

# **Ocean and Coastal Law**

Summer 2025 at Vermont Law & Graduate School

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## **Syllabus**

The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the fundamental legal concepts and institutions we use to manage living and non-living natural resources found in oceans and along coasts.

We will meet on the dates indicated below from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (with a 15-minute break at around 10:20 AM). Our classroom is the Nina Thomas Room, which is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Debevoise Hall.

Below are the reading assignments for each class meeting. Unless otherwise indicated, the page numbers refer to EAGLE AND HSU, OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCES LAW, 4TH ED. (2024). Although there are no formal office hours, you should absolutely let me know if you would like to meet, and we will arrange a convenient time/format for meeting.

Grades for this course will be based on a final examination (70%) and three problem outlines (30%). I will hand out the final exam at the end of our last class meeting, on Thursday, June 12. This will be a take-home exam that is due by 11:59 P.M. on Sunday, June 15. There will be no limit to the amount of time you can spend on the exam before you turn it in, but there will be word limits on your answers. The problem exercises and the exam will be “open-book”: you are free to use any resources in preparing your submissions except for AI applications and other people.

From the school: “The Academic Regulations require students to attend all classes. Per regulations: During the summer, a student will be automatically withdrawn from the course with a grade of F-Wd if the student is absent . . . from two classes if the class meets up to twelve days.” I will take attendance each day.

## **Readings**

Tues., May 27:	Introduction to Ocean and Coastal Law/ International Ocean Law pp. 1-46
Wed., May 28	U.S. Ocean Law: Jurisdiction and Fisheries Management pp. 47-101
Thurs., May 29	Overview of Coastal Natural Resources and Interests/ Legal Geography of the Coast 1 pp. 271-367

Fri., May 30	Legal Geography of the Coast 2 pp. 367-420; First problem outline due
Mon., June 2	Public Trust Doctrine 1 pp. 421-466
Tues., June 3	Public Trust Doctrine 2 pp. 466-501; Second problem outline due
Wed., June 4	Upland Rights pp. 503-578
Thurs., June 5	Beach Law Josh Eagle, <i>On the Legal Life History of Beaches</i> , 2023 Ill. L. Rev. 225 (2023)
Mon., June 9	State Coastal Programs 1 pp. 579-629
Tues., June 10	State Coastal Programs 2 pp. 629-685
Wed., June 11	State Coastal Programs 3 pp. 692-719; Third problem outline due
Thurs., June 12	Insurance and Hazard Mitigation pp. 721-777