

EESC13: Environmental Impact Assessment and Auditing

Fall 2016

Mondays 11-13:00 Starting Thursday September 1st, 2016

Regularly offered Mondays 11-13:00

Room: MW 160

Instructor: Dr. Kathy Wallace (kwallace@utsc.utoronto.ca)

Office Hours: Mondays 1 to 3pm (or by appointment) in EV402

Teaching Assistant: Dr. Carlos Paulo carlos.fernandesesilvapaulo@mail.utoronto.ca

Textbook (required):

Hanna, Kevin S., (Ed.) 2016 (3rd edition). Environmental Impact Assessment, Practice and Participation. Oxford University Press.

The course textbook is available from the UTSC bookstore (note there is considerable difference between the 2nd and 3rd edition of this textbook). The textbook will be on course reserves at the UTSC Library.

EESC13 Environmental Impact Assessment and Auditing

The purpose of the course is: "...to familiarize students with the relevant legislation, qualitative and quantitative approaches and applications for environmental impact assessments and environmental auditing. The focus will be on the assessment of impacts to the natural environment; however, socio-economic impacts will also be discussed. Environmental auditing and environmental certification systems will be discussed in detail. Examples and case studies from forestry, wildlife biology, and land use will be used to illustrate the principles and techniques presented in the course. Students will acquire "hands-on" experience in impact assessment and environmental auditing through case studies."

Prerequisite: 2.5 full credits of EES courses

Exclusion: GGR393H

Breadth Requirement: Natural Sciences

COURSE OVERVIEW

Development of the Canadian landscape brings with it significant impacts to the biophysical and social environment. The Environmental Assessment process in Canada strives to provide decision makers with the best available information about the proposed project and its potential impacts to the environment. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the planning process that attempts to predict and mitigate the possible impacts of a project or policy prior to its commencement. This course will take a practical approach to understanding the theory and professional practice of EIA in Canada. Emphasis will be on the components of EIA of most

importance to environmental scientists and practitioners. Students will be introduced to the concept and process of auditing as well as the applicable management systems.

In-class time will include traditional lectures and class discussions that are based upon pre-assigned readings or assignments. Practical in-class exercises will broaden knowledge of EIA applications in real world scenarios. Several guest speakers, experienced in various aspects of the practice of EIA in Canada, will present their professional experiences and case studies. Speakers will be available for questions and a discussion period as well.

Environmental scientists and practitioners have diverse academic backgrounds. Students from all disciplines are welcome and should find this course helpful in broadening their understanding of the Environmental Assessment process.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course participants should have:

- Acquired a working understanding of the Environmental Impact Assessment process in Canada and be able to apply this understanding to other jurisdictions
- Knowledge of the technical processes for biophysical and social environmental management and its role in decision making
- Developed the knowledge and skills required to review the various documents associated with the EIA process

At the end of the course you should expect to have:

- Improved your research and writing skills
- Gained experience in navigating regulatory websites and acquiring appropriate documentation
- Improved your ability to work in peer groups on practical exercises
- Developed your discussion and debate skills
- Become experienced critiquing different EIA systems and the role in planning and environmental management

TEXTS AND READINGS

The course schedule is included along with the appropriate readings. It is expected that you will have read the assigned reading(s) prior to attending the class. Students who do not do the readings will find it more difficult to follow the class material and will be challenged when completing assignments or exams. Additional suggested readings that you may find helpful for completing your assignments will be listed for you on Blackboard.

WEBSITES

You may find these websites helpful during the course.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency: <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/>

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-15.21/index.html>

Province of Ontario, Environmental Assessments:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/environmental-assessments>

Canadian Environmental Law Association:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/environmental-assessments>

Ontario Association for Impact Assessment:
<http://www.oaia.on.ca/>

Environmental Bill of Rights Registry: <https://www.ebr.gov.on.ca>

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

A significant portion of the course evaluation (65%) will be based on practical exercises where you will take on the role of practitioners in various professional roles in the EIA process. Evaluation is summarized below. Specific details of each assignment will be posted during the second week of classes on Blackboard.

Component	Evaluation	Due Date	
1	CEAA web exercise	Mon Sept 19	5%
2	In-class Quiz	Mon Sept 26 in class	10%
3	Minister's Briefing Note	Mon Oct 17	15%
4	Group Case Study Project		
	a. Proposal	Mon Oct 31	5%
	b. "State your case" presentation	Mon Nov 21	10%
	c. Case study report	Mon Nov 21	20%
5	Final Exam (cumulative)	<i>Final exam period</i>	35%
		TOTAL	100%

Assignments – Outline

1. Take-home CEAA web assignment (5%) – due September 19th

You will be provided with a 10 question take-home assignment (posted on Blackboard September 12th) to be completed **individually** using the internet. The assignment is to be completed and submitted on Blackboard prior to the start of class on September 19th.

Rationale: Allow students to become comfortable using the key resources for EIA available on the CEAA and provincial EA websites. Assists with the preparation of the group project where students will access the site to complete the Group Case Study Project later in the course.

2. In-class quiz (10%) – September 26th

A simple in-class quiz will be given during class time on September 26th. The focus of the quiz will be the content of the first 3 lectures of the course. *Rationale: allow students to assess their understanding of key concepts early in the course. This understanding is critical to completing further projects in the course.*

3. Minister's Briefing Note (15%) – due October 15th

Students will **individually** prepare a short “Minister's Briefing Note” regarding an assigned topic relevant to the current state of Environmental Assessment in Canada. The instructions and topic(s) will be posted on Blackboard during the 2nd week of classes.

Rationale: Familiarize students with the duties of working in an advisory position and the responsibilities of providing a critique in a prescribed format.

4. Group Case Study Project (35%)

Students will work in groups of 4* to review and critique a case study currently on review with the CEAA or other jurisdiction. *Rationale: A project to provide experience as a “consultant team” evaluating a project on behalf of your client.*

The assignment will be in a staged format with the following:

- a. Proposal (5%) – outlining proposed scope of work – Due October 31st.
- b. State your Case Presentation (10%) – presentation of 5 minutes plus a one page handout to the class – in class November 21st
- c. Project Report (20%) – describing findings of the research. Due November 21st

**Note: students may select their own groups of 4 or can have the TA place you in a group. Consulting teams must be selected and names submitted no later than October 3rd.*

5. Final Exam (35%)

The final exam will be cumulative meaning that material from the entire course is subject to examination. The format will include multiple choice, short answer, and long answer questions. A review of the style and content of the exam will be given during the last class on November 28th.

An Important Note about Group Work

Environmental Impact Assessment is a complex process relying on the input of many different disciplines. Practitioners hold a variety of skills sets and bring unique perspectives. Try to form a diverse group so that you can view the project from as many angles as possible. This will be a

thinking exercise not simply a research problem. ***At the completion of the assignment you will each complete a confidential peer evaluation for each group member and yourself.*** Group self-evaluation will be used to ensure that all group members make strong contributions to the group. Please ensure that you work to support your group as the peer evaluation will influence your grade on a group assignment.

It will be at the discretion of those marking your assignments (either TA or instructor) to deduct marks (up to 10%) from an assignment with illegible handwriting, poor grammar and spelling, disorganization, poor referencing, etc.

LATE OR MISSED WORK

In fairness to all students who submit their work on time, all assignments submitted late will be deducted 10% for each 24 hour period past the deadline (each weekend day included). A UTSC medical certificate is required for lateness due to illness. You must submit the medical certificate within one week of the missed deadline in a sealed envelope marked to the attention of Dr. Kathy Wallace and deliver in person to Ms. Annie Kostadinova in room EV243 for it to be considered. Note: Late enrollment is not a valid reason for missing an assignment or test.

