

Department of Environment and Resource Studies
Faculty of Environment
University of Waterloo

ERS 315 Fall 2014

Environmental and Sustainability Assessment II

Lecture: 10:30-12:20 pm, Mondays
DWE 3522

Instructor:

Denis Kirchhoff, B.Eng., M.Sc., Ph.D.
Office EV2-2038
dkirchho@uwaterloo.ca¹
Instructor Office Hours: TBD

TAs:

TA Office Hours: TBD

Tutorial: TUT 101	Fri	1:30pm - 2:20 pm	HH 119
TUT 103	Fri	1:30pm - 2:20 pm	AL 209
TUT 102	Fri	10:30am - 11:20 pm	PAS 2086
TUT 104	Fri	11:30am - 12:20 pm	PAS 2086
TUT 105	Fri	11:30am - 12:20 pm	HH 119

Readings: -- Electronically-formatted Environmental Assessments (EAs) and associated documents will be posted on LEARN or assigned during lectures.

-- Noble, Bram (2010). Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment: a Guide to Principles and Practice, *2nd Edition*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Course prerequisites: ERS 215 and ENVS 200

Course Description:

This course introduces students to several categories of EAs used in Ontario and Canada - and the common elements of EAs (used worldwide) – through the use of case studies and a simulated EA. Tutorial work will be semi-directed and self-guided.

The assumption in ERS 315 is that students are already familiar with the principles and basic design requirements of impact assessment and that they have some understanding of the role of impact assessment in planning, management, and regulation particularly for Ontario or areas under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The concepts introduced to you in ERS 215 and 315 are applied to a broader range of pursuits in the next course in the assessment series, ERS 415. ERS 215, ERS 315 and ERS 445 are all required courses for the Environmental Assessment Diploma.

¹ When communicating via email, please identify the course (e.g. "ERS 315") in the subject line. Make sure to use your UW account. Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, among other non-UW domains, can be treated as spam by the university system.

Course objectives:

For students:

1. To gain an understanding of the different categories of EAs (and methods used) through a case study approach.
2. To develop some of the tools necessary for conducting an EA through completion of a simulated EA (i.e., the scoping process).

Approach:

Lectures will be used to provide an overview of key topics and also to highlight important themes. Key topics and themes will be elaborated on through in-class discussions and by regular attention to case studies. Assigned readings throughout the semester are critical for providing additional depth and breadth. Exams and assignments provide an opportunity for integrating key topics and themes, as well as for linking them with the broader scholarly literature on environmental assessment.

Website: <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca> (LEARN, ERS 315)

You will need to access the course website frequently, as some of the course material will be made available and managed through LEARN (Desire2Learn).

Required and suggested readings are presented below ("*Lecture Schedule*"). Additional material will be presented in class and/or made available through the course website or library.

Course and University Policies

Attendance:

Attendance in class is at your discretion. However, there is often extra content in the notes displayed in class vs. the notes posted on the course webpage (e.g., discussion points or questions asked of the class, graphics-heavy images such as maps or diagrams), and **all in-class discussions are valid "testable" materials**. Also, all A/V materials (e.g., DVDs screened in class) are valid, "testable" materials, so complete notes should be taken for each lecture and each DVD screened. For these reasons, attendance at each lecture is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Missed Tests:

All tests are mandatory, and thus, every effort should be made to attend each test. The only exceptions to this are those students who have a valid medical reason, personal or family emergency, etc.:

1. *Valid medical reason such as illness or accident (appropriate proof such as a Doctor's note is required);*
2. *Personal or family emergency, death in the family, etc. (with suitable proof where possible);*

If you know in advance that you will not be able to make a test, please contact the instructor as far in advance as possible to discuss alternatives.

If you miss a test:

1. Communicate to the instructor the reason you missed the quiz.
2. IMPORTANT! As soon as possible, please obtain a valid medical, counselor's or other 'proof of absence' note explaining the reason for your absence, degree of incapacitation, dates covered by the note, etc.
3. Please make a copy of this note and give the copy to your instructor by hand or scanned and sent by email (email to dkirchho@uwaterloo.ca).

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.

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. Students who are unsure what constitutes an academic offence are requested to visit the on-line tutorial at: <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/>.

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 offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for Assessment of Penalties, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm>

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>. When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

Appeals:

A decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding 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 defer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Consequences of Academic Offences:

Students are strongly encouraged to review the material provided by the university’s Academic Integrity office. See (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoacad/Students/index.html>).

University Policies: Plagiarism

Please familiarize yourself with the University of Waterloo’s policy dealing with plagiarism. Be especially careful when using materials from the internet, and be aware that software available to instructors can be used to check student submissions for plagiarism. Plagiarism offences are normally treated quite seriously by the University and can result in significant penalties being assessed (e.g. failing grade on an assignment, repeating a course, suspension or expulsion).

Definition of Plagiarism:

“The act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one’s own.”

Source: University of Waterloo, Policy 71.

Turnitin: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will 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. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. Students need to inform the instructors by September 29 that they do not wish to have their work submitted to Turnitin. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

To Avoid Plagiarism

The use of other people’s work ***must be properly acknowledged and referenced*** in all written material such as assignments, take-home examinations, essays, research papers, laboratory reports, work-term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. However, use of such material without complete and unambiguous acknowledgement is an offence under UW Policy 71.

Quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing (source: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/1/>)

These three ways of incorporating other writers' work into your own writing differ according to the closeness of your writing to the source writing.

