

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI  
and TEXAS A&M-GALVESTON**  
**Environmental Science 5490 Syllabus: Coastal Management and Ocean Law**  
**Spring 2004, 3 semester credit hours (3:0)**

[www.oso.tamucc.edu/coastal](http://www.oso.tamucc.edu/coastal)

**MEETING TIMES:** Tuesday 12:15 to 3:00 PM, CCH-252 and Williams Library GAL

**FACULTY AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:**

Lecturer: A.R. "Babe" Schwartz, J.D., Austin office, [ars71726@aol.com](mailto:ars71726@aol.com), (512) 474-6876.

Lecture Facilitators:

*Corpus Christi* - Dr. Grady Price Blount, Science & Technology #319E, [blount@tamucc.edu](mailto:blount@tamucc.edu), (361) 825-2358.

*Galveston* – Dr. Tom Linton, 108 Kirkham Hall, [t-linton@tamu.edu](mailto:t-linton@tamu.edu), (409) 939-3800.

Staff: Ms. Pam Parker, Science & Technology #319, [tullos@falcon.tamucc.edu](mailto:tullos@falcon.tamucc.edu), 825-2754.

**OBJECTIVE:** Gain an in-depth understanding of the origin and present status of the 1972 National Coastal Zone Management Act and subsequent coastal management programs adopted by virtually all coastal states. The Texas program, which is administered by the General Land Office, will be dealt with in depth as the central focus of the course. Statutory law relating to citizen, state, and federal rights and duties as they impact coastal law will be studied including applicable Texas real property law. Students will use case law studies relating to those rights and duties and Public Trust Doctrine cases to gain an integral part of understanding the responsibilities of governments and rights of citizens.

**DESCRIPTION:** Many coastal issues and problems have been associated with the unique environments of the waters bordering coastal states. The course will deal with maritime pollution, ports, fisheries, and weather hazards of coastal living. You will learn much about islands, peninsulas, bays and estuaries, wetlands, and the coastal zone. The content of the course will also focus on philosophy, environmental concerns, and conflicting uses as necessary reasons for a separate government policy concerning coastal zone management. This course is designed to provide information to citizens concerning their rights and responsibilities in coastal law, permit procedures, and necessary understandings of the methods required to deal with government agencies involved in the management of coastal and marine assets. Some limitations applicable to coastal properties are relatively new to Texas and should be understood in the context of Texas Real Property law; others are ancient in origin and as recent as present enforcement practices. An informed professional practitioner must know the principles and have these skills to properly address legal matters which are governed by unique coastal laws, regulations, and rules. Materials from the Texas General Land Office will be provided as well as appropriate state and national publications of interest.

**FORMAT:** The course will be taught in a discussion and case study format. Individual studies will be assigned which deal with unique coastal problems and the proper approach to their solutions. Class participation, including dialogue with guest speakers and later critique of their presentations, will be required. By course completion each student will be expected to display skills expected of a practicing professional in his or her first year of practice as those skills relate to statutes and regulations applicable to coastal problems. Suggested outside reading will be regularly assigned to remain abreast of current cases and legislative proposals.

**BREAKDOWN OF COURSE GRADING:** Your final grade will be based on your standing relative class performance as a group from the following point distribution:

a. Mid-Term Exam on March 9 <sup>th</sup> (100 points)	100
b. Lecture participation (10 points per lecture)	150
c. Term Projects due on April 27 <sup>th</sup> and May 4 <sup>th</sup>	50
d. Final Exam on May 6 <sup>th</sup>	100

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**Total Points** **400**

**DEMONSTRATION OF PROFICIENCY:** A perfect score in this course would be to earn all 400 points available: There is a Mid-Term Exam worth 100 points and a Final Exam worth 100 points. The final exam will be cumulative over the entire course. In addition to the Mid-Term Exam, you may earn up to 150 points based in class participation at a maximum rate of 10 points per meeting. For credit, comments must be relevant to class material, clearly expressed, and show awareness of topic area.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** All students are expected to conform to college-level standards of ethics, academic integrity, grammar and spelling. In particular, by enrolling in this class for academic credit, you agree to be bound by the Regulations and Procedures published in the respective STUDENT HANDBOOK of TAMU-CC or TAMU-G as appropriate. Group interactions, investigations, and studying are encouraged; HOWEVER, duplicate work, in which more than one student claims credit for essentially the same material, will be treated as cheating and will receive a grade of zero. Except in cases of documented emergency or where prior arrangements have been made with the instructor, **there is no provision for making up late work and/or missed exams.** You are strongly urged to obtain the telephone numbers of several fellow students so that you can obtain notes and announcements in the event you miss a class and/or fail to stay current with announcements. Exams will be “take home”.

**READINGS:** Coastal Management and Ocean Law, By Kalo et al., The Public Trust Doctrine and the Coastal and Ocean Law Nutshell will be provided in a reading file posted on-line.

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER OF 2004 at TAMU-CC:**

- Spring Break, March 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004.
- The last day to drop with an automatic "W" is March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Final Term Exam Schedule: Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM