

University of Guelph
Department of Geography
GEOG*4230 Environmental Impact Assessment
Lectures on Thursdays 7-9:50 pm
Winter Semester 2022

Instructor: Scott Mackay (smacka04@uoguelph.ca)
Classroom: Remote via Zoom- lecture hall TBD pending change in COVID-19 restrictions
Office: N/A
Office Hours: Thursdays 5:45-6:45 pm (please set up appointments in advance by email)
Teaching Assistant: Emmanuel Tamufor- etamufor@uoguelph.ca (please set up appointments in advance by email)
Course Credit Weight: 0.5
Prerequisite(s): GEOG*3210
Equate(s): ENVS*4220

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledging the territory on which we learn and work honours the relationship between lands/waters and the Indigenous ancestors and stewards of them. This acknowledgement is adapted from the University of Guelph Indigenous Resource Centre and Student Life.

The University of Guelph rests on the traditional territory of the Attawanderon people. We therefore acknowledge the Attawanderon people and offer our respect to Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as the university and community strive to strengthen our relationships with them. We also recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land. The Dish with One Spoon Covenant is a peace agreement made between Indigenous nations before the Europeans arrived. It characterizes our collective responsibility to each other and Mother Earth -we should take only what we need, leave enough for others and keep the dish clean.

COURSELINK PAGE AND UOFG EMAIL/ID

There is a course webpage on CourseLink. To access this resource, use your central account ID and password. This is the same login ID and password that is used to access your University of Guelph email and WebAdvisor. CourseLink can be accessed from the University's homepage.

For livestreamed lectures, you must have a Zoom account (free) setup with your UofG email address, this is a security feature that has been instituted by the university.

Lecture slides are available on CourseLink as pdf files. These are *OUTLINE* slides; attendance during lectures is beneficial to your overall comprehension of the material, and will provide a portal to the discussion groups (discussed below) that have marks assigned for attending and participating.

ABOUT THE COURSE

The aim of this course is to assist you in acquiring a foundational understanding of the contextual, conceptual, operational and legislative foundations of environmental impact assessment (EIA) in Canada, and its many forms within different Canadian regulatory regimes. It is also to understand different career opportunities and perspectives in EIA.

APPROACH

The course is structured around three components: lectures, seminars and discussion groups.

- Lectures will provide an overview of key topics and highlight important themes.
- Seminar assignments, drawing from assigned readings, will encourage students to contribute to the generation of a common critical understanding of selected topics.
- Weekly discussion groups will encourage and facilitate more in-depth peer-to-peer learning on lecture and seminar topics.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE COURSE

At the end of the course, you can expect to have acquired the following:

- An understanding of EIA as a core framework for environmental planning
- An understanding of regulatory regimes and their key elements as they relate to EIA
- Knowledge of environmental impact assessment procedures, techniques, outputs, and issues in Canada at the federal, provincial and territorial levels
- An understanding of EIA as a technical, social and political process
- Practical experience with EIA documentation
- An understanding of the strengths and limitations of EIA within the context of environmental management and governance
- Knowledge of EIA legislation and regulations that apply in Canada
- Knowledge of EIA processes, legislation and regulations that apply in different Canadian jurisdictions

TEXT BOOK AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Readings will be assigned in advance of each lecture, including textbook chapters and supplementary readings. In addition, there will be seminar readings which form the basis for seminar assignments (see the Evaluation section below).

The course textbook- which is highly recommended to purchase and is available at the University bookstore- will be:

Noble, B.F. 2021. Introduction to Environmental Assessment: A Guide to Principles and Practice; 4th ed. Toronto, ON: Oxford University Press.

Seminar readings and supplementary readings are available on the course website (CourseLink) and are organized by lecture topic.

CLASS FORMAT

Each weekly class will have the following format:

- 7-7:05 pm- Logistics and assignment information and questions
- 7:05-8:30 pm- Lecture
- 8:30-9:15 pm- Discussion group dialogue
- 9:15-9:50 pm- Discussion group summary development/submission

EVALUATION

This section briefly describes assignments and the final exam. Additional details for each component will be provided on the course web site.

Course Component	Value (%)
Seminar summary written assignments (total: 3)	30% (10% each)
Discussion groups (total: 9)	45% (5% each)
Final Exam (take home); due Friday, April 15 by 11:59 pm	25%

Discussion Groups

At each week's class starting on January 23 (Lecture 3), in a team of 8-9 students you will discuss a question provided by the course instructor or specific to a seminar topic (see the "Seminar Assignments" section below), as applicable. The discussion question will relate to the weekly readings. A moderator role will rotate amongst the group members, so that each week a different member of the group will moderate the group discussion and submit a participation mark for each group member for that week. The moderator will also submit the group's response to the discussion question in a brief written summary at the end of the discussion portion of each class.

