

SURP 856 Environmental Assessment

Contact Time	One 3-hour session per week
Format	Lectures, in-class exercises, individual and group assignments
Class Assessment	Valued Ecosystem Components Assignment 30% Impact Assessment Assignment 40% Group Workshop 30%

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides a theoretical and practical introduction to Environmental Assessment (EA) and explores the evolution of the EA process. Major components of the EA process including scoping, use of alternatives, significance, trade-offs, public consultation, mitigation and monitoring are explored. The course focuses on biophysical, cumulative, social and strategic assessment and uses numerous case studies to highlight the strength and weaknesses of various aspects of the EA process.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- Identify Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and know how these are used to scope EA processes.
- Understand main EA concepts - scoping, alternatives, predictions, significance, trade-offs, harmonization, public consultation.
- Develop the skills necessary to start at an entry level EA job with government, private sector, or NGO sectors.

COURSE TOPICS

- EA process, VECs, Biophysical and cumulative effects assessment, social, strategic and sustainable impact assessment, public participation.

COURSE READINGS

Doelle and Sinclair, 2019. The new Impact Assessment Act in Canada: From revolution to reality, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 79 106292

Jami, A. and P Walsh, 2017. From Consultation to Collaboration: A Participatory Framework for Positive Community Engagement with Wind Energy in Ontario, Canada, *Energy Research and Social Science*, Vol 27, May 2017, 14-24.