

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

3 credits, 16 weeks, 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

Tuesday 11:00 – 11:50 am, 1:00 – 1:50 pm

Wednesday 11:00 – 11:50 am

Thursday 11:00 – 11:50 am, 1:00 – 1:50 pm

Hours of InstructionLecture

Tuesday 9:30 – 11:00 am Room S110

Thursday 9:30 – 11:00 am Room S110

Required Resources

Moodle (<http://ilearn.keyano.ca>)

The course outline, lecture notes and other resources will be made available on Moodle. It is absolutely imperative that students are proficient with using Moodle.

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

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. <http://esrd.alberta.ca/> or the Queen's Printer.
- Alberta Energy Regulator (Gov of AB): <http://www.aer.ca/>
- <http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/6964.pdf>

- 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
Downloadable at: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html>
NB: bookmark this page for other law references
- Wood Buffalo Environmental Association <http://wbea.org/>
- Cumulative Environmental Management Association <http://cemaonline.ca/>
- Environmental Law Centre <http://www.elc.ab.ca/pages/home/default.aspx>
- 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 will be given concurrently with Mount Royal University ENVS 4419 Regulatory Management. Instruction will be given by Mount Royal University and Keyano College.

Evaluation for Mount Royal University students will be by Mount Royal University instructors, and Keyano College students will be evaluated by Keyano College instructors.

Assignments, topics and exams will be similar and all timelines will be aligned. Keyano students and Mount Royal University students will participate in class in a telepresence classroom.

Evaluation

Assignment	Percentage	Due Date
Mid-term	25%	Tuesday 1 March
Professional Development Assignment	10%	Friday 4 February 4 pm
Case study – Group Project	15%	Friday 4 March 4 pm
Term paper	15%	Friday 8 April 4 pm
Final Examination	35%	set by Registrar's Office (Exams run April 18 - 22)
Total	100%	

A grade of C- 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	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 NAFTA, and legislation pertaining to World Heritage Sites, endangered species, and climate change.

Performance Requirements

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's 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 Moodle. Once you have successfully completed the course, 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

Counselling and Disability Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

SKILL Centre

The SKILL Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus at Keyano College where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The SKILL Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to Keyano students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.

Authorization

This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

Danna Schock, Instructor

Louis Dingley, Chair

Date Authorized

Guy Harmer, Dean

Date Authorized

Signed copies to be delivered to:

Instructor
Registrar's Office