

FORESTRY/ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 4250— ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

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INTRODUCTION

Forest management is increasingly seen as a form of land development that should be subjected to both informal and formal environmental impact assessment. This course introduces both the theory and practice of environmental assessment, focusing on federal and provincial processes for environmental assessment, scientific and planning tools for undertaking assessments and appropriate roles for the various stakeholders and groups interested in the environmental effects of forest management.

APPROACH

The course will be a mix of lectures by the instructor and seminars with students taking the lead in presenting, preparing and discussing materials. The instructor will give key lectures, but the majority of class time will be spent in discussing readings or working on projects. We will cover the theory and practice of environmental impact assessment. There are three broad areas of focus: 1) federal EA; 2) provincial EA with a focus on Ontario; and 3) the Class EA for forest management on Ontario's Crown lands.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand the theory of environmental impact assessment, including approaches dealing with biophysical, cumulative, social and strategic impacts
- Identify the steps in the EIA process
- Describe how EIA and forest management in Ontario are linked
- Identify the differences in EIA in the "Area of the Undertaking" in Ontario and outside the AOU
- Describe the division of responsibilities for EIA between federal and provincial governments and the corresponding legislation for Ontario
- Describe how EIA takes place in multi-jurisdictional situations
- Demonstrate the link between the theory of EIA and its practical application
- Discuss the role of public participation in EIA
- Demonstrate knowledge of the unique aspects of Aboriginal peoples' involvement in EIA management and conservation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	MARK
Seminar group presentation (groups of two)	10%
Written critical review of chapter used for group presentation	10%
3 synthesis assignments on federal, provincial & forest management EA (15% ea)	45%
Final Exam	35%
TOTAL MARKS	100%

Penalty for late submission of assignments: 1% loss per day late.

SEMINAR GROUP PRESENTATION (10%): You will be divided into groups of three. Each group will make a presentation to the class on a selected chapter from Hanna's Environmental Impact Assessment and lead the class in discussion about the chapter. This discussion should be more than a summary of the chapter. You may focus on particular aspects and bring new information to the discussion from supplementary readings. The class will prepare for the presentation by reading the assigned chapter. See mark template.

WRITTEN CRITICAL REVIEW (10%): You will individually write a short (3-4 pages, double-spaced) critical review and appraisal of the chapter from your group presentation, incorporating at least one supplemental reading. Your review should address the questions described in the "Critical Review of an Academic Reading" handout. Your report should be formally structured (e.g., in an essay format, numbered pages, proper referencing and bibliography, etc.) and it should be written with complete sentences using proper grammar. The presentation, readability, and flow and sequence of your ideas will have a bearing on your grade. See mark template.

SYNTHESIS ASSIGNMENTS (15% each): The course is divided into three areas—federal EA, provincial EA and Ontario Forest Management Class EA. At the end of each section, you will hand in a written synthesis (4-5 pages, double spaced) about what you learned on the theme, incorporating both theoretical and practical issues. The assignment is a reflective piece, but should be supplemented with peer-reviewed sources, including the class text. Each assignment should be formally structured (e.g., in an essay format, numbered pages, proper referencing and bibliography, etc.) and it should be written with complete sentences using proper grammar. The presentation, readability, and flow and sequence of your ideas will have a bearing on your grade.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Hanna, Kevin S. 2009. Environmental Impact Assessment: Practice and Participation. 2nd edition. Oxford University Press, Don Mills, ON. 467 pp.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB). 2005-2010.
<http://www.reviewboard.ca/>. Jan. 2/10.

Ojibway Power and Energy Group (OPEG). Namakan River Hydro Development Projects.
<http://high.opeg.ca/>. Jan. 2/10.

Ontario Ministry of the Environment. 2009. Declaration Order for Environmental Assessment Act coverage for Forest Management on the Whitefeather Forest. Environmental Registry Number

010-3417. <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTAzMzM1&statusId=MTU4NDcy&language=en>. Jan. 2/10.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 2009. Five-Year Environmental Assessment (EA) Report on Forest Management April 1-2003 to March 31, 2008. <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/274243.html>. Jan. 2/10.

OMNR and Pikangikum First Nation. 2007. Keeping the Land: Seeking Environmental Assessment Approval for Forest Management on the Whitefeather Forest. 10 pp. http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_164531.html. Jan. 2/10.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS & WEBSITES:

Armitage, D.R. 2005. Collaborative environmental assessment in the Northwest Territories, Canada. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 25: 239-258.

Bonnell, Steve. 2003. Environmental assessment of forestry in Canada. *Forestry Chronicle* 79(6): 1067-1074.

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. <http://www.ccme.ca/>.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/index_e.htm.

Environmental Assessment Board. 1994 Decision and Reasons for Decision on the Ministry of Natural Resources Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management on Crown Lands in Ontario. Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Toronto, ON. 561 pp. http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_164531.html. Jan 2/10.

George, C. 1999. Testing for sustainable development through environmental assessment. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 19: 175-200.

Howitt, R. 2005. The importance of process in Social Impact Assessment: Ethics, methods and process for cross-cultural engagement. *Ethics, Place and Environment* 8(2): 209-221.

International Association for Impact Assessment. <http://www.iaia.org/>.

Milko, Robert. 1998. Migratory Birds Environmental Assessment Guideline. Biodiversity Protection Branch, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa, ON. 16 pp.

Noble, Bram F. 2010. Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment: A Guide to Principles and Practice. 2nd edition. Oxford University Press, Don Mills, ON. 274 pp. Request in for Library Reserve status.

OMOE. 2009. Environmental Assessment (EA) Project Updates. <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/eaab/index.php>. Jan. 2/10.

Pikangikum First Nation (PFN) and OMNR. 2006. Keeping the Land: A Land Use Strategy for the Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent Areas. In cooperation with Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 98 pp. <http://www.whitefeatherforest.com>. Jan. 2/10.

Tollefson, C. and K. Wipond. 1998. Cumulative environmental impacts and Aboriginal rights. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 18: 371-390.