



## **Basics of Environmental Law**

### **Course Description**

This course takes the student through the federal laws and regulations that seek to protect our environment. It discusses landmark legislation such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as well as how these laws are administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act;
- Articulate how these laws are administered by the Environmental Protection Agency;
- Describe how the Clean Air Act has played a critical role in improving and maintaining air quality nationwide;
- Describe the common law foundation for environmental actions based on trespass, public nuisance, private nuisance, and strict liability;
- Explain how the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act form the backbone of our nation's system of environmental protection;
- Explain how anti—SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation,) laws protect people who file lawsuits against big companies for environmental and other injuries.

### **Final Exam**

Grades and credit recommendations are based solely on a final exam. When students are ready to take the final exam, they should register for a LawShelf account (or simply log in, for those with existing accounts). Go to the video-course page and click "Take the Final Exam" and pay the exam fee, where applicable. Students will be given instructions on how to take the exam. All exams are proctored by the Voice Proctor® proctoring system. An overview of the system is [provided here](#) and it requires no training or learning curve. Grades of 70% or above are considered passing grades and qualify for recommended transfer credit.

The final exam is based on the video course modules. Additional resources detailed in this syllabus are helpful for background and for building greater understanding of the

course materials. Inquiries can be made through the LawShelf Contact form on our website by clicking the “email us” button that appears at the bottom of most LawShelf pages. Transcripts can be ordered via Parchment, as detailed on our website.

## **Case Studies**

Many LawShelf video courses include case studies. These do not necessarily teach new material but are meant to demonstrate how the materials covered in the course are applied by various courts. Concepts covered in the case studies are covered on the final exam, so make sure to watch the case studies before taking the exam. However, it is unnecessary to memorize the facts and details of the cases covered in these case studies.

## **Self-Quizzes**

Video-course modules and case studies feature self-quizzes that consist of practice questions on the materials covered in the videos. These questions are presented for the benefit of the student and are **important to review before taking the final exam** because they are similar in style and substance to the questions on the final exam. These quizzes are not graded or monitored and there is no record of how students answer these questions. Students may answer these questions as many times as they like and are encouraged to keep re-taking the quizzes until they have mastered all the questions.

# **Study Guide**

## **Introductory Videos**

**These videos provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.**

### **Federal Efforts to Ensure Biodiversity: The Endangered Species Act**

**<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/federal-efforts-to-ensure-biodiversity-the-endangered-species-act/>**

### **Environmental Law: The Clean Air Act**

**<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/clean-air-act/>**

### **Environmental Law: The Clean Water Act**

**<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/the-clean-water-act/>**

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards in the United States**

**<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/greenhouse-gas-emissions-standards-in-the-united-states/>**

## Courseware Readings

These courseware readings provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Read the following sections of “Foundations of Law” <https://lawshelf.com/coursewarereview>

Torts: <https://lawshelf.com/coursewarecontentview/nuisance>

Tanaka, Saretsky, Foote and Swanson, Environmental law and practice in the United States: Overview  
[https://content.next.westlaw.com/0-503-4622?\\_lrTS=20210205132930881](https://content.next.westlaw.com/0-503-4622?_lrTS=20210205132930881)

Overview: Key Federal Environmental Laws

<https://www.findlaw.com/smallbusiness/business-laws-and-regulations/overview-key-federal-environmental-laws.html>

## Video Course Modules

These videos constitute the main part of the course and are they sources of the questions on the final exam.

Basics of Environmental Law Course Overview Video

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursescontentview/environmental-law>

Environmental Law Under The Common Law - Module 1 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/environmental-law-under-the-common-law-module-1-of-5>

Air Pollution Under the Clean Air Act - Module 2 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/air-pollution-prevention-under-the-clean-air-act-module-2-of-5>

Drinking Water and Aquatic Resource Protection - Module 3 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/drinking-water-and-aquatic-resource-protection-module-3-of-5>

The Regulation of Environmental Contaminants in Commerce - Module 4 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/the-regulation-of-environmental-contaminants-in-commerce-module-4-of-5>

The Management of Public Lands and Wildlife - Module 5 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/the-management-of-public-lands-and-wildlife-module-5-of-5>

Case Study: City of New York v. Chevron Corp.

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/case-study-city-of-new-york-v-chevron-corp>

Case Study: Black Water Riverkeepers v. Drummond

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/case-study-black-water-riverkeepers-v-drummond>