

Compliance with NEPA – Spring 2022

Course Description: **Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act:** This course will provide the essentials of NEPA, how to work on an interdisciplinary team to prepare NEPA documentation (Environmental Assessments [EAs] and Environmental Impact Statements [EISs]) and how to review these documents.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course:

1. Students will be able to communicate what NEPA does and how the NEPA process works with emphasis on how to identify significant impacts, how to develop appropriate alternatives, effective public involvement strategies, NEPA's relationship to other environmental regulation and planning processes.
2. Students will be able to complete the EA process, keeping documents concise while fulfilling the legal and ethical requirements.
3. Students will be able to complete the EIS process, keeping documents concise while fulfilling the legal and ethical requirements.
4. Students will be able to crucially evaluate and review NEPA documents and communicate those comments in appropriate written submittals.
5. Graduate student will be able to research and present advanced understanding of a specific area of NEPA in addition to the four objectives above.

Course Requirements:

1. **Lecture.** This course is lecture, discussion and activity oriented. Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be active participants in class lectures and discussions (including 20 Participation and Attendance Checks [PACs] WebCampus polls / activities / quizzes). Attendance is essential for student success. Students who miss a class session are responsible for finding out what they missed before the next class. Laptops and phones should only be used for specific class activities during class time. Arriving late, leaving early and talking to classmates during lecture disrupts the learning environment.
2. **Assignments.** **Assignments are DUE AT 5:00 p.m. submitted to WebCampus on the due date indicated in attached Course Schedule. Late assignments will not be accepted.**
3. **Tests.** There will be two (2) online tests given (Mid-term and Final). In this course, you will be required to complete one (1) proctored online exams using the remote proctoring service, **Proctorio**. Students will be required to show identification in order to enter the exam, and allow for the recording of the testing area via webcam and microphone. The Mid-term exam via Proctorio will take place during the period of March 10-23, 2022. The take-home Final exam will take place during the period of May 3-10, 2022. Students will be allowed 6 hours to complete each exam.

Proctored Examinations:

Requirements

At least one Identity Verification Assessment or experience per course, where students are required to present photo identification upon beginning the assessment is required of an accredited university. The Identity Verification Assessment for this course is at least one exam administered in a proctored / supervised setting. Students are required to take all proctored exams.

If you require DRC accommodations for your exam and have not already contacted the DRC, then please do so immediately. See the Office of Digital Learning's Testing Accommodations page for more information.

Examination Dates and Times

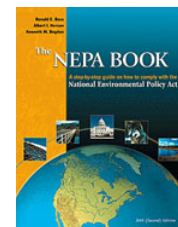
Unless otherwise stated or adjusted by your instructor, proctored exams are available based upon the below schedule. You may take the exam at any point during this examination window (between when it is available and when it is due). Please note that the remote proctoring option allows for testing 24 hours a day, but your exam must be started with enough time to complete it by the schedule due date and time.

Testing Remotely (Proctorio)

In order to test remotely, you MUST have access to the following:

- Webcam and microphone (internal or external)
- Strong Internet connection
- Isolated testing area

Text: Bass, Ronald E., Herson, Albert I., and Bogdan, Kenneth M. *The NEPA Book: A Step-By-Step Guide on How to Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act* (2nd Edition 2001), Solano Press (475p. ISBN: 978-0-923956-67-7)



Please Note: This text is out of print. All readings in this text will be provided via WebCampus. You may be able to find used copies if you want to have the actual book, but do not pay more than \$75.00 for this text.

WebCampus Resources:

- Course-related information and readings – <https://webcampus.unr.edu/login/canvas>
- Library Resources – <http://guides.library.unr.edu/friendly.php?action=82&s=NEPA>
- Course Reserves – <https://ares.library.unr.edu/ares/>

Grading:

