

**University of Waterloo**  
**Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies**  
**ERS 454/654 Parks and Protected Areas: Issues and Trends**  
**Course Outline – Fall 2021 On Campus / Online**  
**August 31, 2021**

**The Basics**

**Instructor:** Douglas Stewart

**Class Time:** On Campus Tutorials (in person): Thursday, 12:30, 2:30, and 3:30

Online Tutorials (virtual): Tuesdays 11:30 a.m.

All tutorials scheduled for one hour

**Classroom:** TBD

**Office Hours:** available by appointment on-campus on Thursdays, email and telephone anytime.

**Contact Information:** [dd2stewa@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:dd2stewa@uwaterloo.ca), 905-932-2910

---

**Course Overview**

This course provides public policy perspectives related to the establishment and ongoing management of parks and other types of protected areas. Parks and protected areas, both nationally and internationally, are set aside to achieve a range of public policy outcomes including the conservation of biodiversity, ecological integrity, sustainable ecosystems, social well-being and economic benefits. They are socio-ecological systems with wide ranging characteristics. The course will evaluate the effectiveness of parks and protected areas in meeting these policy objectives set by governments, as well as the needs and expectations of international a national organizations, local and indigenous people, and other stakeholders.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classification system and conservation guidelines will be used as the basis for comparative analysis and the identification of policy objectives related to protected lands and waters. The relationship of parks and protected areas to environmental trends such as global warming, water security and biological diversity will be examined in the Canadian and international contexts. In addition, the role of

parks and protected areas as an element of national identity will be considered based on shifting public priorities related to environmental protection and economic well-being.

Government decisions to set aside lands and waters for conservation are policy choices to conserve rather than develop ecological and natural resources. These decisions are often controversial, calling into question societal values and valuation related to the natural world. The course considers the societal values associated with conservation, and will use case studies to examine how and why natural resources are protected through establishment processes. Issues such as the relationship of local populations and indigenous people to protected area management regimes, ecological health, geographic and ecological isolation, development pressure, tourism, access, and relevance will be explored through a series of tutorials and lectures.

The ebb and flow of public policy related to conservation and the management of parks and protected areas will be considered. The question of whether there is a fundamentally irreconcilable tension between policies of protection and use of parks and protected areas will be considered, as well as the influence that political priorities and preferences play in the policy emphasis affecting management of conservation lands and waters. The role of shifting demographics related to government decisions to establish parks and protected areas, and the types of programs, services and opportunities for conservation and public use will be considered in the context of current and emerging trends and public policy choices.

### **Course Format**

The course will use tutorial and lecture approaches to explore the content and themes.

**Lectures:** The instructor will use pre-recorded lectures to provide information, perspectives and insights on the weekly topics in this outline. Pre-recorded lectures / commentaries will be posted on LEARN weekly and available for students to review in advance of the in-person and online tutorial sessions. Lectures will be about 60 - 90 minutes in length and can be reviewed at any time by students. Students registered in ERS 654 will follow these steps for their in-class presentations as well (subject to technological resources and confirmation with students)

**Tutorial Sessions:** Tutorial Sessions will be held every week. Depending on the number of registered students, up to 4 tutorial groups will be established. Group size should be approximately 8 -9 students. Each tutorial group will meet with the instructor in-person or by video conference for approximately 50 minutes at a specified time. These tutorial sessions will be a forum to discuss the weekly lecture, assigned readings and tutorial questions that will be provided in advance of the tutorial session. Students are expected to have reviewed the pre-recorded lectures, tasks and readings (if assigned) in advance of the tutorial sessions.

**Individual Sessions:**

Students can schedule individual learning sessions with the Instructor as required to review course material, discuss specific topics, get advice on assignments or for other reasons. These sessions can be done in person on-campus on Thursdays, or by telephone or video conference anytime.

### **Summary for ERS 454 / 654 Fall 2020 Online**

#### **Synchronous (real time) Activities**

Three Tutorial Groups will have 12 tutorial sessions (50 minute in-person) planned for Thursdays.

One Tutorial Group will have 12 tutorial sessions using video conference on Tuesdays.

On-campus in-person office hours on Thursdays.

Individual student support meetings as needed.

#### **Asynchronous (any time) Activities**

Weekly prerecorded lectures / commentaries (as per course outline), Available on LEARN.  
Lecture notes posted to LEARN.

Recorded tutorial sessions available on LEARN

Required and recommended readings available on LEARN.

Preparatory materials for tutorial sessions available on LEARN.

