

GGR 416H1F Environmental Impact Assessment

University of Toronto, Fall 2020
Monday/5:00pm-8:00pm
Online Synchronous (Quercus)

Instructor

Instructor Email: Carolyn.deloyde@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Mondays 11:00am-1:00pm via Teams Meetings



Butterfly in the sky (photo by C.DeLoyde)

Course Description

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has emerged as both an instrument of evaluation and as an important decision-making system. EIA is an integral part of environmental management and environmental policy at local, regional, national and international levels. Ideally, EIA helps development occur within an environmentally responsive context. It informs decision-makers about the consequences of development decisions and identifies the impacts of development.

This course examines EIA from a critical perspective as a strategic, comprehensive and proactive process employed to integrate the various aspects of development into planning and environmental/resource management processes. This course will provide a critical overview of EIA processes, a guide to normative and applied EIA practice, and to impart a fundamental understanding of how EIA works (or, sometimes, does not work) in the Canadian context. Indigenous perspectives of impact assessment and use of natural resources as well as the nature of participatory assessment processes within the context of the Northwest Territories are examined. EIA methods, approaches, regulations, and legislation are discussed. Case studies from jurisdictions in Canada are used to illustrate themes and issues, along with an ongoing reference to practice in Ontario and at the federal level.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will have developed an understanding of EIA processes and stages, EIA terminology, Canadian EIA practice and policy, and will have developed specific knowledge of the

Canadian and Ontario EIA systems as well as municipal approaches to EIA, legal foundation, coverage, and regulations. Students should be able to critique and analyze the relative performance and influence of different EIA systems, and understand the role of EIA in planning and resource management.

Course Organization

Access to Course Materials & Readings

The majority of the course readings are from the course text book for this course. The course text book is: Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment A Guide To Principles and Practice (3rd Edition), by Bram F. Noble Copyright Year: 2015 ISBN-10: 0199006342 or ISBN-13: 9780199006342. The course textbook is available for purchase from the University of Toronto bookstore both in hard copy and digital format. All other assigned readings (not from the textbook) for the Reflection Assignments will be available directly through the “Library Course Reserves” in Quercus.

Submissions

All written submissions are to be made directly into Quercus by the due date. These are the Reflections Numbers 1, 2, 3 and the written portion of the Final Assessment Part 1 Milton Logistics Hub Project Research Document.

Course Meetings/Synchronous Sessions

We will be meeting every Monday at our scheduled time of 5:00pm till 8:00pm in Quercus. Please be sure to log into Quercus to click on the link provided to join and participate in our scheduled sessions. Students will be required to have access to a camera and microphone for discussion and in-class activities. Our sessions will begin on September 14, 2020 and will be held on every Monday thereafter with the exception of October 12, 2020 (Thanksgiving Monday no session will be held) up to and including December 7, 2020. There will be one final session on Thursday December 10, 2020.

Assignments and Evaluation

Key Dates

There will be 3 reflections worth 15% each for a total of 45% of your final grade to be submitted in Quercus by the due date. The Final Assessment consists of 2 parts. Part 1 is the submission of a Research Document worth 25% of your final grade that you will use during Part 2 which is your participation in a mock Environmental Assessment hearing held during our live session worth 20% of your final grade. Your on-going participation in our live sessions held every Monday is worth 10% of your final grade.

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|--|-----|-----------------|
| 1. Reading Reflection Number 1 | 15% | Sept 28, 2020 |
| 2. Reading Reflection Number 2 | 15% | Oct 5, 2020 |
| 3. Reading and Seminar Reflection Number 3 | 15% | Dec 7, 2020 |
| 4. Final Assessment 1 (Milton Logistics Hub Project Research Document) | 25% | Nov 16, 2020 |
| 5. Final Assessment 2 (Milton Logistics Hub Project Mock Hearing) | 20% | Nov 23, 2020 |
| 6. On-going participation in live sessions | 10% | Entire semester |

Assignment Details

Assignment 1 – Reading Reflection Number 1

Due: September 28, 2020 worth 15% of final grade.

All written assignments (Reflections Number 1, Number 2 and Number 3) will be from readings accessed directly through the “Library Course Reserves” in Quercus and will consist of three paragraphs. Please see the detailed instructions for all assignments in the “Assignments” section of our Quercus site.

Assignment 2 – Reading Reflection Number 2

Due: October 5, 2020 worth 15% of final grade.

Assignment 3 – Reading and Seminar Reflection Number 3

Due: December 7, 2020 worth 15% of final grade.

Assignment 4 – Final Assessment Part 1 Milton Logistics Hub Research Document

Due: November 16, 2020 worth 25% of final grade.

