

ENVT 262 – Environmental Laws, Guidelines, Regulations & Land Rights

3 credits, 3 hours lecture

Course description:

This course provides an understanding of Acts and Regulations under municipal, provincial and federal jurisdiction as they relate to environmental protection and development of natural resources in Alberta. Key pieces of legislation this course examines include the Alberta Environmental and Protection and Enhancement Act, Alberta Land Stewardship Act, Public Lands Act, the Species At Risk Act, the Fisheries Act, and Treaty 8. Special emphasis is placed on developing skills to independently obtain information, and therefore remain current, on environmental protection standards because legislation and policy is continuously re-examined by legislative bodies.

Prerequisite/Co-requisite Entrance into the Environmental Technology program

Instructor

Dr. Danna Schock

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Office Hours

Monday through Thursday: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, or by appointment
Friday 11:00 am – noon, or by appointment

Hours of InstructionLecture

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:50 pm Room CC 282

Required Resources

There is no required textbook. A variety of government and NGO websites, scholarly articles (provided) and videos will be used.

1. Hard copy of completed, signed plagiarism course certificate. No assignments will be accepted until this requirement is met.
2. Moodle (<http://ilearn.keyano.ca>). The course outline, lecture notes and other resources will be made available on Moodle.
3. Keyano College email address. I will not correspond with students using their personal email addresses for a plethora of liability, security and confidentiality reasons.

Online Resources to be used include (but not limited to):

- Provincial Statutes, e.g., Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Alberta Land Stewardship Act, Public Lands Act. Available at <http://aep.alberta.ca/> or the Queen's Printer.

- Alberta Energy Regulator (Gov of AB): <http://www.aer.ca/>
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012
Downloadable at: <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=9EC7CAD2-1>
- Other Federal statutes, e.g., Fisheries Act, Species At Risk Act
Downloadable at: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/>
NB: bookmark this page for other law references
- Wood Buffalo Environmental Association <http://wbea.org/>
- Environmental Law Centre <http://elc.ab.ca/>
- Canadian Legal Information Institute <https://www.canlii.org/en/>

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the basic structure of Canadian and Alberta law
2. Identify relevant local, regional and federal government agencies, and independently locate sources of reliable information from, and about, those agencies.
3. Identify relevant non-government organizations (NGOs) and independently locate sources of reliable information from, and about, those NGOs.
4. Explain how environmental laws and regulations apply to oil sands related projects within Alberta and use that knowledge to anticipate how those laws apply to other types of projects within Alberta.

Other

This course is cross-listed with Mount Royal University ENVS 4419 - Regulatory Management.

Evaluation

Assignment	Percentage	Due Date
Current events assignment	5%	TBA
Mid-term 1	20%	Wednesday 6 February
Mid-term 2	20%	Monday 18 March
Case study term paper	20%	Friday 12 April, 4:30 pm
Final Examination	35%	set by Registrar's Office
Total	100%	

A grade of C- or better is required for progression or transfer.

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well-developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	Progression	C-	1.7	
Poor	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed, in a general way, with minimal support, or is poorly written, or did not use proper format.
Minimum Pass	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Please Note:

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College Credit Calendar.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

This course outline may be modified to facilitate unforeseen time constraints. Time allotted to each topic will vary depending on depth and complexity of material. Also note that several pieces of legislation and governing bodies will come up in multiple contexts.

Topic	Discussion
Topic 1	Basic Concepts for Environmental Law: Types of rule and law, origin and development of the Canadian Constitution, political structure of federal and provincial government.
Topic 2	Division of Powers – Federal vs Provincial Environmental Responsibilities Overlapping Federal/Provincial Jurisdictions: causes and solutions, overlapping intra-provincial and inter-provincial jurisdictions, cooperation among regulators.
Topic 3	Alberta's environmental laws: history and purpose, regulatory hierarchy, agency mandates. Special attention to the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (AEPEA), Alberta Water Act, and Public Lands Act.
Topic 4	Federal laws and agencies with special attention to Species At Risk Act, Fisheries Act, Navigable Waters Act.
Topic 5	The role of personal responsibility in a compliance system. The role of personal responsibility in safety regulations.
Topic 6	Approvals and applications associated with the life cycle of conventional oil and gas
Topic 7	Approvals and applications associated with the life cycle of an oil sands operation: current oil sands mining operations, joint Alberta/Canada Hearings, processes after hearings.
Topic 8	Aboriginal Peoples' roles in oil sands development: Treaty making in Canada, the evolution of treaty rights and land claims, and consultation as a constitutional issue.
Topic 9	The role of NGOs including hearings, policy development, and monitoring. Case studies.
Topic 10	International legislation including the Migratory Bird Conventions Act, and legislation pertaining to World Heritage Sites, endangered species, and climate change.

Performance Requirements

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Academic Support Services (SASS) department: Accessibility Services, Skill Centre and Wellness Services, work together to support student success at Keyano College.

Accessibility Services (CC167) supports student success through group and individualized instruction of learning, study and test taking strategies, and adaptive technologies. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with the Learning Strategists to discuss accommodation of the learning barriers that they may be experiencing. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to visit our office at their earliest opportunity to discuss the availability of accommodations in their current courses. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934

Skill Centre (CC119) provides a learning space where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff. Students visiting the centre have access to one-to-one or group tutoring, facilitated study groups, and assistance in academic writing. The Skill Centre's Peer Tutor program provides paid employment opportunities for students who have demonstrated academic success and want to share what they have learned. Tutoring is available free to any students registered at Keyano College on a drop in basis, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Additional evening hours are subject to tutor availability and are posted in the Skill Centre.

Wellness Services (CC260) offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. The Mindfulness Room in CC260 is available as a quiet space for students to relax during regular office hours. Wellness Service welcomes students to participate in any of the group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing such topics as Mindfulness and Test Anxiety. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934.

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Academic Support Services team.