



# SYLLABUS

## ENR 4648

NATURAL RESOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT  
SPRING 2023

Wednesday 5:30 – 8:10 PM KH 333 or as posted

## COURSE OVERVIEW

### Instructor

Steve Dodd

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National Park Service

E-mail: [rangerprof116@yahoo.com](mailto:rangerprof116@yahoo.com)

Law Enforcement Specialist – Retired

Columbia Falls, Montana

Mark Giese

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The Ohio State University

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School of Environment and Natural Resources - Retired

Columbus, OH 43210-1085

<http://senr.osu.edu/>

Office hours: By Appointment via Zoom

**Note:** *This course requires two off-campus field trips and an off-campus team project. Students must make their own arrangements for transportation within the Greater Columbus area or in some cases across the State. Alternate field trip assignments may be provided due to Covid-19 issues.*

## Course description

Catalog description: An examination of the law enforcement function in environment and natural resources and recreation management.

Course Description: This course is an introduction and examination of the law enforcement function in natural resources and recreation management. This course has served as a precursor for students planning to attend one of the partnership ranger academy programs or pursuing a career path related to natural resources law enforcement. This course will provide a foundation and exposure to the federal and state law enforcement curriculums and the natural resources law enforcement profession. Students continuing onto one of the partnership Ranger Academy programs can receive additional college credit. These credit hours may be used towards satisfaction of Natural Resources degree requirements with faculty advisor approval.

Ranger Training Programs: Historically, this course has closely aligned with the National Park Service Seasonal Law Enforcement Training Programs located across the country. Recent major revisions in these programs have impacted this relationship. A more in-depth discussion will take place about this during your class presentation during the 3rd week of class. Certifications from programs such as these are required to work in a law enforcement capacity for many of the federal, state, and local agencies involved in natural resources and recreation management.

**Course prerequisites:** none

## Course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Understand the role and function of natural resources law enforcement as applied on federal, state, and local jurisdictions
- Understand the history, philosophy, and objectives of natural resources law enforcement
- Understand and be able to apply basic laws, policies and regulations related to the protection of people and natural resources in recreation and natural resources management
- Understand and hone critical thinking skills related to modern resources threats impacting parks and wild lands in the United States and the world
- Be exposed to and understand various career pathways and training required of natural resources law enforcement professionals
- Become competent in both writing and presentational skills related to natural resource threats, protection and related law enforcement issues through group and individual projects

**Mode of delivery:** This course is classroom based with two in-person field trips or similar events.

**Pace of online activities:** PowerPoints will serve as the basis for class lectures and discussions. A general outline of activities is provided in the syllabus posted in the module section of the course CARMEN page. Students are expected to keep pace with deadlines.

**Credit hours and work expectations:** This is a **3-credit-hour course**. According to [Ohio State policy](#), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average.

**Attendance and participation requirements:** Course attendance is expected. Therefore, students are responsible for knowing any changes to the syllabus, for all information presented and discussed in class, for announcements made in class, for materials distributed in class, and classroom exercises & assignments. Emergency absences will be dealt with on an individual case basis.

This course requires students to have Internet access and to be familiar with the use of computers and the Internet. Course materials, readings, exercises, and exams may be administered in a web enhanced or web-based format. Students are encouraged to review and retain copies of course materials posted to the class intranet site as well.

## COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

### Textbooks

#### Required Texts:

A Park Ranger's Life: Thirty-two Years Protecting Our National Parks, Bruce W. Bytnar

National Park Ranger An American Icon, C. Farabee, Jr.

**Optional Text:** Ranger Confidential, Andrea Lankford

The textbooks for this course may be purchased via the Internet. Additional reading material will be posted on CARMEN (<https://carmen.osu.edu>) that will be part of class discussions.

## Course technology

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at [ocio.osu.edu/help/hours](https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours), and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** [ocio.osu.edu/help](https://ocio.osu.edu/help)
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** [servicedesk@osu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@osu.edu)
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

## BASELINE TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR ONLINE COURSES

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen: for questions about specific functionality, see the [Canvas Student Guide](#).

## REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY SKILLS SPECIFIC TO THIS COURSE

- [CarmenZoom virtual meetings](#)
- [Recording a slide presentation with audio narration](#)
- [Recording, editing, and uploading video](#)

## REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) or landline to use for BuckeyePass authentication

## REQUIRED SOFTWARE

- [Microsoft Office 365](#): All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus through Microsoft's Student Advantage program. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found [at go.osu.edu/office365help](https://go.osu.edu/office365help).

## CARMEN ACCESS

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](#) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you can connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a Device](#) help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the [Duo Mobile application](#) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357 (HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

## GRADING AND FACULTY RESPONSE

### How your grade is calculated

ASSIGNMENT CATEGORY	POINTS
Midterm – Take Home Exam	15
Final Exam - Online	15
Team Project (Resource Threat Assessment)	10
Metro Park Field Trip	10
ODNR Field Trip	10
Term Paper Assignment	15
PowerPoint Presentation Assignment	15
Practical exercises and in-class assignments	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## Assignments

**Midterm Exam:** Take Home Exam, 10 short answer/essay questions, students will have one week to complete the midterm. Students will upload the assignment to Carmen. This is an open book/open note exam. This is not a group project. Students are to complete their own work as expected.