Undergraduates
NRES 410

Graduates
NRES 610

	Undergraduates NRES 410	Graduates NRES 610	
In-class Lecture Participation and Attendance Checks (PACs)	10%	10%	Student's final score will be converted to a letter grade as follows: 100 - 94 = A 93.9 - 90 = A- 89.9 - 87 = B+ 86.9 - 80 = B 79.9 - 70 = C 69.9 - 60 = D
Students will complete / participate in WebCampus polls / activities / quizzes in class (n=20)			
Weekly Assignments	40%	40%	
11 weekly Assignments (due weeks #02 - #13) = 2- to 3-page (typed, 1" margins, 12 pt. font, 1.5 spacing) critical evaluation, re-writes, and comment letters on EA sections per assignment sheet (you may drop lowest two [2] grades). 1 Assignment (due week #14) = 10-to-20-page written EA Graded as follows: 9 weekly assignments (#02 - #12) each graded 5 pts. each + the entire EA (#13) 55 pts. Assignments are DUE AT 5:00 p.m. Submitted to WebCampus.			
Mid-Term Exam	25%	20%	
10 Short answers on Terminology (40 pts.) ½-page Essay on NEPA Policy (20 pts.) ½-page Essay on Function of EA/EIS (20 pts.) ½-page Essay on Supreme Court Case (20 pts.)			
Final Exam	25%	20%	
22 Fill-in-the-blanks (1 point each for 22 points total). 8 Multiple choice (2 points each for the correct answer and 1 additional point each for naming the page in the book where it comes from [24 points total]). 54 Matching (1 point each for 54 points total).			
Graduate Presentation		10%	
5 slide PowerPoint Presentation (10-minute max.) with a handout for class members on Area of NEPA Interest (100 pts.)			

Statement on Safe Learning Environment: The University of Nevada, Reno is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment for all. If you believe you have experienced discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, whether on or off campus, or need information related to immigration concerns, please contact the University's Equal Opportunity & Title IX office at 775-784-1547. Resources and interim measures are available to assist you. For more information, please visit the [Equal Opportunity and Title IX](#) page.

Statement on Absences: There are no official absences from any university class. It is the personal responsibility of the student to consult with the professor regarding absence from class. The instructor shall make the final determination on whether the missed work can be done at a time other than during the regularly scheduled class period.

Exceptions: Absence due to university approved extracurricular activity. It is the policy of NSHE to be sensitive to the religious obligations of its students. Any student missing classes because of observance of religious holy days will, whenever possible, be given an opportunity to make up the missed work. The make-up work will apply to the religious holy day absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor in advance in writing, if the student intends to participate in a religious holy day which does not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university (see the University Academic Standards policy: UAM 6,502). Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student's enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. For more details, see the University of Nevada, Reno General Catalog. The definition of plagiarize is the following: "To steal and pass off as one's own (the ideas or words of another); Use (a created production) without crediting the source" Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Meridian Webster, Incorporated, 1981, page 1728.

Statement on Disability Services: If you are a student who would normally seek accommodations in a traditional classroom, please contact me as soon as possible. You may also contact the Disability Resource Center for services for online courses by emailing drc@unr.edu or calling 775-784-6000. Academic accommodations for online courses may be different than those for seated classrooms; it is important that

you contact us as soon as possible to discuss services. The University of Nevada, Reno supports equal access for students with disabilities. For more information, visit the [Disability Resource Center](#).

This course utilizes third-party web/multimedia content, if you experience any issues accessing this content, please notify me immediately. Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or the [Disability Resource Center](#) (Pennington Achievement Center Suite 230) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Statement on Academic Success Services: Your student fees cover usage of the [Math Center](#) (775) 784-4433, [Tutoring Center](#) (775) 784-6801, and [University Writing Center](#) (775) 784-6030. These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.

Statement on Surreptitious Audio and Video Recording of Class Lectures: Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may be given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.

Statement on COVID-19 Face Coverings: In response to COVID-19, and in alignment local, state, and U.S. Center for Disease Control guidelines, face coverings are required at all times in all UNR indoor public spaces, including classroom, laboratory, studio, creative space, or any type of in-person instructional activity, and public spaces. Furthermore, individuals who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID 19 are required to wear a face covering at all times while on campus, including all indoor and outdoor public spaces. A “face covering” is defined as a “covering that fully covers a person’s nose and mouth, including without limitation, cloth face mask, surgical mask, towels, scarves, and bandanas” (State of Nevada Emergency Directive 024). Students that cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability, or who are unable to remove a mask without assistance may seek an accommodation through the Disability Resource Center.

Statement on COVID-19 Social Distancing: In alignment with State of Nevada guidelines, social distancing is no longer required.

