Each student will be required to prepare a paper reviewing of how the National Environmental Policy Act addresses an environmental regulation. This review will include a summary of the environmental regulation or policy and a detailed analysis of the methods and results of an EIS or EA addressing that regulation. The environmental regulation or policy investigated and the EIS (EA) reviewed in the paper is the student’s choice, but must be approved by the instructor. In addition to the written assignment, graduate students are required to present a summary of their paper to the class.

In choosing an environmental regulation or policy, you should focus on an element of the regulation (not the entire regulation). When you are choosing a regulation you should also be choosing an EIS (EA) to review. For example, if you are interested in air quality in an urban setting, the regulation you should be addressing is the Clean Air Act and your EIS (EA) should deals with a proposed activity which would affect air quality (such as, a transportation project in New York City). As you know, most environmental regulations are voluminous and deal with numerous topics relating to one environmental attribute. The Clean Air Act is a good example of this kind of regulation, and you should focus on those sections in the Act that deal with transportation. If your EIS is for an area that is in “non-attainment,” then your paper should review those sections of the Clean Air Act for transportation projects in non-attainment areas.

Your review of the EIS (EA) should be focused on those activities that affect the subject of your chosen regulation. The review should include a discussion of the proposed activity and how the EIS (EA) addresses the chosen environmental attribute (establishing existing conditions, predicting impacts, and mitigation).

Your paper topic (environmental regulation) and selected EIS (EA) should be described in one paragraph and submitted on January 28th for the instructor’s review.

Your paper should be typed, double-spaced and between 10 and 15 pages. I do not expect numerous citations. The paper is due from all students on March 10th.

Graduate students are required to present a summary of their paper to the class during the last week of class or in the final exam period. Each presentation should be no longer than 12 minutes and 3 minutes for questions. You will have access to a computer and projector for PowerPoint presentations or an overhead projector. A sign-up sheet will circulated asking for your choice of presentation date. I will try to honor your first or second choice.

The grading rubrics for the paper and presentation are available at the course’s website.