



Physical & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

SCARBOROUGH

EES3002H: CONSERVATION POLICY (Fall 2021), Tues. 9-12 – synchronous online delivery.

Standing Zoom link:

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/83590998715>

Meeting ID: 835 9099 8715

Passcode: 932244

Instructor: Dr. Stuart Livingstone

email: s.livingstone@utoronto.ca

Office hours: by appointment

TA: Raul Salas Reyes (raul.salasreyes@utoronto.ca)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through lectures, current literature and interactive discussions with leading Canadian conservation policy practitioners, this course will examine the policies that form the foundation for the conservation of biodiversity in Canada including our international obligations and federal and provincial legislation and regulations. In addition to examining how Canadian conservation policies have been developed and are being implemented to protect aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, this course will include discussions about the importance of risk-based policies and the role of adaptive management in achieving conservation objectives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To become professional conservation practitioners, students must understand the legislation, regulations, and policies that form the foundation for the conservation of biodiversity in Canada. It is the goal of this course that students gain an in-depth understanding of conservation policy in Canada. Specifically, students should be able to understand Canada's international obligations (Convention on Biological Diversity), federal legislation (Species at Risk Act, COSEWIC process, National Parks Act) and policies (Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, the Pathway to Canada Target 1) and provincial and local legislation and policies (Ontario's Endangered Species Act, Invasive Species Act). Further, students will have the knowledge to analyze and evaluate how risk and uncertainty inform management practices for biodiversity conservation.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Increasingly, the science and policy that is focused on biodiversity conservation is seeking to bridge Western/settler approaches with Indigenous knowledge and worldviews in a manner that embodies the objectives of Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. This idea is very much at the forefront of conservation science and planning in Canada, where recent strides in protected area creation have largely been achieved through Indigenous-led initiatives. In this regard, it is essential that contemporary efforts to

conduct the science and engage with the policies that seek to conserve Canada’s biodiversity do so through the lens of Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

I (we) wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

COURSE SCHEDULE

EES3002: Conservation Policy Fall 2021				
Date	Subject	Assignment	Guest speaker	Readings
Sept	14	Introduction, risk & uncertainty		
	21	Adaptive management; Canadian federal biodiversity policy in a global context	Dr. Justina Ray (WCS)	Ray et al. 2021
	28	The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)		Favaro et al. 2014
Oct	5	Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA)	Christie Whelan (ECCC)	Turcotte et al. 2021
	12	Invasive species ecology & policy	Erica Newton (MNRF)	MNRF 2020 Potgeiter & Cadotte 2020
	19	Policy analysis check-ins		
	26	Federal protected areas 1 : Terrestrial		Lemieux et al. 2021
Nov	2	Federal protected areas 2: Marine & Marine policy interactions		Koubrak et al. 2021
	9	Ontario Protected areas & Ontario's Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Rob Davis (MECP)	Bethlenfalvy & Olive 2021
	16	Indigenous peoples & federal conservation policy	Julie Boucher (Indigenous Guardians)	M'sit No'kmaq et al. 2021
	23	Presentations	Technical Policy Analysis (Due Nov. 23rd)	
	30	Presentations		
Take home exam (Due date TBD)				

EVALUATION

Discussion participation (15%)

Outline for Technical Policy Analysis (10%) - Due Oct. 17^h

Take-home Exam (35%) – Due date TBD

Technical Policy Analysis Report & Presentation (30% & 10%) – Due Nov. 23rd

The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the Graduate Grading and Evaluation Practices Policy (and how that policy is interpreted and applied in this Dept.)

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>

READINGS

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Required Readings and Lecture Notes: Links to the required readings and lecture notes will be placed on the Quercus course website. Posting of the presentations of guest lectures will be at the discretion of the guest. **It is highly recommended that you take additional notes during lectures and guest presentations. All assigned readings and material covered during lectures will form the subject matter for the examination.**

Week 1: Introduction – no readings

Week 2: Adaptive management & the global context for Canadian biodiversity policy

Guest lecture – Justina Ray (WCS)

- [Ray, J. C., Grimm, J., & Olive, A. \(2021\). The biodiversity crisis in Canada: failures and challenges of federal and sub-national strategic and legal frameworks. *FACETS*, 6\(1\), 1044-1068.](#)

Week 3: Canada's Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)

