

University of Waterloo
Department of Environment and Resource Studies
Environmental Analysis and Solutions II: Experiential Approaches
ERS 111, Winter 2015

***NOTE: This course outline will change before classes commence.**

1. INFORMATION

Instructor: Tanya Markvart, tmarkvar@uwaterloo.ca

Lecture: Tuesdays, 2:30pm to 4:20pm, in EV3 1408

Office hours: Wednesdays, 1:00pm to 3:00pm, or by appointment if necessary

Office location: EV2 2036

Tutorials:

Section 1: Thurs., 2:30pm to 4:20pm, in AL 210, TA: TBD

Section 2: Thurs., 2:30pm to 4:20pm, in PAS 2085, TA: TBD

Section 3: Wed., 10:30am to 12:20pm, in AL 210, TA: TBD

Section 4: Wed., 10:30am to 12:20pm, in EV1 225, TA: TBD

Section 5: Fri., 10:30am to 12:20pm, in AL 210, TA: TBD

Section 6: Fri., 10:30am to 12:20pm, in PAS 2085, TA: TBD

2. ABOUT THE COURSE

This course explores the challenges and opportunities associated with understanding and tackling complex social-ecological issues. It emphasizes the need for interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches to environmental problem solving. Lectures touch on recent controversial development proposals (e.g., Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline), community sustainability planning in Canada, and well-publicized social-ecological problems (e.g., the mass die-off of honey bees). Students are encouraged to examine these matters from a variety of stakeholder perspectives and with concepts explained in the lectures and readings, including complex systems thinking, interdisciplinary problem solving, collaborative decision making, procedural sustainability, the precautionary principle, and social learning, among others. Special guest lectures focus on case experiences in water governance, First Nations engagement in mining, and disaster recovery.

3. REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS

Required weekly readings will be posted on LEARN.

4. ASSIGNMENTS AND LATE PENALTIES

Assignment	Value	Due Date
Team report preparation	10%	Week 4 – January 27
Short essay	10%	Week 6 – February 10
Final team report	20%	Week 9 – March 10
Team report presentation	20%	Week 11 – March 24 in tutorial
Tutorial participation	20%	Most tutorials have a participation component
In class test	20%	Week 12 – March 31

Description of assignments: An in-depth description of the requirements and rubric for each assignment will be posted on LEARN.

Assignment submission instructions: Please submit all assignments to the appropriate drop box on LEARN. Further instructions will be given in class.

Late penalty: All assignments must be submitted on LEARN by the assigned due date. Unless you have made advance arrangements with me – based on medical or family emergencies – I do not accept late assignments. If this arrangement is not made, late assignments will be penalized at 5% of the value of the assignment per day, including Saturday and Sunday. I will not accept assignments more than 5 days after the due date unless there are exceptional circumstances and with advance notice.

When you cannot meet a course requirement: If you cannot make an in-course requirement because of medical, psychological or compassionate reasons, please advise me in writing (preferably by email), with your name, student ID number, and email contact information. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the assignment due date, but otherwise as soon as possible after the due date. As a rule, you must provide appropriate documentation, for example, a note from your doctor indicating the dates during which you were ill, and describing the severity of your illness. You are required to attend (and participate in) all of the class meetings and field trips. Assignments must be submitted in LEARN on the designated day and time.

5. LECTURES, READINGS & DUE DATES

Weeks	Lectures	Assignment Due Dates
Week 1 – January 6	-Introduction and administrative details -Bring a copy of the course outline to class	N/A
Week 2 – January 13	Lecture: “An Overview of Key Concepts”	N/A
Week 3 – January 20	Lecture: “Collaborative Decision Making, Social Learning, and Institutional Change”	N/A
Week 4 – January 27	Lecture: “Interdisciplinary Problem Solving and the Precautionary Principle”	Team report preparation assignment
Week 5 – February 3	Guest lecture: Dorothy Larkman, “First Nations Engagement in Mining”	N/A
Week 6 – February 10	Guest lecture: Dr. Rob de Loe, “Water Governance”	Short essay assignment
February 16 to 20 Reading Week		
Week 7 – February 24	Guest lecture: Dr. Erin Joakim, “Different Perspectives on Disaster Recovery”	N/A
Week 8 – March 3	Guest lecture: Dr. James Patterson, “Collaborative Waterway Management in Australia”	N/A
Week 9 – March 10	Lecture: “Community Sustainability Planning and Procedural Sustainability”	Final team report
Week 10 – March 17	Lecture: “The Story of Aggregate Resource Management in Ontario”	N/A
Week 11 – March 24	Lecture: “The Story of Nuclear Waste Management in Ontario”	Team report presentation in tutorial
Week 12 – March 31	In class test	
April 6 – Lectures End		

6. THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Communication: It is your responsibility to check the course webpage for information and updates. As per University regulations, email is the official route of communication between the University and its students. You are required to check your uwaterloo.ca email account regularly (at least once per day). If you use another email service, it is your responsibility to ensure that mail sent to your university account is forwarded.

Laptop policy: Developing an ability to listen attentively is an important aspect of your education and, for that matter it is an important life skill. Laptops undermine the learning objective. If it is absolutely necessary for you to use a laptop then please use one only for taking course-related notes. Please refrain from surfing, chatting, downloading video on your laptops, smartphones, iPads, etc., as it distracts your classmates and detracts from everyone's learning process.

Copies of assignments: Please keep copies of all assignments and evaluation forms. You may be asked to resubmit work at any time, including after the end of the course.

7. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/). Students who are unsure what constitutes an academic offence are requested to visit the online tutorial at: <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/>

Research ethics: Please also note that the University of Waterloo requires all research conducted by its students, staff, and faculty that involves humans as participants to undergo prior ethics review and clearance through the Director, Office of Human Research and Animal Care Office. The ethics review and clearance processes are indented to ensure that projects comply with the Office's Guidelines for Research with Human Participants Guidelines as well as those of provincial and federal agencies, and that the safety, rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected. The Guidelines inform researchers about ethical issues and procedures, which are of concern when conducting research with humans (e.g., confidentiality, risks and benefits, informed consent process, etc.). If the development of your research proposal consists of research that involves humans as participants, then please contact the course instructor for guidance and see www.research.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/human/

Categories other than plagiarism (defined as varieties of cheating):

- Submission of work not written and prepared by you.
- Copying or stealing the work of another student.
- Paying for the creation of work by commercial service or by an acquaintance to be submitted by you.
- Purchasing already existing written work.
- Using an essay for submission by you, which was found, on one of the free Internet essay

sites.

- Writing a paper for another student to submit.
- ‘Recycling’ and submitting an essay, report, or assignment when a major portion has been previously submitted or is being submitted for another course without the expressed permission of all instructors involved.

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Religious observances: Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt, please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm For typical penalties, check Guidelines for Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 – (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals): www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm

Consequences of academic offences: ENV students are strongly encouraged to review the material provided by the University’s Academic Integrity Office: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Students/index.html>

Turnitin: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) may be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented.