

GEOG*4230 - Environmental Impact Assessment
Winter 2026 Course Syllabus
Section: 01 Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

This course examines environmental impact assessment (EIA) from philosophical, methodological and institutional perspectives. The evolution of EIA in Canada will be the focus. Case studies illustrating major issues and applications will be presented at a variety of geographical scales. The preparation and presentation of a research project is an integral component. **Prerequisite(s):** GEOG*3210 **Department(s):** Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics

Lecture Schedule

Th 7:00pm-9:50pm in RICH 2529 (1/5/26 to 4/2/26)

Winter 2026 Audio-visual Passcode:

Instructor Information

Dr. Diana Lewis

Associate Professor/Canada Research Chair (Tier II) Indigenous Environmental Health Governance

Email: dlewis11@uoguelph.ca

Office: Hutt Building

Office Hours: Th. 4:00pm-6:00 pm (or by appointment)

Students must try to resolve any questions with the TA(s) before contacting me, unless it is related to an accommodation or of a personal nature. If students contact me between Friday afternoon and Monday morning, I cannot guarantee that I will respond.

Teaching Assistant: (Students must try to resolve any questions with the TAs before contacting me, unless it is related to an accommodation or of a personal nature.)**

Name: TBD

Office hours: TBD in-person, or by appointment.

Office location: Hutt Building Room # TBD

Email: czinn@uoguelph.ca

Textbook/Cost

Group	Title	Author	ISBN	Cost
Required	Introduction to environmental assessment: A guide to principles and practice.	Bram Noble	9780199028917	\$93.00

Learning Resources**Required Resources**

All readings beyond the textbook will be posted on Courselink before classes start. Lectures will be posted before each class. Assignments will be submitted using the Dropbox on Courselink.

Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors/>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons/>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, you can expect to have acquired the following: a) A thorough understanding of EA as a core framework for environmental planning; b) Knowledge of EA processes, legislation and regulations that apply in different Canadian jurisdictions, including Indigenous jurisdictions; c) Knowledge of environmental assessment procedures, techniques, outputs, and issues in Canada at the federal, provincial/territorial levels, and through Indigenous self-government regimes; d) An understanding of EA as a technical, social, and political process; e) An understanding of the strengths and limitations of EA within the context of environmental management and governance; f) Practical experience with EA documentation.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date:	Topic
Week 1 - Mon	1/8	Introduction and review of syllabus.
Week 2 - Mon	1/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives of EIA Overview of federal environmental assessment process Provincial jurisdictions
Week 3 – Mon	1/22	Aboriginal rights, treaty rights, land claims – Guest speaker TBD
Week 4 - Mon	1/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Quiz: Classes 2 and 3 Indigenous engagement Bill 5 <i>Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act</i>, 2025 Bill C-5 <i>An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act</i>
Week 5 - Mon	2/5	Regional assessments in Canada: Ring of Fire
Week 6 - Mon	2/12	In class exercise: Indigenous co-administration (https://letstalkimpactassessment.ca/lets-talk-indigenous-co-administration-agreements)
Week 7 - Mon	2/19	Winter Break
Week 8 - Mon	2/26	Cumulative effects assessment.
Week 9 - Mon	3/5	Health, social, cultural impact assessment – Guest Speaker(s) TBD
Week 10 - Mon	3/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Quiz EAs in the north and under land claim agreements.
Week 11 - Mon	3/19	Delegation and substitution.
Week 12 - Mon	3/26	Risk Assessment – Guest speaker(s) TBD
Week 13 - Mon	4/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Quiz Other regulatory bodies in environmental assessment

Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Short quiz	20%	N/A
In class exercise: Indigenous co-administration	20%	N/A
Short Quiz	20%	N/A
Preparation for Guest Speakers	20%	Ongoing
Short Quiz	20%	N/A

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Winter 2025 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: April 04

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

Course Grading Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments will be submitted in word format on CourseLink. Students are advised to keep digital copies of all assignments in the event you are asked to resubmit.

Late Assignment

Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 1 mark per day, to a maximum of 5 marks. The assignment will not be accepted more than 5 days past the due date.

CSAHS Academic Misconduct Policy

The *Academic Misconduct Policy* is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar. 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.

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.

Instructors **shall not** determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct (e.g., copied material from a website like CourseHero) on an assignment or exam.

Instructors **can** determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

For more information about Academic Integrity resources and how to prevent Academic Misconduct.

Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

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The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

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.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

Email 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.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator(<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

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

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

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. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)