**Final Exam:** This will be an online exam administered during the scheduled exam time during finals week. Students will have 105 minutes to complete the exam. The exam will be True/False and multiple-choice questions. There will be 100 questions on the exam.

**Resource Threat Assessment Exercise/Team Presentations:** The class will be divided into individual teams of 5 students and a team leader will be appointed by the group. Each team will be assigned to visit a specific park site or natural area where resources may be threatened or endangered. The mission of your team is to identify and assess potential threats to the park resources. Visitor threats may also be assessed, but primary focus should be given towards resource protection. Each team will be provided with 20 minutes to lead the class through a discussion of the resource threats identified. This will be part of the Modern Resource Threats topic to be conducted by your instructors during the 6<sup>th</sup> week of the semester.

**Field Trips:** Students will participate in two off campus evening field trips to designated facilities for two Wednesday class sessions. The locations and details for these evening field trips will be outlined during the course. Students will arrange their own transportation. Travel costs will be borne by the student. An alternate Zoom interview assignment may be provided due to Covid-19 issues for students. A written report would be required for this activity.

**Term Paper Assignment:** Each student will prepare and submit a research paper on a current and significant resource protection issue. Students will be given a range of topics to choose from that have been pre-selected by their instructors. Student term papers may be posted to the web to promote and advance greater awareness and education related to natural resources law enforcement. Additional details for the term paper assignment will be outlined during the course.

**PowerPoint Presentation:** In conjunction with the term paper assignment, each student will create and present a PowerPoint presentation providing highlights from their term paper research assignment. Students should be creative and thorough in the development of their presentation and should be prepared to make a 10-minute individual presentation on their research topic. Student PowerPoint presentations may be posted to the web to promote and advance greater awareness and education related to resources protection and enforcement. Additional details for the PowerPoint presentation assignment will be outlined during the course.

**Practical/In-class exercises:** Student attendance and participation in the course is expected during regularly scheduled class time. In-class assignments and discussions will be conducted during these class periods, and students are expected to participate. 10% of the course grade is set aside for participation in these course activities. Students should contact instructors by email or phone if they have reasonable conflicts and miss regular class time and may need reasonable accommodation.

## Attendance Policy

Course attendance is expected. Therefore, students are responsible for knowing any changes to the syllabus, for all information presented and discussed in class, for announcements made in class, for materials distributed in class, and classroom exercises & assignments. Emergency absences will be dealt with on an individual case basis.

## Late assignments

No late assignment will be accepted, or make-up exam be given unless prior permission has been given by your instructor. Such permission will be granted only when extenuating circumstances can be documented. In accordance with the Code of Student Conduct, all work is to be that of the student being graded. Assignments will only be accepted by the instructor on the printed due date unless another day has been pre-arranged with the instructor. Students can reach out to instructors via email or phone as needed to make any arrangements.

**Incompletes:** Incompletes will not be given unless pre-arranged with the instructor.

## Grading scale

93–100: A  
90–92.9: A-  
87–89.9: B+  
83–86.9: B  
80–82.9: B-  
77–79.9: C+  
73–76.9: C  
70–72.9: C-  
67–69.9: D+  
60–66.9: D  
Below 60: E

Instructor reserves the right to deviate from this schedule as appropriate.

## Instructor feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

- **Grading and feedback:** For large assignments (midterms), you can generally expect feedback within **5 days**.
- **Email:** Your instructors will reply to emails within **24 hours on days when class is in session at the university**.
- **Discussion board:** Your instructors will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards every **24 hours on school days**.

## OTHER COURSE POLICIES

### Discussion and communication guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across as you think it will.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

### Academic integrity policy

#### POLICIES FOR THIS ONLINE COURSE

- **Quizzes and exams:** You must complete the midterm, final exam, readings, and the final paper yourself.



- **Written assignments:** Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow an appropriate style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in—but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.
- **Falsifying research or results:** All research you will conduct in this course is intended to be a learning experience; you should never feel tempted to make your results or your library research look more successful than it was.
- **Collaboration and informal peer-review:** The course includes many opportunities for formal collaboration with your classmates. While study groups and peer-review of major written projects is encouraged, remember that comparing answers on a quiz or assignment is not permitted. If you're unsure about a particular situation, please feel free just to ask ahead of time.

