



MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY
4825 Mt Royal Gate SW, Calgary, AB T3E 6K6
DEPARTMENT OF EARTH and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2020

Issues in Environmental Assessment
ENVS 3335
(3 credits) 3 hours lecture

Instructor: Mr. Tim Taylor MBA, P.Eng
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email: ttaylor1@mymru.ca
Office: B246G
Office Hours: Monday 2 pm to 4 pm or by appointment or if door open

Class: 11:30 to 1:00 Monday and Weds; B206

Mandatory References or Text:

No text book is required for this course
From time to time designated internet resources will be assigned as reading

Calendar Description

This course will review and analyze provincial, national and international environmental assessment issues. Important representative case studies will be reviewed. Guest speakers will be drawn from appropriate organizations. Current methodologies in environmental impact assessment will be covered, including overviews of Risk Assessment, Cumulative Effects Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The advantages of moving towards Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Comprehensive Policy Support Assessment will be critically discussed. These integrated decision methodologies will be necessary to support industrial ecology infrastructure and be crucial to making progress towards economic and environmental efficiency at all system levels.

Rationale

Environmental assessment is a well-established, tested and successful process for project planning and management. It is recognized as a key mechanism for promoting sustainable development. It can play a complementary role with environmental science in ensuring that human and economic activity is adjusted to meet resource and ecological constraints. As environmental assessment moves towards a more integrative view it will play a more important role in decision-making at the program and policy levels and have an even greater influence on sustainable development. Students of environmental science should have a working knowledge of environmental assessment and understand the relationship and value of the field.

Prerequisite:

Successful completion of Semester 1, 2, and 3 of the Environmental Science program, or equivalents, or consent of the Department.

University Wide Learning Objectives:

Through all learning experiences, and continuing at successively higher levels across their university studies, Mount Royal University aims to provide students with the following:

- Thinking skills
- Group effectiveness
- Communication skills
- Information retrieval
- Computer literacy
- Ethical reasoning

Course Objectives

- To become familiar with Federal and Alberta regulations and processes on Environmental Assessments
- Familiarly with core concepts, theory and methods of environmental assessment
- To understand controversies and current regulatory activities in Environmental Assessment
- Critically evaluate an environmental assessment

Conduct of Course

The course consists of three hours of lecture per week. Lectures will be utilized to introduce core concepts, theory, regulations and methods. Lectures will also include expert guest speakers and the review of ongoing and past environmental assessment work. Case study analysis and project work will be important components of the course and provide practical experience. Time commitments outside of regularly scheduled classes may be necessary for elements of the course.

Relevant Calendar Information

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with general information and university policies regarding their conduct in courses provided in the Introduction, Academic Regulations & Academic Status sections of the Mount Royal Calendar.

Please take note of the following sections:

Student's Rights and Responsibilities
Academic Regulations
Attendance Policy
Examination and Grades Policies
Academic Standing
Academic Status & Grading System

Students must also familiarize themselves with the Mount Royal University's Code of Student Conduct.

<https://www.mtroyal.ca/Applications/PoliciesAndProcedures/view/0B2rB1ncpgWxvTmJ2VUpDLXpHZVk>

Your Mental Health

Are you feeling overwhelmed, stressed and anxious? Finding it hard to be motivated, meet deadlines or attend class? Having a hard time sleeping, concentrating or retaining information no matter how much you study? Help is available!

See the [MRU Mental Health Website](#) for all resources.

Diversity, Inclusion, Human Rights and Sexual Violence

You are encouraged to find general information as well as information on how to address issues related to diversity, inclusion, discrimination, harassment, accommodation, healthy relationships and dating, domestic and sexual violence.

See the [MRU Diversity and Human Rights Website](#).

