Who Should Take Environmental Courses at Stanford Law School?

Courses in the Environmental and Natural Resources Law & Policy Program (ENRLP) are designed both for students planning to practice environmental law and for students interested in learning how to address public policy issues generally. The courses examine issues of broad relevance to public law, including the administrative process, statutory interpretation, alternative approaches to regulating economic activities, multi-party negotiation, and legal ethics. Anyone interested in engaging in administrative or public policy work will find the courses valuable. The Law School is on the University’s quarter schedule to facilitate interdisciplinary enrollment, and thus, we encourage students from related disciplines to enroll. The Law School offers several exciting joint graduate programs in connection with E-IPER, Public Policy, International Relations, and the Business School.

Designing a Curriculum to Fit Your Interests and Professional Goals

Stanford Law School offers an array of core, advanced, clinical, and enrichment courses in the environmental area. The following provides a brief summary of the offerings. For more guidance on these and other courses in the environmental field, feel free to contact Meg Caldwell, Director (650/723-4057 or megc@stanford.edu).

Core Courses provide a fundamental, yet thorough review of key topics and methods of environmental regulation. Students need no special background to enroll in any of the core courses. This year, these core courses will be offered:

**Administrative Law** (winter and spring): This course examines the legal and practical foundations of the modern administrative state. Topics include rationales for delegation to administrative agencies; the legal framework (both constitutional and statutory) that governs agency decision-making; the proper role of agencies in interpreting statutory and regulatory law; and judicial review of agency action.

**California Coast: Science, Policy and Law** (spring): This interdisciplinary course integrates the legal, science, and policy dimensions of characterizing and managing our coastal resources in California. The course focuses on the land-sea interface and explores contemporary coastal land use and marine resource decision-making, and is cross-listed with Earth Systems and Civil and Environmental Engineering.

**Energy Law** (winter): This course examines the electricity supply system, rate based regulation of electric utilities, and deregulated wholesale electricity markets; the role of siting and cost recovery in development of a workable transmission grid; reforms of both rate-regulated and wholesale market-based structures; and approaches to subsidization of renewable energy.

**Environmental Law Clinic** (basic, full-time autumn and winter; advanced, part-time any quarter): The Clinic trains students to be effective public interest lawyers, while simultaneously providing legal and technical services to communities and non-profit organizations on environmental problems. The clinic offers valuable training not only for environmental students, but for all students interested in obtaining hands-on exposure to litigation and administrative agency practice in an area of law involving complex statutory and regulatory regimes and evolving science and policy issues. The skills acquired through the clinical experience, including strategic planning with clients, mediation and negotiation, written advocacy before courts and agencies, and oral argument, are readily transferable to many other substantive areas of modern practice in public interest organizations, government agencies and private law firms. Students who have already successfully completed the basic Environmental Law Clinic for one quarter may continue to work with the clinic in the advanced section, participating in a more intensive and senior capacity on clinic matters.
Environmental Law and Policy (spring): This introductory course focuses on the key federal environmental laws, regulation, and policy in the United States, beginning with a discussion of the property law roots of environmental law and the risk assessments and regulatory frameworks essential to understanding the current U.S. approach to environmental problems. The course focuses on federal statutes including the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, and concludes with a discussion of current EPA efforts to address emissions of greenhouse gases.

Natural Resources Law and Policy (autumn): This course will focus on two major aspects of natural-resource management: biodiversity protection (including the Endangered Species Act, ocean fisheries management, and global protection of marine mammals) and public lands in the United States such as national parks and wilderness areas. The course also will examine the National Environmental Protection Act and the effectiveness of environmental impact assessments.

Advanced Seminars and Specialized Courses provide an in-depth examination of environmental issues. Students generally get more out of the advanced seminars if they already have taken one or more core courses or have some experience in the field, but none require prerequisites. This year, advanced seminars and specialized courses include:

Clean Tech: Business Fundamentals and Public Policy (autumn): This course examines developments in the cleantech sector related to energy and carbon emissions; provides a framework for comparing the cost competitiveness of alternative energy solutions; examines current trends in public policy and regulatory initiatives related to carbon emissions and clean energy standards; analyzes challenges for the commercialization of new energy technologies; examines strategies for avoiding the “valley of death.” This course is cross listed with the business school.

Natural Resources Law & Policy Workshop (winter): Offered yearly, this interactive seminar examines and critiques cutting-edge research and work in the field of natural resources law and policy. This year’s focus will be on oil and gas law and policy. Although it is open to all second and third year law students and graduate students in other disciplines, the seminar is designed especially for those with an interest in the field who wish to stay abreast of current issues, work, and ideas. In each class, an academic expert, policy maker, or practitioner presents their current research or work and engage in a robust discussion.

2013-2014 Academic Year: we anticipate offering: Administrative Law; Animal Law; Land Use; Energy Law; Environmental Law Clinic; Environmental Law and Policy; International Environmental Law; and Water Law; Natural Resources Law & Policy Workshop.

NON-Law Recommended Courses: we recommend the following: Energy in Transition: Tech, Politics, & Policy (Energy 154); Energy Resources (CEE 173A, CEE 207A, ES 103); and Marine Biodiversity Law & Policy (ES 174, ES 274).

Enrichment Courses. Additional law courses of particular relevance to environmental students include:

Adv Legal Research (spring)
Adv Legal Writing (autumn, winter, spring)
Alternative Dispute Resolution (autumn, spring)
Economic Analysis of Law (winter)
Federal Courts (autumn, )
International Conflict Resolution (winter)
International Law (spring)
International Trade Law (autumn)
Law and Economics Seminar II (winter)
Legal Ethics (autumn)
Legislative Simulation (autumn)
Local Government Law (spring)
Mediation (spring)
Negotiation (autumn, winter, spring)
Professional Responsibility (autumn)
Public Interest Law and Practice (spring)
QM: Finance (winter)
Statistical Inference (spring)
Statutory Interpretation (autumn)
Toxic Harms (winter)