- [Favaro, B., Claar, D. C., Fox, C. H., Freshwater, C., Holden, J. J., Roberts, A., & UVic Research Derby. \(2014\). Trends in extinction risk for imperiled species in Canada. *PLoS One*, 9\(11\), e113118.](#)

Week 4: Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA)

Guest lecture – Christine Whelan (ECCC)

- [Turcotte, A., Kernany, N., Foster, S., Proctor, C.A., Gilmour, S.M., Doria, M., Sebes, J., Whitton, J., Cooke, S.J., Bennett, J. R. \(2021\) Fixing the Canadian *Species at Risk Act*: identifying major issues and recommendations for increasing accountability and efficiency. *FACETS*. 6\(\): 1474-1494.](#)

Week 5: Invasive species ecology & policy in Canada

Guest lecture – Erica Newton (MNRF)

- [MNRF \(2020\) Draft Strategy to address the threat of invasive wild pigs](#)
- [Potgieter, L. J., & Cadotte, M. W. \(2020\). The application of selected invasion frameworks to urban ecosystems. *NeoBiota*, 62, 365.](#)

Week 6: Technical policy analysis check-in's – no readings

Week 7: Federal protected areas 1 (Terrestrial)

- [Lemieux, C. J., Halpenny, E. A., Swerdfager, T., He, M., Gould, A. J., Carruthers Den Hoed, D., ... & Rollins, R. \(2021\). Free Fallin'? The decline in evidence-based decision-making by Canada's protected areas managers. *FACETS*, 6\(1\), 640-664.](#)

Week 8: Federal protected areas 2 (Marine) & Marine policy interactions

- [Koubrak, O., VanderZwaag, D. L., & Worm, B. \(2021\). Saving the North Atlantic right whale in a changing ocean: Gauging scientific and law and policy responses. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 200, 105109.](#)

Week 9: Ontario's Endangered Species Act & Ontario Protected Areas

Guest lecture – Rob Davis (MECP)

- [Bethlenfalvy, A., & Olive, A. \(2021\). Recent amendments to the Endangered Species Act and an uncertain future for species at risk: a case study of Ontario's Niagara Region. *FACETS*, 6\(1\), 1168-1183.](#)

Week 10: Interactions between Indigenous Peoples in Canada & Federal Conservation Policy

Guest lecture – Julie Boucher (Indigenous Guardians)

- [M'sit No'kmaq, Marshall, A., Beazley, K. F., Hum, J., Joudry, S., Papadopoulos, A., ... & Zurba, M. \(2021\). "Awakening the sleeping giant": re-Indigenization principles for transforming biodiversity conservation in Canada and beyond. *FACETS*, 6\(1\), 839-869.](#)

Week 11 & 12: Student presentations, no readings

VERIFICATION OF ILLNESS

A *Verification of Illness* (also known as a "doctor's note") is temporarily not required. Students who are absent from academic participation for **any reason** (e.g., COVID, cold, flu and other illness or injury, family situation) and who require consideration for missed academic work should report their absence through the online absence declaration. The declaration is available on [ACORN under the Profile and Settings menu](#). Students should also advise their instructor of their absence. Visit [COVID-19 Information for University of Toronto Students](#) page on the Vice-Provost, Students website for information on this and other frequently asked questions.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Students are advised to consult the university's preparedness site (<http://www.preparedness.utoronto.ca>) for information and regular updates regarding procedures relating to emergency planning.

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact the UTSC Accessibility Services as soon as possible: <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/>

We also suggest you also refer to the following University of Toronto Scarborough Library link:

<http://utsc.library.utoronto.ca/services-persons-disabilities>

PLAGIARISM

University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters states that "it shall be an offence for a student knowingly: to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e., to commit plagiarism."

For accepted methods of standard documentation formats, including electronic citation of internet sources please see the UofT writing website at <http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/documentation>.

The full Code of Behaviour regulations could be found from consulting

<https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/policies-guidelines/academic-integrity-resources/>

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

WRITING AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE

As well as the faculty writing support, please see [English Language and writing support at University of Toronto](#) or the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#) at UTSC.

The following is also useful:

Sylvan Barnet, *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*. 5-7th edition (New York: Harper-Collins, 1997)

William Strunk Jr., E.B. White. *The Elements of Style* (New York: MacMillan Publishing)

LATE WORK

Assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class. A penalty of 10% per day, including weekend days, will be incurred for late assignments.