Course Topics

The following topics will be presented, but may not be presented in this order:

Class:	Topic(s):
Topic 1	Introduction to course. Introduction to environmental assessment.
Topic 2	Introduction to regulations. Introduction to Impact Assessment under the Federal Government.
Topic 3	Guest speaker
Topic 4	Introduction to EIA under AEPEA. Other relevant regulations, harmonization.
Topic 5	Environmental assessment methods (screening, scoping).
Topic 6	Environmental assessment methods (impact prediction, impact significance).
Topic 7	Environmental assessment methods (significance and thresholds)
	Reading Break – no class
Topic 8	Environmental assessment reporting. Decision-making. Follow-up, monitoring and implementation.
	Midterm Exam. Follow-up, monitoring and implementation (cont.).
Topic 9	Cumulative effects assessment.
Topic 10	Strategic environmental assessment, social impact assessment, ecological impact assessment.
Topic 11	Indigenous issues & TEK. Environmental risk assessment.
	Guest speaker(s).
	Guest speaker(s).
Topic 12	Future trends in environmental assessment. Review.
	Final Exam Period.

Attendance:

Classes and tests will begin promptly at scheduled times. Please be punctual for both. You are expected to review assigned reading and web site material prior to lectures. Attendance will be recorded for exams and may be recorded at lectures, but please see Mount Royal Calendar about your responsibilities. In the past, success in this course has been strongly related to attendance. Some course activities may take place off campus and outside of regularly scheduled hours.

Electronic Device Policy:

Students are expected to respect the classroom environment in their use of technology and electronic devices. The inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class is prohibited. Any use of technology or electronic devices that is distracting and disruptive to students or the instructor is not permitted.

Audio-visual recording of lectures is not allowed without the expressed consent of the instructor and guest lecturers.

Evaluation

The midterm and final exam format will include short essay and multiple-choice questions. Anyone who fails the midterm exam should meet with the instructor to review their performance. The final exam must be written to pass the course. A missed final exam will result in an "F" grade.

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor regarding problems related to any part of the course. Courses/Workshops offered by Student Learning Services may be useful to some students in developing study skills and test-writing strategies. Peer tutors may be available through Student Learning Services. The final exam will be comprehensive. The Mount Royal Calendar advises students that they must be available for final examinations up to the last day of the examination period.

- Reference formats as per MRU Library Handouts and Bibliographic formats for Citing Electronic Information.
- All written assignments must be submitted directly to the instructor or placed in the assignment electronic drop box. Late assignments will be deducted 10% off their total possible value for each week, or portion thereof, after due date.
- Assignments submitted by email or other means will not be accepted.
- Anything handed in must have references.
- Make sure that what you hand in is in your own words because it may be checked by anti-plagiarism software.
- All assignments will have a cover page which will include the author(s) name.
- Late assignments will penalized by 10% per day late and will no longer be accepted after one week.

Assignment 1 (Individual – Regulatory focus)	10%	January 29
Assignment 2 (Group – Techniques focus)	10%	March 4
Term project – EIA Critical Review.	25%	March 15
Midterm exam.	25%	February 12
Final exam.	30%	

Projects

Term paper will be an **individual** project to critically evaluate a component of a relevant, current (**Less than 5 years old**) Impact Assessment. This is the document that the proponent completes.



All papers must be presented in a professional format and include a cover page, page numbering, introduction, conclusion, references and in-text citations per APA format. Papers will be printed. Papers that don't meet these basic criteria will have marks deducted.

Other Considerations

Within the Mount Royal University Calendar your attention is specifically drawn to the section dealing with integrity of student work. With that in mind, all assignments handed in may be put through an antiplagiarism software package.

The class will be held in the telepresence room, the class may be a telepresence class.

Other policies for use in a telepresence classroom may be developed as the course progresses.

Late projects will not be accepted. During the term should a student have challenges with meeting timelines, you are encouraged to proactively discuss timelines with your instructor.

Standard Grading System for MRU Earth and Environmental Science Department

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
95-100	85-94	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	55-59	50-54	<49
4	4	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.00	1.7	1.3	1.0	0
Excellent. Superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject.			Good. Clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject generally complete.			Satisfactory. Basic understanding of subject.			Marginal performance. Generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses.		Failure to meet course requirements

Required Course Materials

Access to Internet, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.