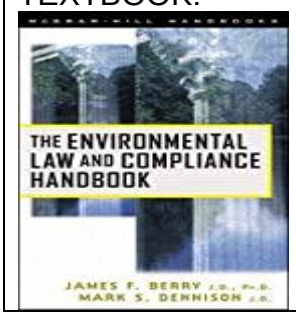
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT
SYLLABUS
FALL 2023

COURSE INFORMATION:
CE 5390, CRN 13568, CE 4375 CRN 15065,
CE 4376 CRN 15068, CE 4377
CRN
CLASS TIME: MWF 10:30 AM – 11:20 AM
CLASS MODE: IN CLASSROOM

CLASS MEETING PLACE	**Miners Hall Bldg. RM 300**
INSTRUCTOR:	**Dr. Henry Van**
INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE NUMBER/BUILDING	**Civil Engineering Room A202**
OFFICE HOURS (Dr. Van's)	**Tue. - 08:30 AM – 11:30 AM & 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM** **Wed.- 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM** **Thu. - 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM & 1:00 AM – 5:00 PM** **Fri. - 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM & 1:00 AM – 5:00 PM**
PHONE:	**Office: (915) 747-6966, Cell: 915-255-9593**
EMAIL:	**hvan2@utep.edu**
TEACHING ASSISTANT (TA):	**N/A**
TA OFFICE	**N/A**
TA OFFICE HOURS	**N/A**
EMAIL	**N/A**
LIBRARIAN:	**Debjani Mukhopadhyay** dmukhopadhyay@utep.edu
TEXTBOOK: 	***"The Environmental Law and Compliance Handbook"*** by James F. Berry J.D., PhD - Mark S. Dennison J.D. McGraw-Hill ISBN 0-07-134094-7 Copyright 2020

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OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED:

- One three ring binder or notebook for readings/handouts, class notes, assignments and/or journal entries.
- Access to computer or laptop.
- Scientific calculator.

MATERIALS PROVIDED – POWERPOINT SLIDES & LINKS TO TECHNICAL VIDEOS

- **Lecture PowerPoint Slides** of Dr. Van's lessons will be provided in Blackboard course website.
- Links of places for further reading suggestions in the Blackboard course Homepage.
- **Links for Videos** to further explain topics will be provided. It is critical that you study these videos because they are carefully selected to further clarify technical topics and present excellent photos and diagrams to give you a good understanding of the importance of environmental compliance programs.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to teach you what environmental compliance is about and its importance in the practical world or industry, business, and government. The environment in which industry, business and government operate today is full of environmental laws and regulations which must be complied with and failing to do so it can bring those organizations major legal issues, fines, and jail time.

We have now over fifty years of experience complying with environmental laws and regulations and still they regulatory climate continues to become more complex. Therefore, this course will teach about these laws and regulations, which are they, what they required and how you the environmental engineer or scientist should comply with them. Compliance management is a remarkably interesting topic and companies and government take it very seriously because if the activities they do are not in compliance with environmental laws and regulations it can expose them to high risks and negative impacts to communities. For this reason, companies and government hire professionally trained environmental specialists and engineers to help them navigate through the compliance network.

In this course you will become familiar with the legal and regulatory network that you will use to develop a real-life Environmental Compliance Plan in Teams.

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Your textbook is an excellent handbook divided into eight parts which will be presented in slides presentations, but you will need the handbook to expand your knowledge.

The eight parts are as follows:

Part I – Introduction

Here you will get the explanation of the purpose and scope of the handbook as well as introduce basic principles of administrative law which help you understand the nature and scope of authority granted to governmental agencies to administer and enforce environmental laws and regulations.