Assignment guidelines available on LEARN

#### **Covid 19 Contingency Planning**

**For In-person Tutorials please note the following:**

- Masks will be worn during in-class tutorials
- Should circumstances require the cancellation of a single class, the class will be shifted to an online synchronous tutorial at the regularly scheduled time.

- Should circumstances require a longer-term shift from in-person activities, the course will shift to online synchronous tutorials at the regularly scheduled times.
- Communication related to Covid 19 changes will be via UW email and announcements posted on LEARN.
- Students who may become ill or who may need to self-isolate should contact the Instructor immediately to make alternate arrangements for continuing course participation. A range of accommodations are possible to insure course completion.
- All UW health and safety protocols will be followed during in-person tutorials.

### **Learning Objectives**

Through active participation students will be able to:

- Critique the diverse and complex public policy dynamics related to the establishment of parks and protected areas, and the management of parks and protected areas systems in Canada, and internationally.
- Analyze the key issues and trends related to parks and protected areas
- Assess the effectiveness of legislation, public policy and strategies to address the long term sustainability of systems of protected lands and waters.
- Develop progressive policies and public administration options to improve effectiveness of protected areas programs
- Integrate the roles and benefits of parks and protected areas in the broader context of environmental sustainability at the local, national and international scales, and understand strategies to position parks and protected areas for success in achieving a range of public policy outcomes for the future.

### **Reference Materials and Readings**

Readings will be assigned or recommended in support of the tutorial topics and to assist active student participation in tutorial sessions. Most readings and reference materials will be available online. The instructor will provide materials to students on LEARN in advance of tutorial sessions or identify resources available at the University.

A reading list will be provided on LEARN at the beginning of the course and will be updated periodically in response to student feedback and course requirements.

## **Evaluation**

See Appendix

## **Course Schedule Week by Week**

Themes	Student Activities		Learning Outcomes
	Assigned Class Readings	Course Activity	
<p>Week 1</p> <p>Introduction to Parks and Protected Areas (International and Canadian Perspectives on Conservation)</p>	TBD	Lecture and tutorial sessions	<p>Understanding of the evolution, scope and scale of international and Canadian parks and protected areas programs. Understanding of IUCN Classification system</p> <p>Understanding protected areas as socio-ecological systems.</p>
<p>Week 2:</p> <p>Canadian Policy and Legislation related to Protection of Terrestrial and Marine Conservation</p>	<p>Canada National Parks Act</p> <p>Migratory Birds Convention Act</p> <p>Canadian Wildlife Act</p> <p>Ontario Provincial Parks Act</p> <p>Alberta Provincial Parks Act</p> <p>Others</p>	<p>Lecture and tutorial sessions.</p> <p>Focus will be on a comparative analysis of public policy objectives as reflected in legislation.</p> <p>Identification of potential conflicts inherent in public policy approaches.</p>	<p>The public policy process will be covered.</p> <p>Understanding of the role of legislation in conservation.</p> <p>Identification and analysis of public policy objectives related to parks and protected areas.</p> <p>Understanding key management concepts in the context of policy objectives.</p>
<p>Week 3:</p> <p>Systems Planning and other approaches to achieving public policy objectives for</p>	<p>National Parks Systems Plan and other planning approaches</p> <p>Australia Parks planning</p>	Lecture and tutorial sessions	<p>Understanding the IUCN and its role in public policy.</p> <p>Understanding of the systems planning approach and objectives.</p>

conservation and visitor programs.			Awareness and understanding of the complexity of achieving public policy objectives in the Canadian context.
Week 4: Parks and Protected Areas, Rights and the Canadian Constitution.  International perspectives on Indigenous rights and issues for local peoples.	Canada Constitution Act 1982  Readings related Indigenous and Treaty Rights	Lecture and tutorial sessions.	Analysis and understanding of the distribution of powers through the Constitution as it relates to conservation. Understanding of the rights of indigenous people and First Nations and the implication for government programs.
Week 5: Establishing Parks and Protected Areas in Canada.	Selected readings TBD  Case Studies	Lecture and tutorial sessions  Presentation and analysis of case study:  Expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve	Analysis and understanding of the policy and relationship dynamics related to the setting aside of new conservation lands.
Class 6:  Establishing Parks and Protected Areas in Canada.	Selected readings TBD  Case Studies	Lecture and tutorial sessions  Presentation and analysis of case study:  Establishment of the proposed Manitoba Lowlands National Park	Analysis and understanding of the policy and relationship dynamics related to the setting aside of new conservation lands.
Class 7:  Conservation Islands: Issues and Trends related to Ecosystem Management and public policy options for dealing with ecological isolation of protected areas.  Student presentations on their research topics.	Selected readings related to parks planning, Ecological Integrity, Ecosystem Management and Monitoring.	Lecture and tutorial sessions	Understanding the challenges related to managing parks and protected areas in the context of surrounding land uses. The role and methodology of planning in parks and protected areas management. Awareness and understanding of key conservation issues and concepts