BLACKBOARD

This course will be supported by “Blackboard”; UofT’s *institutionally supported learning management system (LMS) and Student Portal. Blackboard is integrated with ROSI (UofT’s student information system) and is a full-featured LMS with an advanced content system, a variety of student communication tools, and easy-to-use course administration features.* The blackboard system is accessible using your UTORID which would have been assigned to you as part of registration. You can access the portal via this link:

https://portal.utoronto.ca/webapps/portal/execute/tabs/tabAction?tab_tab_group_id= 12

All course information, documents, assignment information and communications will be posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check the information frequently. You must also ensure that you use your University of Toronto email address on Blackboard. If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard you can find a tutorial here and additional information at.

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/technology/blackboard-portal>

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Although regular attendance is up to the individual student, you should be aware that important information and explanations will be given in class. This material may not be posted in the course handouts yet could be tested on the quiz or final exam. Do not assume the slide sets posted on Blackboard contain all of the information presented in class. Therefore it is important that you attend class to ensure that you have all of the pertinent class material and assignment instructions. If you miss a class, you will have missed receiving information and course material so please make sure if you miss a class that you get this information from a fellow student. You should also be aware that guest speakers may not make their slides available to students. Therefore you should take good notes in class. Please see Blackboard for a few articles posted about good note taking.

PLAGIARISM

University of Toronto code of Behaviour on Academic Matters states that "it shall be an offense 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 University of Toronto writing website at:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/documentation>

The full Code of Behaviour regulations can be found from consulting

<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/governance/policies/academicmisconduct.htm>

WRITING AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE

As well as the faculty writing support, please see English Language and writing support at University of Toronto: <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/english/> and

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice>

Students have commented that they found the latter address extremely helpful for writing term papers.

The following are also useful:

Sylvan Barnett, *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)

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.

AccessAbility SERVICES

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodation, please feel free to approach me and/or the **AccessAbility** Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and **AccessAbility** Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Inquiries are confidential. The UTSC **AccessAbility** Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://www.utscc.utoronto.ca/~ability/> (416) 287-7560 or ability@utscc.utoronto.ca.

COURSE EVALUATION

I welcome your comments and concerns regarding the course or content directly by email or in person throughout the course. In addition, there is a formal procedure for submission of your comments regarding the course to the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences at the completion of the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class	Date	Topics and Activities	Readings*
1	Thursday , Sept 1st	Course Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “where we are going and how we are going to get there” Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims, objectives, major components 	Chapter 1*
2	Monday, Sept 12	Environmental Impact Assessment in Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolution, processes, jurisdictions, regulations 	Chapters 1 & 2, 10
3	Sept 19	EIA Practice Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of methods, project descriptions, screening & scoping DUE: CEAA web exercise	Chapters 1 & 3
4	Sept 26	EIA Practice Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment and Impact Prediction QUIZ – IN CLASS	Chapters 1 & 3
5	Oct 3	EIA Practice Part 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management, mitigation, and monitoring Guest Speaker: Mr. Sandy Nairn – WSP Consulting SUBMIT: CONSULTING GROUP TEAM GROUP INFO	Chapters 1 & 3
6	Oct 17	Multijurisdictional EIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal and provincial engagement (e.g., Ontario) DUE: Minister’s Briefing Note	Chapters 9, 10, 18
7	Oct 24	Engagement of Indigenous peoples of Canada and Canada’s North <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest Speaker: Ms. Julie Abouchar – Willms and Shier 	Chapter 8
8	Oct 31	Strategic and Cumulative EIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic, cumulative DUE: Case Study - PROPOSAL	Chapters 6 & 7
9	Nov 7	Public participation and the EIA process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for public participation and the “health” of the CEA (2012) process – EA Review Panel 	Chapter 4
10	Nov 14	Environmental Auditing Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives, methods, certification systems 	
11	Nov 21	Presentation of the 5-minute “make your case” DUE: Presentation; handout; Case Study - REPORT	
12	Nov 28	Professional Practice & Course Debriefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roles in EA practice Exam review and preparation 	

*Course text – Hanna, Kevin S., (Ed.) 2016 (3rd edition). Environmental Impact Assessment, Practice and Participation. Oxford University Press.
It is assumed that you have read the designated chapters in the textbook prior to each lecture. The textbook supplements information presented in lectures and vice versa and are a key component to your understanding of the course content.