

BUS 379 WATER LAW

Syllabus

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COURSE CREDIT: Three Semester Hours

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Text:

Getches, D.H. (1997). *Water law in a nutshell* (3rd ed.). Eagan, MN:
Thomson-West. (ISBN 0-314-21157-8)
Recommended: Garner, B, ed. (2006) *Black's Law Dictionary*, (3rd pocket ed.).
Thomson-West. (ISBN 0314158626)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This intensive class is designed to give students, particularly from Colorado and neighboring states, an appreciation of the importance of allocation of water resources in the American West. Participants will learn of the common law and civil law approaches to the distribution of water in arid regions, the transportation of water from one basin to another, and a hierarchy of competing uses for the water. Water was first viewed as an instrumentality of transportation (and the main impetus behind junking the Articles of Confederation in favor of the Constitution), later as power for industry, irrigation for agriculture, and the water resource behind the growth of cities of the American West. Las Vegas and Phoenix, for example, would have been mere refueling stations on the transcontinental railroads were it not for massive water projects to make the desert bloom. Special emphasis will be given to Colorado's unique system of water courts and water judges.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Participants will learn how the law has influenced the growth of the West and the various forms of ownership that people can exercise over the inland waters of the United States. Particular emphasis will be given to adjudication of competing claims to a finite resource, water. Students will leave the course with an appreciation of the importance of water to Western civilization, and the rights and duties of upstream and downstream riparians. Although this course is concerned with U.S. water law, the student will also recognize

the importance of the free flow of water between the U.S. and its continental neighbors, Canada and Mexico.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 2 tests, 6 written assignments, and 6 reflection writing assignments.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

Students must complete all tests and coursework with a 70% or higher to pass this class.

Grade Distribution:

2 Proctored Quizzes	100 points each
6 Written Assignments	50 points each
6 Reflection Assignments	<u>10 points each</u>
Total Points	560

Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

Reflection Writing Assignments:

60 Points. Each student is expected to read assigned material and hand in written assignments. As this is an independent study project, each student works at his or her own pace throughout the term, with frequent contact and feedback with the supervising instructor.

Projects:

300 points. There will be six 50-point written assignments. Each writing assignment pertains to the topic covered in the lesson.

Quizzes:

There will be two proctored closed book quizzes, each worth 100 points, composed of multiple choice and short answer questions, dealing with almost all the areas of coverage of this course.