Part II – Origins of US Environmental Regulation

- Common Law Theory
- Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

Part III – Water Pollution Control

Part IV – Air Pollution Control

Part V – Hazardous and Toxic Substance Regulation (most extensive part)

Part VI – Pollution Prevention

Part VII – Environmental Control of Land

Part VIII – The International Perspective

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COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing the course, students should be able to learn the following:

- **An overview of the environmental legal system.**
- **The origins of the U.S. Environmental Regulations**
  - ✓ Common Law Principles
  - ✓ National Environmental Policy Act
- **The Water Pollution Control**
  - ✓ Clean Water Act
  - ✓ Safe Drinking Water Act
- **The Air Pollution Control**
  - ✓ Clean Air Act
- **The Hazardous and Toxic Substance Regulations**
  - ✓ Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
  - ✓ Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act
  - ✓ Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act
  - ✓ Toxic Substances Control Act
- **Pollution Prevention**
  - ✓ Pollution Prevention Act
  - ✓ Federal and State Programs Focusing on Waste Minimization and Recycling
- **Environmental Control of Land Use**
  - ✓ Wetlands Regulation under the Clean Water Act
  - ✓ Coastal Zone Management Act
  - ✓ Endangered Species Act
- **International Environmental Law**

The key objective is that when you finish this course you know about the U.S. Environmental Laws and Regulations governing the country's business, industry, and government activities and that you know the importance complying with these laws and regulations.

The outcome of this course is for you to be prepared to prepare a business, industry, and government "Compliance Plan." This Plan is the guide for an organization to ensure that all parties involved know what needs to be done to comply properly and avoid ***"Notices of Violation"*** and ***"Fines"***

Your course "Handbook" will provide you the legal guidance on what are the law/regulations requirements at your fingertips. Avoid searching through thousands of pages of government texts and journals. Make confident

environmental compliance decisions based on the authors experience. Be able to protect your company or business interests and avoid major fines, penalties and liabilities associated with noncompliance.

Whether you are an environmental manager, engineer, or scientist this "Handbook" is the appropriate reference you need to have by your side.

STUDENT CONDUCT

All students are expected and required to obey federal, state, and local laws, to comply with the Regents' Rules and Regulations, with The University of Texas System and University rules and regulations, with directives issued by an administrative official of the U.T. System or The University of Texas at El Paso in the course of his or her authorized duties, and to observe standards of conduct appropriate for an academic institution.

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SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

Except for changes that affect the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. I will keep you informed if it is necessary for me to update the syllabus and will explain the reasons.

UTEP FINAL EXAM POLICY

Exemption from final examinations cannot be given. Final examinations are scheduled to be two hours, forty-five (45) minutes in length and take place during the final examination period. It is the policy of the University not to administer a second final examination in a course. It is also University policy that students shall not have more than two final examinations in a single day. In the unlikely event that the examination schedule results in a student having three final examinations on a single day, the faculty member upon the request of the student shall reschedule the second of that student's three examinations.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Violation of US copyright law can result in civil damages up to $100.000 for each work copied. Copying of textbooks are not "fair use" under the Copyright Act. The "fair use doctrine" only permits non-commercial copying of part (in general, not more than 10%) of a copyrighted work. Do not bring a copied textbook to this class. Your cooperation is expected.

GRADING:	2 Exams	30%
	Final Exam	25%
	Project Report in Excel	35%
	Class Participation, and Class Activities	5%
	Course survey	5%
		100%

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SEMESTER
PROJECT – "COMPLIANCE PLAN":

The project will be a team process design engineering project. More information and deadlines about the project will be given at later in a separate Excel document. This project will be the preparation of an "Environmental Compliance Plan" (Compliance Plan).

The class will be divided into **Teams** to work on your project. The teams will be organized by your TA in alphabetical order from the Goldmine class list.

The **Team Lead** (**TL**) will appoint the TA. The **TL** will manage the team and will assign the task(s) that each team member needs to do. TL will report to TA the performance of each team member. The performance of each team member will be given points. Any member that does not cooperate will be deducted points from their project grade.

No team member can work on their own on the project because the project requires group collaboration and discussion about what your Compliance Plan should be and include. This activity resembles real life engineering work environment. Preparing a Compliance Plan is serious undertaking because this plan will be the guide for your company to follow and if it is not correct the company may be liable under environmental regulatory agencies. The reason is that the project needs to be done with team collaboration. The team member that does not work with her/his team will be given a zero for the project. Therefore, it is important that the TL reports to the TA a team member that is not working well for the team. This objective is for the TA speak with the team member and solve the issue(s) to have that member return to collaborating with the team.