- **Quotations** must be identical to the original, using a narrow segment of the source. They must match the source document word for word and must be attributed to the original author with page number.
- **Paraphrasing** involves putting a passage from source material into your own words. A paraphrase must also be attributed to the original source. Paraphrased material is usually shorter than the original passage, taking a somewhat broader segment of the source and condensing it slightly.
- **Summarizing** involves putting the main idea(s) into your own words, including only the main point(s). Once again, it is necessary to attribute summarized ideas to the original source. Summaries are significantly shorter than the original and take a broad overview of the source material.

Unclaimed Assignments

Unclaimed assignments will be retained until one month after term grades become official in Quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's [confidential shredding procedures](#).

EVALUATION:

Your final grade will be based on two assignments and two in-class exams. The professor determines the content and establishes the grading rules for all assignments, tests, and any quizzes. The teaching assistants will assist the instructor with grading course work.

The first in-class exam is based on material covered in lectures and readings up to and including the class before the exam. The second in-class exam is focused on the second part of the course material. Both exams will include multiple choice and short answer questions. Students are expected to be present in class at the time tests are scheduled.

Course Component	Percentage
First in-class exam (Oct 20 th)	25%
Assignment I (due Nov 3 rd)	14%
Assignment II (due Dec 1 st)	36%
Second in-class exam (Dec 1 st)	25%

Information on using Waterloo LEARN

LEARN is a web-based course management system that enables instructors to manage course materials (posting of lecture notes, etc.), interact with their students (drop boxes for student submissions, on-line quizzes, discussion boards, course e-mail etc.), and provide feedback (grades, assignment comments etc.). The degree to which LEARN is utilized in a particular course is left to the discretion of the instructor and therefore, you may find a large variance in how LEARN is being used from one course to another.

Logging Into LEARN

Since LEARN is a web-based system, you will need a browser. Once you have started up your browser, type in the following URL: <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>. Provide your Quest/WatIAM userid and password (case sensitive) to login. Once you have logged in, you should see a list of your LEARN courses under the Courses header bar. Clicking on the course name will take you to that course.

Multimedia Notes (DVDs, Videos, in-class internet-based videos, etc.).

Approximately 15% of course content is delivered through multi-media materials (DVDs, online audio or video clips), and ALL of this material is valid testing/quiz material. Therefore, each student should attend regularly and take comprehensive notes. If you miss a day when this material is shown, please arrange to obtain the notes from a classmate, and if possible, discuss these notes briefly with the note-taker. Most materials shown are the personal property of the instructor and some are available on the internet.

PowerPoint Viewer

The web addresses for Microsoft PowerPoint viewers (for those who do not have PowerPoint on their computers) is: <http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=13>

Course Schedule (topics might span more than one class):

	Date	Topic	Reading	Tutorial
Week 1	08-Sept	Intro to course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Course • Overview of EA • Discussion of possible assignment topics 	Required Readings: Course Syllabus	Getting started on the assignment
Week 2	15-Sept	EA and Systems Thinking	Required Readings: Waltner-Toews, D., and J. Kay (2005). The evolution of an ecosystem approach: the diamond schematic and an adaptive methodology for ecosystem sustainability and health. <i>Ecology and Society</i> 10(1): 38. [online] URL: http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol10/iss1/art38/ Suggested Readings: Kay, J. (2008). An Introduction to Systems Thinking. in Waltner-Toews, Kay and Lister (eds.) <i>The Ecosystem Approach: Complexity, Uncertainty, and Managing for Sustainability</i> . Columbia University Press. New York, pages 1-13 (on LEARN, week 2)	Discussion of activity and screening to discern whether an EA is required and why
Week 3	22-Sept	The Scoping stage of EA	Required Reading: Read the EA documents on LEARN for week 3 <u>paying special attention to project description/information</u> Suggested Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noble <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Chapter 6 (Scoping and Env. Baseline Assessment) (on LEARN, week 3) 	Discussion on relevant legislation, RAs, EA triggers, and type of EA
Week 4	29-Sept	EA and the Internal Workings of a Project I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voisey's Bay (1995-2020) • VCs and EA Methods • Significance 	Required Readings: Read the documents on LEARN – week 4 Suggested Reading:	Meeting with TAs by appointment
Week 5	06-Oct	EA and the Internal Workings of a Project II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Capital Projects 	Required Readings: Read the documents on LEARN – week 5	Meeting with TAs by appointment
Week 6	20-Oct	In-class exam	Content: Week 1 - week 5	Meeting with TAs by appointment
Week 7	27-Oct	EA in Brazil	Required Reading: Kirchhoff, D. (2006). Capacity Building for EIA in Brazil: Preliminary Considerations and Problems to be Overcome. <i>Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management</i> . 8(1):1-18 (on LEARN, week 7).	Meeting with TAs by appointment
Week 8	03-Nov	EA in Africa	Required Readings: TBA – check on LEARN Suggested Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noble <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1, page 15 (Developing nations and development agencies) 	Meeting with TAs by appointment Assignment I due date

Week 9	10- Nov	Environment Caada and the EA process	Required Readings: TBA – check on LEARN	Meeting with TAs by appointment
Week 10	17- Nov	EA and the Internal Workings of a Project III • EIS Workplans	Required Readings: Read the documents on LEARN for week 10	Meeting with TAs by appointment
Week 11	24- Nov	EA and the Internal Workings of a Project IV • EIS Architecture (form and function)	Required Reading: Read the documents on LEARN for week 11	Meeting with TAs by appointment
Week 12	01- Dec	In-class exam	Content: Week 7 - week 11	Assignment II due date