
COURSE OUTLINE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In grateful acknowledgement of the knowledge & wisdom of the peoples upon whose territories we are able to live and learn.

Course Description

What is this course about?

This course investigates our attempts to predict, evaluate, and mitigate the adverse impacts of major development projects in this time of great socio-ecological upheaval. The course draws upon many disciplines, including geography, ecology, law, political science, and Indigenous studies to interrogate environmental decision-making, unpack the complex political/cultural context within which it takes place, and explore how the practice works and could be improved. Instructed discussions of theory and engaging case studies past and present are supplemented by guest speaker presentations with a wide range of perspectives and self

Brightspaces (which replaced CourseSpaces) [is available](#).

What are the technology requirements for this course?

You will need reliable access to the internet and a computer (preferably with webcam/microphone) or a smartphone to connect with the class for the online lessons (through Zoom). You should be comfortable using a word processor such as MS Word (Office 365) and will be required to submit some assignments in .doc or .pdf formats.

What is online learning like?

The online format can seem strange and awkward at first, but I commit to doing everything possible to make this a comfortable and effective learning environment. Keep in mind that most of us are new to this format and we all need to be forgiving, openminded, and adaptable. We're in it together.

Additional required readings (journal articles, book chapters, actual assessment documents and other sources) will be available online (through Brightspace). Reading effectively is absolutely essential for success in this course. Along with lecture material, assigned readings will be tested through quizzes and on the final. Be mindful that simply reading without engaging with the material is useless as material has no chance of moving

Weekly calendar

What will we be learning about each week?

Week	Date/Topic	Readings / Homework
Overview & Philosophy		
Week 1	Jan 11 – Course Overview + welcome	
	Jan 14 – Environmental Assessment who? what? where? when? why? how?	Ch 1 & 2 (p 125)
Week 2	Jan 18 – Environmental Assessment who? what? where? when? why? how?	Ch 1 & 2 (p 125) + Beattie (1995) “Everything You Already Know About EIA (But Don’t Often Admit)”
	Jan 21 –[no live class] Environmental Assessment in Canada: key case studies in the evolution of the process	Ch 2 (p 2536) + case studies
Week 3	Jan 25 – Environmental Assessment in Canada	

What should I know about self-care this term?

A note to remind you to take