

# Environmental Impact Assessment

Winter 2020–ENST/GEOG4004A

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Office hours: Monday 11:35-12:35; Tuesday 1:00-3:00

Sign up at: [w20officehours.youcanbook.me](http://w20officehours.youcanbook.me)

Seminar: Wednesday 11:35-14:25; Mackenzie Building; Room: 4236

**Course Description:** Principles, scope and purpose of environmental impact assessment, from conceptual and methodological points of view; range of environmental issues, with emphasis on Canadian case studies.

The EIA process is at once scientific, legal and political, so we will explore the process from all of these different perspectives. Each week readings and in-class activities will provide an opportunity to develop an integrated understanding of the different steps in impact assessment.

The course is also organized as a seminar with the expectation that most learning will happen in class through discussion between students, discussion between the instructor and students, and through in-class activities.

**Prerequisite(s):** fourth-year Honours standing in Geography or Environmental Studies or Environmental Science, or permission of the Department. GEOG 3022 or ENST 3022 is recommended.

**Learning Objectives:** Participation in this course provides students an opportunity to:

- \*Understand the process of EIA in theory and practice;
- \*Gain familiarity with the history and multi-legal frameworks of EIA  
including the obligation to honour treaty rights and recognize Indigenous legal traditions;
- \*Practice skills and methods involved in contemporary EIA;

**Texts:** Required course reading will be available on cuLearn

## Course Calendar

(Detailed course calendar including readings will be distributed on the first day of the course)

W1 - Jan 8 - Introductions

(readings for the first week are available on culearn, we will review them in class)

**Khan**, Michael. 1974. The Seminar, Unpublished Paper

**IISD**. ND. EIA: What? Why? When?

W2 - Jan 15 - Purpose and History

W3 - Jan 22 - Legislation and Screening

W4 - Jan 29 - Scoping

W5 - Feb 5 - Environmental Impacts

W6 - Feb 12 - Social Impacts

W7 - Feb 26 - Economic Impacts

W8 - Mar 4 - Uncertainty and Cumulative Impacts

W9 - Mar 11 - Alternatives and Mitigation

W10 - Mar 18 - Reports

W11 - Mar 25 - Decision Making

W12 - Apr 1 - Monitoring

## Evaluation:

Detailed assignment descriptions including any interim deadlines will be provided throughout the term. Evaluations will be returned through cuLearn

### Reading Responses (30%)

throughout the term you will be required to submit five reading responses, only the highest four grades will be included as part of the final evaluation.

Due ongoing throughout term, submit by noon Tuesday before class on cuLearn

### Class Facilitation (5%)

you will work in groups selected by you to lead one weekly in-class discussion on course readings

Due ongoing in person during lecture, outline for discussion due Tuesday evening before class on cuLearn

### Short Essay (30%)

an opportunity to compare the impacts of different legal frameworks on EIA practice

Due Feb 14, 11:59p on cuLearn

### EIA practice study (35%)

an opportunity to further examine the process of EIA in groups to be determined collectively

Due Apr 25, 11:59p on cuLearn

Late assignments will be accepted, exact policy will be discussed in class.

The exceptions are class facilitation, which must be completed during assigned course period, and the final portion of the EIA practice study due on April 25.

## Academic Integrity:

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- \* reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- \* submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- \* using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- \* using another's data or research findings;
- \* failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- \* handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

## Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

**Religious obligation:** write to the professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

**Accommodation for Student Activities:** write to the professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

**Survivors of sexual violence:** As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/sexual-violence-prevention-survivor-support/>

## Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

(source: Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Undergraduate Teaching Regulations and Procedures 2019-2020)