



Environmental Studies 400 – Environmental Impact Assessment – September 2018

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Course web: ENST 400 - Via URCourses - Digital access to selected course content.
Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM (Sept 8th to Dec 6th, 2018)
Classroom Building Room 317

Welcome! This course gives students an opportunity to develop their skills in effectively analyzing, managing, and resolving natural resource conflicts. Students will be required to carry out a substantial piece of research work independently, develop knowledge of special interests, and build upon the experience gained. Prerequisites: ENST 200(Introduction to Environmental Studies) and any two of GEOG 325(Biogeography), PSYC 340(Psychology and Environmental Change), SOC 330(Sociology of the Environment). *UR Course Catalogue*

Objective

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has emerged as both an instrument of evaluation and as a decision-making system. EIA is an integral part of environmental management in environmental policy at regional, national and international levels. While EIA ideally incorporates environmental consideration into planning and development processes, it is embedded within the growth ethic - it is *not* about preventing development. Ideally, EIA helps development occur within an environmentally responsible context. It informs decision-makers about the consequences of development decisions and identifies the likely or known impacts of development. This course examines EIA from a critical perspective as a strategic, comprehensive, and pro-active process employed to integrate the ecological and social aspects of development into planning and environmental/resource management processes. The course objectives are meant to provide a critical overview of EIA processes, a guide to normative and applied EIA practice, and to impart a fundamental understanding of how EIA works (or, sometimes, does not work) in the Canadian context. We will discuss EIA methods, approaches, regulation, and legislation. Case studies from jurisdictions in Canada are used to illustrate themes and issues, along with an ongoing reference to practice in our province and at the federal level.

Required textbooks

Noble, B F 2015. Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment: A Guide to Principles and Practice, 3rd Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press

The course textbook is available from the University Bookstore

Evaluation

1. Participation (15%)

Lectures may be accompanied by assigned readings, and you are expected to do these readings before class, and be prepared to actively discuss various aspects of these readings in-class.

2. Midterm examinations (40%)*

Two in-class midterm examinations scheduled for Thursday, October 11th, 2018 and Thursday, Nov 22nd, 2018. The format of the midterm examinations is: Multiple Choice, Short answer and True or False.

3. Class Presentation of your Study Jurisdiction (15%)* Due Dec 4-6th, 2018

Provide a 5 minute (IGNITE© Style) presentation in relation to the EA program in your Study Jurisdiction and be prepared to answer questions from the group. Class will discuss format/style etc.

4. Synopsis of two environmental impact assessment processes (30%)* - Due Last Class (Dec 6th, 2016)

Prepare a critical paper that describes, compares, and critiques the Environmental Impact Assessment systems of two Canadian jurisdictions. You may choose any province or territories EIA legislation and compare it back to the Saskatchewan's system. Refer to your course readings and other general and theoretical materials to develop a critique of the EIA approach used in your case study areas. Consider elements such as the scope of EIA application, adherence to the ideal of effective EIA as indicated in the literature (and your course lectures), the methods used, and the regulatory framework (legislation or legal context) used to implement EIA. Does EIA apply to both private and public sector undertakings? Is policy and program development subject to EIA? What do you think is successful or positive about the jurisdiction's approach to EIA, and what is not? Your paper must include a critical/analytical component as well as descriptive elements.

You must demonstrate that you are familiar with the current state of EIA in your case study jurisdictions; for example, are there any proposals to amend the EA legislation or local/regional debates about aspects of the EA process? Are there any particularly important EA reviews underway or recently completed?

Your paper should be no longer than 12 pages, double spaced, single sided excluding title page, reference list, and any figures or tables you wish to include. Do not use plastic covers or any form of binder. Do not use a paper clip; just staple your paper. Use the APA reference format. There must be a **minimum of 8 references** not including your textbook. Present your paper in a research paper format. The use of section headings is suggested. The use of internet material may be important to your work; however, such sources must be properly referenced. Any other topic must be approved by instructor.

* *denotes mandatory course component. Failure to complete these components results in a grade of NP for the course.*

Academic misconduct

Students are expected to adhere rigorously to principles of intellectual integrity. For specific information on this important matter, please consult the University of Regina academic calendar.

How to submit your assignments

Please be sure to have your materials submitted by 4:30 PM on the due date. You can submit your assignment:

- directly to the instructor before or after class, *or*
- directly to the instructor in office 316.1; *or*
- directly to the departmental office manager in CL340.

Paper copies must **not** be slid under office doors. After 4:30 PM, every subsequent 24 hours or portion thereof results in a 15% penalty. I cannot accept digital versions of your assignments by email.

