

**Environmental Law: Course Syllabus**  
**AREc 432/532**  
**Spring 2008**

Class meeting: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:50

Room: KIDD 278

Text: Environmental Law, Kubasek

Instructor: Christy Anderson Brekken, J.D. University of Minnesota, 2005  
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**Course Objectives and Organization:**

AREc 432/532 will examine broad themes in several distinct areas of federal environmental law. The course will emphasize the legal framework for environmental protection as it has evolved in the United States, including a study of administrative law. Students will be exposed to key constitutional principles, statutes, and regulations that govern the federal government's administration of environmental policies. This course will not cover laws associated with water rights, property rights, endangered species, or federal land management policies. These topics are covered in-depth in other courses.

Students will read excerpts from cases and legislation, where appropriate. It is intended that this course also help you to sharpen your reading, writing, and analytical thinking skills.

**Course Assignments**

- Case briefs
- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam

I will pass out a sign up sheet for you to choose the days on which you will hand in case briefs. A format for case briefs will be handed out in class. It is intended that you will be responsible for discussing the case you have briefed in class that day. Your participation in discussing your cases will be adjusted up one grade for excellent participation, and down one grade for little or poor participation.

AREc 532 students will complete the same assignments, but will also be responsible for a group research project and presentation related to an area of environmental law studied in class.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1	Introduction to the legal system	
2	Constitutional Underpinnings of Environmental Law	
3	Legislative and Administrative Underpinnings of Environmental Law	
4	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	
5	Clean Water Act	
6	Wetland Preservation	
7	Clean Air Act	
8	Waste Management Laws (RCRA & CERCLA)	
9	Toxics, Energy, special topics	
10	Review, Graduate Student Presentations	