2023-2024

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Department of Geography & the Environment

Phone: (705)-330-4008, extension 2652 Office Hours: 2:45pm – 3:45 pm Tuesday or by appointment (and by chance)

GEOG 3471: Environmental Assessment and Management

Fall, 2023, Tuesday and Thursday 5:30-7:00 p.m., OA 2015

Course Objective and Scope

The course introduces environmental assessment in the context of sustainable development and environmental management. Focusing on environmental impact assessment (EIA), lectures will focus on the basic principles of biophysical and socio-economic assessment and how they relate to environmental management policies and practice. Although the Canadian EIA system will be given particular attention, key techniques and methods will also be covered using case studies from selected Canadian jurisdictions. The course is lecture-based with an application of methods and techniques on the practice of environmental assessment in Canada and elsewhere.

Required Text:

Hanna, Kevin S., (2015). *Environmental Impact Assessment: Practice and Participation*, 3rd edition. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Text:

Noble, Bram F., (2014). *Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment: A Guide to Principles and Practice*, Third Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Evaluation:

Assessment of student performance will be as follows:

- Class Participation- 20% (Exercises*)
- Mid-term Exam- 30%
- Final Exam- 30%
- Instrument and Tool Review Paper- 20%

NOTES:

- *Exercises: Take home assignments, individualized with instructions provided. The guidelines for the Critique Paper are found in D2L (Content).
- 2. In addition to regular in-person sessions, the class will have access to D2L, e-mail and telephone communications (by appointment).

Schedule of Lectures/Readings:

Week Topic

Week 1 Introduction to Course- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and

Management

Overview: Environmental Management Nature, Origins and Development of EIA

-Read Chapter 1, Noble, 2014

Week 2 The Canadian EIA System

EIA and Sustainable Development

EIA Process

- Read Chapter 1, Hanna 2015, Chapter 1, Noble, 2014

Legal Basis; Evolution of Federal Environmental Assessment in Canada

-Read Chapter 2, Noble, 2014

The Canadian Federal EIA System as revised, 2019
-Read Chapter 10, Hanna 2015; Chapter 2, Noble, 2014

- The Impact Assessment Act of Canada, 2019

Week 3 The Science of Assessment and Environmental Impacts

Public Participation in Canadian EIA

-Read Chapters 3-4, Hanna 2015; Chapter 10, Noble, 2014

Week 4 The EIA Practice

Consideration of Alternatives, Screening of Actions

-Read Chapter 4, Noble, 2014

Scoping of Impacts

-Read Chapter 5, Noble, 2014
Predicting Environmental Impacts
-Read Chapter 6, Noble, 2014
Managing Project Impacts
-Read Chapter 7, Noble, 2014

Week 5 Techniques and Methods in EIA

Tools Supporting EIA Practice

The Practitioners Toolkit and Impact Identification

-Read Chapter 3, Noble, 2014

Exercise 1 due October 17, 2023 (via D2L)

Week 6 Thanksgiving and Study Break (October 9-13, 2023)

Week 7 Strategic Environmental Assessment

-Read Chapter 5, Hanna 2015

Aboriginal Engagement and C-Management in Canada's EA

-Read Chapter 8, Hanna 2015

Mid-Term Examination- October 24, 2023 via D2L

Multi-jurisdictional Environmental Assessment

-Read Chapter 9, Hanna 2015

Week 9 EIA in Canadian Jurisdictions

Week 8

Environmental Assessment in the Yukon

-Read Chapter 11, Hanna 2015 EIA in Northwest Territories -Read Chapter 12, Hanna 2015

Week 10 EIA in Canadian Jurisdictions

Impact Assessment in Nunavut

-Read Chapter 13, Hanna 2015

Impact Assessment in British Columbia

-Read Chapter 14, Hanna 2015

EIA in Alberta

-Read Chapter 15, Hanna 2015 Exercise 2 due Nov 14, 2023 via D2L

Week 11 EIA in Canadian Jurisdictions

Environmental Assessment in Saskatchewan

-Read Chapters 16, Hanna 2015

Environmental Assessment in Manitoba

-Read Chapter 17, Hanna 2015

Week 12 EIA in Canadian Jurisdictions

Ontario Environmental Assessment Act

-Read Chapter 18, Hanna 2015

EA in Quebec

-Read Chapter 19, Hanna 2015

EA in the Atlantic

-Read Chapter 20, Hanna 2015

Week 13 Wrap-up and Integration

Final Exam date to be announced by the Registrar's Office Due: Instrument and Tool Review Paper, December 4, 2023

Student Responsibilities:

- 1. Students are encouraged to attend classes regularly and participate in class discussions and learning activities.
- 2. All students are advised to familiarize themselves with the policies on academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating.
- 3. Students are strongly encouraged to contact the Instructor during office hours, by e-mail or by telephone, and/or by appointment, if they have questions or study issues.