Statement on COVID-19 Disinfecting Your Learning Space: Disinfecting supplies are provided for you to disinfect your learning space. You may also use your own disinfecting supplies.

Statement on COVID-19, COVID-19 Like Symptoms, and Contact with Someone Testing Positive for COVID-19: Students testing positive for COVID 19, exhibiting COVID 19 symptoms regardless of vaccination status will not be allowed to attend in-person instructional activities and must leave the venue immediately. Students should contact the [Student Health Center](#) or their health care provider to receive care and who can provide the latest direction on quarantine and self-isolation. Contact your instructor immediately to make instructional and learning arrangements.

Statement on Accommodation for COVID-19 Quarantined Students: For students who are required to quarantine or self-isolate due to 1) COVID 19 infection or 2) exposure while not vaccinated, instructors must provide opportunities to make-up missed course work, including assignments, quizzes or exams. In courses with mandatory attendance policies, instructors must not penalize students for missing classes while quarantined.

Statement on Failure to Comply with Policy (including as outlined in this Syllabus) or Directives of a University

Employee: In accordance with section 6,502 of the University Administrative Manual, a student may receive academic and disciplinary sanctions for failure to comply with policy, including this syllabus, for failure to comply with the directions of a University Official, for disruptive behavior in the classroom, or any other prohibited action. “Disruptive behavior” is defined in part as behavior, including but not limited to failure to follow course, laboratory or safety rules, or endangering the health of others. A student may be dropped from class at any time for misconduct or disruptive behavior in the classroom upon recommendation of the instructor and with approval of the college dean. A student may also receive disciplinary sanctions through the Office of Student Conduct for misconduct or disruptive behavior, including endangering the health of others, in the classroom. The student shall not receive a refund for course fees or tuition.

Spring 2022 – Compliance with NEPA – Course Schedule

This syllabus is organized around three topic areas each week: 1) **Agency** – Each week we will examine an agency and how they implemented NEPA; 2) **Human Environment** – Each week we will examine a set of resources commonly evaluated under NEPA; and 3) **NEPA Document Section** – Each week we will examine a particular part of a NEPA document.

Class No.	Class Topics			Readings - read prior to class Ref - reference resources to be familiar with Ref HO - reference resource WebCampus handout	Assignments Exams Due Dates
	Agency	Human Environment	NEPA Document Section		
#01 01-20		Welcome and Introductions Course Contents & Structure Assignments Exams Introduction to Human Environment		<i>Ref HO – Acronyms, Glossary & Usage</i>	In-class Assignment #01
#02 01-27	DOI BIA/BLM	Geotechnical Resources Geology / Mineral Resources Soils Hazards Seismic / Liquefaction Hazardous Materials/Waste RCRA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act CERCLA - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Paleontological Resources	Background History Law Regulation	Read Chapter 1 Background and Implementation of the National Env Policy Act (p 1-23) Read Appendix B - Council on Env Quality NEPA Regulations (p 213-40) (see 40 CFR 1500) <i>Ref Appendix A - The National Env Policy Act (p 207-12)</i> (see 42 U.S.C. § 4321) <i>Ref Appendix C - CEQ GR NEPA Regulations (p 241-8)</i> <i>Ref Appendix D - Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's NEPA Regulations (p 249-67)</i> <i>Ref Appendix N - CEQ GR Agency Implementing Procedures (p 367-84)</i> <i>Ref Appendix U - Summary of Key NEPA Court Decisions (p 407-457)</i> (see also Ref HO –Lazarus 2012)	Assignment #02
#03 02-03	DOD USACE	Water Resources Surface Water (Quality, Quantity [CWA - Clean Water Act] and Flooding) Groundwater (Quality [SDWA - Safe Drinking Water Act] & Quantity) Wild and Scenic Rivers	Deciding if NEPA Applies Categorical Exclusions	Read Chapter 2 Deciding If NEPA Applies (p 25-42) Read Appendix I - CEQ GR Non-Federal Agencies (p 351-2) Read Appendix K - CEQ GR the Clean Water Act (p 357-8) (see also Ref CWA Statute 33 U.S.C. § 1251) Read Appendix Q - CEQ GR the Safe Drinking Water Act (p 393-4) (see also SDWA Statute 42 U.S.C. § 300f) Read Appendix M - CEQ GR Rivers and Trails (p 363-6)	Assignment #03
#04 02-10	DOE	Air Quality (CAA - Clean Air Act Conformity)	EA – Env Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)	Read Chapter 3 Env Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact (p 43-60) Read ER - FHWA. Env Assessment: I-580 Meadowood Complex Improvements Project Reno, NV (parts 1-3) <i>Ref CAA Statute – 42 U.S.C. § 7401</i>	Assignment #04
#05 02-17	Indep EPA/FCC	Biological Resources Plant Species / Range /Forestry Wetlands / Floodplains Wildlife / Fish T&E Species (ESA - Endangered Species Act Section 7)	EIS Process Identify Lead Agency Cooperating Agencies EA Notice of Intent Purpose and Need / Scoping Prep ADEIS, DEIS Review & Circulate FEIS ROD	Read Chapter 4 Preparation and Review of an Env Impact Statement (p 61-86) Read Appendix E - CEQ GR Scoping (p 269-80) Read Appendix H - CEQ GR Biodiversity (p 331-50) Read Appendix P - Floodplain Management (p 389-91) <i>Ref ESA Statute – 16 U.S.C. § 1531</i>	Assignment #05