Assignment 5 – Final Assessment Part 2 Milton Logistics Hub Mock EA Hearing

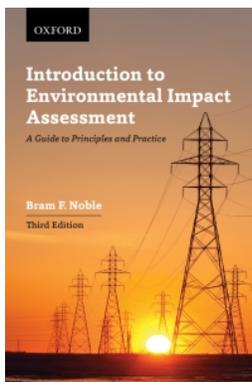
Due: November 23, 2020 worth 20% of final grade.

Late Penalties

Assignments are due on the due date – no late submissions will be accepted. Extensions without penalty will be granted for reasons of accommodation, illness or emergencies when appropriate documentation is submitted to the instructor. Reweighting of assignments/grades is not permitted.

Required Text

Our course textbook is: Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment A Guide To Principles and Practice (3rd Edition), by Bram F. Noble, Copyright Year: 2015 ISBN-10: 0199006342 or ISBN-13: 9780199006342. This book is available for purchase from the University of Toronto bookstore both in paper back and digital format.



Front cover image of Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment

Please use this link if you wish to purchase a digital version of the course textbook from the University Bookstore: <https://uoftbookstore.vitalsource.com/textbooks?term=9780199006359>

Course Schedule

Week 1 – September 14, 2020

Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 1 page 2 - 22

Week 2 – September 21, 2020

Overview of Environmental Impact Assessment in Canada

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 2 page 25-29, page 37-38

Week 3 – September 28, 2020

Screening Procedures in EIA

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 4 page 72 - 93

Week 4 – October 5, 2020

Scoping and Environmental Baseline Assessments

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 5 page 95-116

October 12, 2020 – No Class

Week 5 – October 19, 2020

Predicting Environmental Impacts

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 6 page 118-147

Week 6 – October 26, 2020

Managing Project Impacts

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 7 page 149-163

Week 7 – November 2, 2020

Determining Impact Significance

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 8 page 165 -191

Week 8 – November 9, 2020

Follow Up and Monitoring in EIA

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 9 page 194-215

Cumulative Environmental Effects Assessment

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 11 page 242-266; Whitelaw and McCarthy, (2015) *Cumulative Effects Assessment in the Context of Canadian Environmental Governance* in Environmental Impact Assessment Practice and Participation, page 141 - 158

November 16, 2020 Reading Week – No Class

Week 9 – November 23, 2020

Live Session for Final Assessment Part 2: Milton Logistics Hub Project Mock Hearing

Although this is an individual assignment (i.e. everyone will receive an individual mark) there is opportunity to work in groups for this assignment (based on similar roles for the exercise). Time to work on the assignment with group members (if applicable) will be made available during our scheduled live sessions on Mondays. I will be available to work with groups and or individuals during some of our live Monday sessions as well as by appointment or during office hours with individuals and/or groups.

Week 10 – November 30, 2020

Indigenous perspectives of Impact Assessment

Reading Dokis, (2015) Where the Rivers Meet Pipelines, Participatory Resource Management and Aboriginal-State Relations in the North West Territories, UBC Press, 2015 Chapter 4 page 130 – 160; Conclusion page 161 – 174

Week 11 – December 7, 2020 and December 10, 2020

Public Participation in EIA

Reading Course Textbook: Chapter 10, page 217-240

Departmental Course Policies

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism is quoting or paraphrasing the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper use of citation. Quotation marks are required when using an author's words. Students also should not submit any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained. Please consult the 'Rules and Regulations' section of the Arts and Science Calendar: <https://fas.calendar.utoronto.ca/rules-regulations#marks> for further information and check the 'How not to plagiarize' website at: <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize/>. In addition, please review material found at <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations please contact Accessibility Services at: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca

Equity and Academic Rights Information

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. It is our collective

responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated.

Academic Resources

The Writing Centre <https://writing.utoronto.ca>

English Language Support <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>

Academic Success Center <http://www.asc.utoronto.ca/>

Copyright

If you wish to record, copy, or reproduce course content created by me, you must obtain my consent beforehand. If you wish to copy or reproduce the other materials that I provide (readings, and supplemental materials on Quercus), you will need to obtain consent, otherwise, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited.

Grading Policy

Grades for this course will be in accordance with grading and course marks regulations found at:

<https://fas.calendar.utoronto.ca/academic-record>

Illness

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for absences from academic participation. Please use the [Absence Declaration tool on ACORN](#) to declare an absence if you require consideration for missed academic work. You are responsible for contacting your instructors to request the academic consideration you are seeking. Record each day of your absence as soon as it begins, up until the day before you return to classes or other academic activities.