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PROJECT SUBMITTAL:

The Compliance Plan will be submitted to Dr. Van on Friday, Nov. 1 via email.

EXAMS AND FINAL EXAM:

Students will be given 2 Exams and 1 Final Exam. The exams will be multiple choice and will be set up to be taken via Blackboard. You are required to take the exams and final on time. If you have issues and cannot take the exams when indicated, you need to speak with your TA to have the approval

to give you the extension. The TA will consult Dr. Van when necessary to clarify the reasons for giving extension to take an exam. Your reason for requesting an extension should be properly justified.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVITIES:

You are expected to participate in class discussions about the diverse topics Dr. Van and the TA will be lecturing and discussing case histories.

COURSE SURVEY:

There will be an end-of-semester survey. Your participation is important, and you will be given 5% toward your final grade. Dr. Van receives the names of the students that complete the course survey. If your name is not on that list, you will not be given the 5% points toward your final grade.

GRADING SCALE:

100%-90%…… A
89% -80%…….B
79% -70%…….C
69% -60%…….D
59% - 0%……. F

ATTENDANCE:

You are required to come to class and be on time. Attendance is especially important since during class you will be given the tools needed to successfully complete this course. You must contact your TA if you are going to miss class and give the reason you will not attend class. If you know you will be absent notify the TA by either phone or email. It is your responsibility to get all the lecture notes, assignments, and hand-outs you missed from your peers. An

excused absence will only be given as described in the undergraduate catalog. **Please keep in mind that you will be dropped after 6 unexcused absences.** However, if you wish to be dropped at any time, you must contact your Dr. Van and TA.

MENTORING:

If you wish to have mentoring on a "**One-on-One"** session, please make an appointment with Dr. Van. The mentoring session is optional to provide you guidance in looking for a job, internship, and other career needs or questions you may have in mind.

MISSING ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS:

You will be allowed one make-up homework assignment during the course of the semester provided you show proper reason(s). If you need to makeup an exam you need to show your Hector Chacon proper proof that you need to make up the exam. The TA can also decide to discuss your case with Dr. Van.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You must submit your work only. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy (http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadint.htm).

CELL PHONE:

All cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate before the beginning of the class. If a student starts using his/her cell phone during class, he/she will have to leave the classroom and may only return with the instructor's permission.

HARASSMENT:

Please be aware that harassment is unacceptable in the classroom. No jokes, comments of sexual nature as well as racists will be tolerated. The student that uses harassment will be sent to the Dean of students for disciplinary action.

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SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

Students with Disabilities Policy: If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at (915) 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR FALL 2023 DATES:

Mar 27th	Fall Registration Begins
Aug 17th	Last Day to Clear Students on Suspension/Probation as well as those with Insufficient Prerequisites
Aug 18th	Drops for Students with Unsatisfactory Academic Standing, Insufficient Prerequisites, and Prior Grades of C in the Course
Aug 21st	Financial Aid is Disbursed
Aug 28	**Fall Classes Begin**
Aug 28th-Sept 1st	Late Registration (Fees are incurred)
Sept 4th	**Labor Day Holiday – University Closed**
Sept 13th	**Fall Census Day** **Note:** This is the last day to register for classes. Payments are due by 5:00 pm.
Sept 25th	20th Class Day **Note:** Students who were given a payment deadline extension will be dropped at 5:00 if payment arrangement have not bee made.
Oct 6th	Graduation application deadline for degree conferral
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Nov 3rd	**Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline** **Note:** Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either **W** or **F**.
Nov 17th	Deadline to submit candidates' names for commencement program
Nov 23rd-24th	**Thanksgiving Holiday- University Closed**
Dec 7th	**Fall- Last day of Classes**
Dec 8th	**Dead day**
Dec 11th - 15th	**Fall Final Exams**
Dec 16th-17th	**Fall Commencement**
Dec 19th	**Grades are due**
Dec 20th	Grades are posted to student records; students are notified of grades and academic standing
Payment Deadlines	For more information on payment deadlines, visit the Student Business Services Website