<p>Class 8:</p> <p>Social and economic benefits of Parks and Protected Areas:</p> <p>Issues and trends related to public use and enjoyment of Parks and Protected Areas as well as the derivation of economic benefits.</p> <p>Student presentations on their research topics.</p>	TBD	Lecture and tutorial sessions.	Understanding the multiple uses of parks and protected areas, and the challenges of sustaining multiple public policy objectives.
<p>Class 9:</p> <p>Finding the Balance: Protection and Use – can multiple objectives be achieved and sustained?</p> <p>Student presentations on their research topics.</p>	TBD	Lecture and tutorial sessions  ERS 654 student tutorial.	Exploring and understanding how governance organizations can achieve multiple policy objectives through Parks and Protected Areas.
<p>Class 10:</p> <p>Parks and Protected Areas and Climate Change</p> <p>Student presentations on their research topics.</p>	IUCN reports. Canadian Parks Council Reports.	Lecture and tutorial sessions.  ERS 654 student tutorial	Understanding the implications of persistent climate change for ecological and human policy objectives.
<p>Class 11:</p> <p>Demographics and Related Issues for Parks and Protected Areas</p>	Various statistical and analytical reports from Parks Agencies.	Lecture and tutorial sessions  ERS 654 student tutorial	Understanding the issues of relevance of Parks and Protected Areas in a changing public environment.

Student presentations on their research topics.			
Class 12: Student presentations on their research topics. Wrap up		Lecture and tutorial sessions	Exploration of key concepts, issues and trends developed through the course in a protected area environment.

### **Faculty of Environment Policies**

**Unclaimed assignments:** Unclaimed assignments will be retained until one month after term grades become official. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures.

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

**Research Ethics:** 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 intended 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, please contact the course instructor for guidance and [www.research.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/human/](http://www.research.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/human/).

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

- o Submission of work not written and prepared by you'
- o Copying or stealing the work of another student;
- o Paying for the creation of work by a commercial service or by an acquaintance to be submitted by you;
- o Using an essay for submission by you, which was found, on one of the free internet essay sites;
- o Writing a paper for course submission by another student;
- o "Recycling" or submitting an essay, report, or assignment when a major portion has been previously 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 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](http://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 offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or A student is expected to know what constitutes academic 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](http://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](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm) Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.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/Policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policy72.htm)

**Consequences of Academic Offences:** ENV students are strongly encouraged to review the material provided by the University's Academic Integrity Office (see: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.html>).

## **Appendix I**

### **ERS 454 / 654**

#### **Model for Assessment of Student Work and Assignments**

##### **ERS 454 - Undergraduate**

## A. Class Participation

Participation by students in discussions during tutorial sessions, is an important aspect of this course. The course is designed to be a combination of lecture and tutorial styles. Students will be expected to discuss the themes and topics of the course based on the completion of assigned lectures, readings and individual research.

To achieve success for this aspect of overall student assessment, students are expected to offer opinions, perspectives and information to the general discussion in tutorial sessions over the duration of the course.

This element is weighted as 20% of the overall final grade for the course. Students are expected to attend at least 10 of 12 scheduled tutorials. Students will receive 1 mark for attendance at each tutorial (up to 10) and up to 10 additional marks based on the overall quality of their active participation in the tutorials. The mark for this element will be determined as follows:

Attendance

Preparation for in-class activities and completion of readings,

Participation in tutorial sessions,

Contribution to course learning objectives

_____	—
Total	20

## B. Responses to Assigned Study Questions

The purpose of assigned questions is to provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding and capacity to apply the fundamental principles, concepts and content of the course. ERS 454 students will respond to 2 questions (approximately one each for September and October) Responses should be approximately 1000 words each. Questions will be provided to students about 3 weeks before the due date.

To achieve success for this aspect of the overall student assessment, students will provide answers to the questions that demonstrate comprehension of the course content, evidence of completion of assigned readings, the capacity to apply and integrate concepts and principles when analyzing issues related to parks and protected areas.