## OHIO STATE'S ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the university's [Code of Student Conduct](#), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the university's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the university's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

**If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.** If COAM determines that you have violated the university's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages ([COAM Home](#))
- *Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity* ([Ten Suggestions](#))
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity* ([www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm](http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm))

## Copyright disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

## Creating an environment free of harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

1. Online reporting form at [equity.osu.edu](http://equity.osu.edu),
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or Email [equity@osu.edu](mailto:equity@osu.edu)

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

This course adheres to The Principles of Community adopted by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. These principles are located on the Carmen site for this course; and can also be found at <https://go.osu.edu/principlesofcommunity>. For additional information on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in CFAES, contact the CFAES Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (<https://equityandinclusion.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/>). If you have been a victim of or a witness to a bias incident, you can report it online and anonymously (if you choose) at <https://studentlife.osu.edu/bias/report-a-bias-incident.aspx>.

## Your mental health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious, or overwhelmed, please know that there are resources to help: [ccs.osu.edu](https://ccs.osu.edu). You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at (614) 292-5766 and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-(800)-273-TALK or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). The Ohio State Wellness app is also a great resource available at [go.osu.edu/wellness app](https://go.osu.edu/wellness_app).

David Wirt, [wirt.9@osu.edu](mailto:wirt.9@osu.edu), is the CFAES embedded mental health counselor. He is available for new consultations and to establish routine care. To schedule with David, please call 614-292-5766. Students should mention their affiliation with CFAES when setting up a phone screening.

### **Safe and Healthy Buckeyes:**

Health and safety requirements: All students, faculty and staff are required to comply with and stay up to date on all university safety and health guidance (<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu>), which includes wearing a face mask in any indoor space and maintaining a safe physical distance at all times. Non-compliance will result in a warning first, and disciplinary actions will be taken for repeated offenses."

## **ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

### **Requesting accommodations**

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

### **Accessibility of course technology**

This online course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.

- [CarmenCanvas accessibility](#)
- Streaming audio and video
- [CarmenZoom accessibility](#)
- Collaborative course tools

# COURSE SCHEDULE

Course syllabus updates and topic resources are available on the Carmen page

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Instructor(s)</u>
<b><u>1st Week</u></b>			
Wednesday January 11		Course Introduction - Natural Resources Law Enforcement Course Assignments Overview	Giese/ Dodd (Carmen Zoom)
		Organization & Function of Federal/State Law Enforcement Agencies	Giese
		Authority & Jurisdiction of NPS Law Enforcement	Giese
<b><u>2nd Week</u></b>			
Wednesday January 18		Overview of Federal Land Management Law Enforcement Operations	Dodd
		History, Philosophy & Objectives of National Park Service Law Enforcement & Resource Protection	Dodd
<b><u>3th Week</u></b>			
Wednesday January 25		NPS LE Guidelines RM-09	Dodd
		RM-57 Physical Fitness & Conditioning, Medical Standards & NPS Background Issues	Dodd
		Ranger Training Opportunities	Dodd
<b><u>4th Week</u></b>			
Wednesday February 1 Off campus		<b>Metro Park Field Trip *</b> <b>Scioto Audubon Metro Park</b>	Larry Peck/Giese <i>Class held off campus</i>
<b><u>5th Week</u></b>			
Wednesday February 8		Paleo Resources Protection	Giese
		Archaeological Resource Protection	Giese
		Natural Resources Law	Giese

<b><u>6th Week</u></b> Wednesday February 15	US Attorney's Office role in the prosecution of NR crimes  Working the frontline – Federal Lands Law Enforcement  Intro to Modern Resource Threats	Jessica Betley, AUSA (Carmen Zoom)  Rebecca Merritt, BLM Special Agent (Carmen Zoom)  Dodd (Carmen Zoom)
<b><u>7th Week</u></b> Wednesday February 22 No Class	Resource Threat Assessments Project*  Midterm Exam Due 11:59 PM	
<b><u>8th Week</u></b> Wednesday March 1	US Army Corps of Engineers Rangers  Environmental Crimes Environmental Protection & Enforcement	Kara Wagner U.S Army Corps Park Ranger  Conway SA EPA - retired/Giese
<b><u>9th Week</u></b> Wednesday March 8	Resource Threat Presentations	Dodd & Conway (Carmen Zoom) Giese
<b><u>10th Week</u></b> Wednesday March 15	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>	
<b><u>11th Week</u></b> Wednesday March 22	ODNR Wildlife  Class Presentations	Quinlivan ODNR  Giese – Dodd & Conway (Carmen Zoom)
<b><u>12th Week</u></b> Wednesday March 29	ODNR Parks and Watercraft  Class Presentations	Patrick Brown ODNR  Giese – Dodd & Conway (Carmen Zoom)

<b><u>13th Week</u></b>  Wednesday April 5	<b>ODNR Field Trip *</b> <b>Alum Creek State Park</b>	Giese/ODNR officers
<b><u>14th Week</u></b>  Wednesday April 12	CUVA US Park Ranger  Class Presentations	Josh Donathan  Giese – Dodd & Conway (Carmen Zoom)
<b><u>15th Week</u></b>  Wednesday April 19	Class Presentations	Giese - Dodd & Conway (Carmen Zoom)
<b><u>Finals Week</u></b>  Friday April 28  Online via Carmen	Final Exam 6 – 7:45 PM	Giese/Dodd

Updated 1/10/2023