Other key resources

Books & Journals

- Hanna, Kevin S. (Ed.) 2009. *Environmental Impact Assessment: Practice and Participation*. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press, Toronto..
- Gibson, R 2005, *Sustainability Assessment: Criteria and Process*, London, UK: EarthScan
- *Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management, Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal, Environmental Impact Assessment Review, Environmental Management*

Acts and Regulations:

- *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*
 - <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-15.21.pdf>
- *The Environmental Assessment Act (Saskatchewan)*
 - <http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/E10-1.pdf>

Websites:

<http://www.iaia.org/>

<http://www.ceaa-acce.gc.ca>

<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/EnvironmentalAssessment>

International Association for Impact Assessment

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

SK EA

Accommodation and illness

Any student with a disability who may need accommodations should discuss these with the course instructor after contacting the Coordinator of the Disability Resource Office at 585-4631. If you are unable to complete an assignment, midterm examination or final examination for compassionate or health reasons, contact the instructor **as soon as possible**. A medical certificate from an attending physician must accompany the request if the reason is medical. For other reasons, such evidence as is appropriate should be provided.

Sequence of Course Topics - Fall 2018

Week	Date	Day of Week	Sequence of Topics	Key items this week
1		Tuesday	An Introduction to EA <i>Preface and Chapter 1 – Noble, (IAIA 2009)</i>	<i>An overview of the course, expectations, and objectives importance in Canadian environment and resource management</i>
	Sep-6	Thursday		
2	Sep-10	Tuesday	Character and Purpose of EA: key themes and definitions; Perspectives on Sustainability (<i>Chapter 3- Noble, Chapter 3-Gibson</i>)	<i>Fundamental principles of EA; The ideal influence and attributes of EA EA as a planning & decision support tool, Rational planning and EA</i>
	Sep-13	Thursday		
3	Sep-17	Tuesday	Brief history and origins/development of EA Aims and objective of EA	<i>Formative events in EA programming/history</i>
	Sep-20	Thursday		
4	Sep-24	Tuesday	The EA policy instrument: Typical stages in the EA process with a focus on Screening and 'Significance' of impacts (Part III – Chapters 5 to 10-Noble)	<i>Legal & Institutional framework, EA Process, EA Practice and outcomes Screening and Scoping</i>
	Sep-27	Thursday		
5	Oct-02	Tuesday	The EA policy instrument – cont. Identifying and prediction environmental impacts; techniques and methods	<i>Baseline conditions, environmental attributes How do we identify impacts? Strengths and weaknesses to techniques and tools</i>
	Oct-04	Thursday		
6	Oct-09	Tuesday	EA in Saskatchewan First Exam	<i>How has EIA evolved in SK? EIA as a 'green stamp of approval'? The role of First Nations and traditional knowledge in SK</i>
	Oct-11	Thursday		
7	Oct-16	Tuesday	Identification and prediction of environmental impacts Public participation and Involvement, Chapter 11 – Noble)	<i>The importance of participation; how it influences EIA, techniques and tools Developing world and western world consultation</i>
	Oct-18	Thursday		
8	Oct-23	Tuesday	Mitigation and Impact Management Strategic Environmental Assessment,	<i>How do we evaluate plans and policies? Techniques of strategic assessment The state of strategic assessment in Canada</i>
	Oct-25	Thursday		
9	Oct-30	Tuesday	Environmental Assessment Reporting (Review an EIS) and discuss Various aspects of the report ...	<i>What is an EIA report, typical elements, Environmental Management Plans, Shortcomings, Guidelines for effective EA reporting</i>
	Nov-01	Thursday		
10	Nov-06	Tuesday	Assessing social, health and cumulative impacts, Chapter 7 & 8 Fall Break	<i>What are social and cumulative impacts? How do we measure them? Cumulative impacts: case study...Cheviot Mine (AB)</i>
	Nov-08	Thursday		
11	Nov-13	Tuesday	Canadian (federal) EIA process , Chapter 2 – Noble Assessment boards and hearing process, Chapter	<i>History of the CEA Act Types of assessment, screening and beyond How a hearing works; The power and function of boards and tribunals;</i>
	Nov-15	Thursday		
12	Nov-20	Tuesday	EIA across jurisdictional boundaries, Chapter 9, 10 Second Exam	<i>Harmonization and multi-jurisdictional EIA; Harmonization in Canada</i>
	Nov-22	Thursday		
13	Nov-27	Tuesday	EA effectiveness (Methods Review) CLAS Wrap up	<i>Follow-up and Monitoring</i>
	Nov-29	Thursday		
14	Dec-04	Tuesday	IGNITE Presentation Class Paper Due	
	Dec-06	Thursday		

Other relevant Web resources for Environmental Assessment:

<http://www.unep.org/themes/assessment/>

<http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/ESSD/>

<http://www.adb.org/Environment/default.asp>

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/>

UNEP Activities in Environmental Assessment

World Bank

Asian Development Bank

European Union Environmental Assessment

USA National Environmental Policy Act