This element is weighted as 40% of the overall final grade for the course as follows. The mark for this element will be determined as follows:

For each answer

Validity of information and concepts:	10
Analytical approach:	10
_____	—
Total	20 x 2 answers = 40% of final mark

**C. Research Project and Paper**

This assignment requires each student to research and write a paper of approximately 2500 words on a topic of their choice related to the content of the course. Students will provide their topic to the Instructor for approval not later than November 15<sup>th</sup> through the preparation of a Research Project Abstract. The abstract should be approximately 200 words and is valued at a 2% bonus mark that will be calculated in the student’s final grade for the course. Students are encouraged to select their topic as soon as possible to allow time for research and in order to obtain guidance from the Instructor as required.

To achieve success for this aspect of the overall student assessment, students will demonstrate comprehension of the course content, evidence of completion of assigned readings, completion of research related to the topic, the capacity to apply and integrate concepts and principles when addressing an issue related to parks and protected areas.

The research paper will be completed to the standards for university level essays including: a bibliography, works cited, internal structure and organization, English language usage (spelling, grammar, syntax, etc.) Papers can be submitted electronically (email address to be confirmed). The due date for final research project papers will be confirmed in shortly after the start of the semester. Late penalties will be a reduction of 2% of the mark for the paper for each day, i.e. 2% per 24 hour period or part thereof calculated from 2400 h. on the due date.

The research paper is weighted at 40% of the total final grade for the course. The assessment of student achievement for this element will be as follows:

Evidence of research:	10
Internal logic and validity of arguments	25
Organization, and style, quality of writing	5
_____	—
Total	40
Abstract for Research Project	2 bonus

## ERS 654 - Masters

### Class Participation:

Participation by students in discussions during tutorial sessions, is an important aspect of this course. The course is designed to be a combination of lecture and tutorial styles. Students will be expected to discuss the themes and topics of the course based on the completion of assigned lectures, readings and individual research.

To achieve success for this aspect of overall student assessment, students are expected to offer opinions, perspectives and information to the general discussion in tutorial sessions over the duration of the course.

This element is weighted as 20% of the overall final grade for the course. Students are expected to attend at least 10 of 12 scheduled tutorials. Students will receive 1 mark for attendance at each tutorial (up to 10) and up to 10 additional marks based on the quality of their active participation in the tutorials. The mark for this element will be determined as follows:

Attendance

Preparation for in-class activities and completion of readings,

Participation in tutorial sessions,

Contribution to course learning objectives

_____	—
Total	20

### A. Responses to Assigned Questions

The purpose of assigned questions is to provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding and capacity to apply the fundamental principles, concepts and content of the course. ERS 654 students will respond to 2 questions (approximately one per month for September, October) Responses should be 1,000 words each. Questions will be provided to students about 3 weeks before the due date.

To achieve success for this aspect of the overall student assessment, students will provide answers to the questions that demonstrate comprehension of the course content, evidence of completion of assigned readings, the capacity to apply and integrate concepts and principles when addressing an issue related to parks and protected areas.

This element is weighted as 40 % of the overall final grade for the course as follows. The mark for this element will be determined as follows:

For each answer

Validity of information and concepts:	10
Logic and analytical approach:	10
_____	—
Total	20 x 2 answers = 40%

## **B. Research Project and Paper**

This assignment requires each student to research and write a paper of approximately 3500 words on a topic of their choice related to the content of the course. Students will provide their topic to the Instructor for approval not later than October 31st. A bonus mark of 2% will be given for on-time submissions. Students are encouraged to select their topic as soon as possible to allow time for research and in order to obtain guidance from the Instructor as required.

Masters students will be asked to present their research findings and analysis to fellow students in their tutorial group.

To achieve success for this aspect of the overall student assessment, students will demonstrate comprehension of the course content, evidence of completion of assigned readings, completion of research related to the topic, the capacity to apply and integrate concepts and principles when addressing an issue related to parks and protected areas.

The research paper will be completed to the standards for university level essays including: a bibliography, works cited, internal structure and organization, English language usage (spelling, grammar, syntax, etc.) Papers can be submitted in print format or electronically (email address to be confirmed). The due date for papers is the last day of classes for the semester (TBD). Late penalties will be a reduction of 2% of the mark for the paper for each day, i.e. 2% per 24 hour period or part thereof calculated from 2400 h. on the last day for submissions of the term.

### **Weighting**

The research paper is weighted at 40% of the total final grade for the course. The assessment of student achievement for this element will be as follows:

Evidence of research:	10
Internal logic and validity of arguments	35
Presentation of research and analysis to tutorial	5
<hr/>	
Total	40
	2% bonus