

**NRM 403, Environmental Decision Making
Course Syllabus, Fall Semester 2021
9:45-11:15 AM Tuesdays & Thursdays (3 Cr)**

David Valentine, Professor of Forest Soils
-7614

dvalentine@alaska.edu

Section F01: 2 ¶ 1 H L O O % X L O G L Q J U R R P

Section FXA: <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/82137152017>

Office Hours: Generally, I plan to be available in my office Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 - 1:00, or by appointment. To stem the spread of COVID-19, my door will likely be closed, so please knock. I am also available to meet virtually (Zoom, telephone, etc.).

Course goal: To introduce students to an approach and range of tools useful to making good environmental and natural resource management decisions in the face of complexity, uncertainty, and
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should be able to:

Articulate and apply the foundations (science, economics, ethics/values, and policy) upon which natural resource management decisions are made.

Develop and apply critical thinking skills when evaluating information and be able to distinguish between fact, theory, and opinion.

Independently **evaluate various sources of information for reliability**, and **use reliable sources of information** to support positions in natural resource issues.

Deliver clear analysis and persuasive presentations, both orally and in writing.

Discuss and use a variety of techniques employed by resource managers in decision on the face of complexity,

Technology Policy: You may use your laptop/tablet/phone to do work relevant to the course, as long as others do not find it distracting.

Canvas: This course will make extensive use of Canvas (<https://canvas.alaska.edu>) for making class notes and reading materials available, submitting assignments, coordinating activities with project group members, retrieving grades, and updating your course progress. Please check it regularly for announcements and updates. In addition, we occasionally will need to contact you between class periods via Canvas e-mail. If you prefer to use a different e-mail address, you will need to set up e-mail forwarding.

Assignment submission: All assignments MUST be turned in using Canvas assignment submission tool. DO NOT use any other means of submission (e.g., e-mail). Assignments received by email will receive the response that the assignment must be handed in on Canvas. Late assignments will be penalized 10% of the assignment value per day, up to a maximum of 50%. We are reasonably proficient with various tools to detect plagiarism, which is a serious violation of the UAF honor code that merits a failing grade.

Issues: The instructors and invited guests will present current, controversial natural resource issues and cases that will highlight the foundations of decision-making in natural resources management. The issues you perspective energetically and rationally while challenging (respectfully) those you disagree with challenge assumptions and strengthen arguments. **Your grade does not depend on what conclusions you reach, but rather on how you reach those conclusions.**

Grading: Letter grades will be assigned based on the fraction of total points obtained in the class: 90-100 = A, etc. We will assign + or - modifiers for scores within 2 points of the letter grade cutoffs. All grades and feedback for assignments will be provided via the gradebook feature on Blackboard.

Syllabus Addendum (Revised 8/18/2021)

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Developmental Math Lab, Gruening 406

The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 120,

<https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/student-services/student-success-center/>)