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#06 02-24	DOT FAA	Noise/Vibration	EIS Content The Proposed Action Alternatives Permits Affected Env / Baseline	Read Chapter 5 Content and Scope of an EIS (p87-126)	Assignment #06
#07 03-03	DHS FEMA	Land Use / Farm Lands Population/Housing Safety & Security Police Fire Ambulance Public Health & Safety / Disease	EIS Content (cont.) Env Consequences Direct Indirect Cumulative Effects	Read Appendix L - CEQ GR Agricultural Lands (p 359-62)	Assignment #07
#08 03-10	DHUD	Built Env Schools Medical Facilities Churches Parks and Recreational Facilities (National Trails) Social Service Facilities Other Public Services Utilities	EIS Content (cont.) Mitigation Measures vs. Env Protection Measures	Read Appendix G - CEQ GR Cumulative Effects (p 295-330)	Assignment #08
#09 03-17		Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	March 12-20
#10			Mid-Term Exam	Mid-Term Exam	March 23rd by 9:00 p.m.
#10 03-24	DOT FHWA / FTA	Transportation Pedestrians Bicycles Auto Traffic	EIS Content (cont.) Other Env Consequences Unavoidable Adverse Impacts Relationship Between the Short-term Use of the Env and the Maintenance of Long-term Productivity Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitments of Resources Section 4(f)	Read Chapter 6 Integrating NEPA with Other Env Laws (p 127-153) <i>Ref OL Transportation Conformity Reference Material</i> http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/policy_and_guidance/	Assignment #09
#11 03-31	DOI NPS	Cultural Resources Native American Coordination Prehistoric Archeological Resources Historic Archeological Resources Historic Architectural Resources & Preservation	EIS Content (cont.) 106 Consultation Process	<i>Ref NHPA Statute - 16 U.S.C. § 470a</i>	Assignment #10

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	Agency	Human Environment	NEPA Document Section		
#12 04-07	DOT FRA	Visual, scenic, and aesthetic resources Economics Executive Orders	EIS Content (cont.) Comments and Coordination Consultation Efforts Public Outreach Efforts Comments and Responses List of Preparers Notice of Availability		Assignment #11
#13 04-14	DOA USFS	Socioeconomics Env Justice EPCRA - Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act	Record of Decision (ROD)	Read Chapter 8 NEPA and Federal Agency Decision Making (p 163-69) Read Appendix F - CEQ GR Env Justice (p 281-93)	Assignment #12
#14 04-21	DOI USFWS/ USBR	Entire EA	Putting it Together Front Matter: Cover / TOC / Summary Back Matter / Appendices: List of Parties Receiving Copies of the DEIS References Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations List of Preparers List of Persons and Organizations Consulted Summary of the Scoping Process Agency Correspondence Notice of Intent Permits & Agreements Index Errata		Assignment #13 (Entire EA)
#15 04-28		Renewable Energy Sources	Graduate Presentations	Graduate Presentations	Graduate Presentations
#16			Final Exam	Final Exam	May 5th by 10:30 p.m.