Individual marks for each of the 8 weekly discussion groups will be allocated as follows, for a total of up to 5% of each student's total mark **for each week's discussion group**:

- 1% of the total mark will be given for attendance (**0% if not attending**)
- Up to 2% of the total mark will be assigned by the week's moderator for your participation in the group discussion. (**0% if not participating in the discussion, including not attending**)
- Up to 2% of the total mark will be assigned by the instructor for the quality of your group's written summary, with each group member receiving the same mark for a given week's summary.

Details of the role and approach for the moderator will be listed in a separate document on GEOG*4230 Courselink page in the Assignment Information folder in a document called "Moderating Discussion Groups". Discussion questions for all weeks are also posted in this folder.

Group membership will be posted on the Courselink page before January 27 but a week or two after the winter semester starts.

Seminar Assignments

Three seminar discussions will take place during selected class periods (February 3, March 3, and March 31, 2021). Seminars will explore key overarching topics related to EIA including:

1. Different types and presentations of evidence in EIA (February 3)
2. Dealing with uncertainty in EIA predictions (March 3)
3. Regulatory regimes (March 31)

In addition to participating actively in group discussions as described under “Discussion Groups” above, you must submit a short written argument related to the readings and discussions on each seminar topic. Each of these written assignments is worth 10% of your final mark for a total of 30% (3 written arguments x 10%). Written assignments related to the seminar topics are due electronically to CourseLink just prior to the class when the seminar is being held, i.e. by 6:59 pm on Feb. 3, March 3, and March 31. Additional detailed information is available in the seminar assignment descriptions posted to the GEOG*4230 CourseLink page in the Assignment Information folder.

Final Exam

The final exam will be a take home. It will be made available on Friday, April 8 at midnight and is due electronically on Friday, April 15 by 11:59 pm. **Late submissions of take home exams will not be accepted and will receive a mark of 0%.** Details about the exam and submission of the exam will be provided in a separate document and discussed in the first lecture.

LECTURE, SEMINAR, AND READINGS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Textbook Readings*
Thursday, January 13	Lecture 1- Course introduction and overview of EIA	Chapter 1
Thursday, January 20	Lecture 2- EIA legislation and governance in Canada	Chapter 2
Thursday, January 27	Lecture 3- Early planning phase/public engagement	Chapter 3
Thursday, February 3	Lecture 4- Screening and Scoping Seminar 1- Evidence in EA	Chapters 4 and 5
Thursday, February 10	Lecture 5- Effects assessment pt. 1	Chapter 6
Thursday, February 17	Lecture 6- Effects assessment pt. 2	N/A
Thursday, February 24	NO LECTURE- Reading Week	N/A
Thursday, March 3	Lecture 7- Impact Management Seminar 2- Uncertainty in EA	Chapter 7
Thursday, March 10	Lecture 8- Significance Determination and EA Decision-making	Chapter 8
Thursday, March 17	Lecture 9- Follow-up and Monitoring	Chapters 9 and 14
Thursday, March 24	Lecture 10- The Duty to Consult and accommodate Indigenous peoples	Chapter 10
Thursday, March 31	Lecture 11- Cumulative Effects Assessment Seminar 3- Regulatory Regimes	Chapter 11

Date	Topic	Textbook Readings*
Thursday, April 7	Lecture 12- Regional/Strategic EIA Practitioner Panel discussion- EIA perspectives and career opportunities (panel members TBA)	Chapter 12

***Note:** Other readings are assigned to accompany the textbook readings- these are found on the GEOG*4230 Courselink page in the Readings folder

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

WHEN YOU CANNOT MEET A COURSE REQUIREMENT

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar- see

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2019-2020/c08/c08-ac-ac.shtml>.

DROP DATE

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, April 8. The regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

COPIES OF OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

STATEMENT ON EXPECTATIONS FOR INCLUSIVITY

Different perspectives and lived experiences shape who we are and make our communities stronger. I want everyone in our class to feel safe, feel that they belong and that their ideas, perspectives, and lived experiences are important. It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups.

ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is

based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment.

Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible. For more information, contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it.

Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

TURNITIN

In this course we will be using Turnitin integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool to detect potential plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and/or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph. All materials submitted to the Dropbox will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting inappropriate use. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site. A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to review reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced outside source materials in your assignment. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about this software.

ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

Inappropriate online behaviour will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate online behaviour include:

- Posting inflammatory messages about your instructor, teaching assistants or fellow students
- Using obscene or offensive language online
- Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own
- Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references
- Buying or selling term papers or assignments
- Posting or selling course materials to course notes websites
- Having someone else complete your quiz
- Completing a quiz for/with another student when collaboration is not permitted
- Stating false claims about lost quiz answers or other assignment submissions
- Threatening or harassing a student or instructor online
- Discriminating against fellow students, instructors and/or TAs
- Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services
- Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system
- Sharing your user name and password
- Recording lectures without the permission of the instructor

RECORDING OF MATERIALS

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

RESOURCES

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.