

University of Toronto Scarborough
Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences
Knowledge, Ethics and Environmental Decision Making ESTC36H3
Monday 9:00-11:00, MW 140, Fall 2016

Instructor Dr. Nicole Klenk

Office hours ESCB 360 Tuesday 9am-12pm

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Course Description

Most environmental issues have many sides including scientific, social, ethical, political, and economic, and comprise multiple stakeholders promoting divergent points of view and interests. Using fair procedures, legitimate knowledge and facilitated dialogue can go a long way towards achieving agreement on terms of reference for addressing environmental problems. Students will learn about multiple stakeholder approaches to environmental problem solving, including participatory and deliberative fora, citizen panels, consultation mechanisms, adaptive management processes, etc. Many of these techniques seek broad consensus in decision making on complex environmental issues. But sometimes conflicts of interest, values and beliefs are not amenable to consensus building and environmental problem solving must be structured to allow for the persistence of radical

Grading Scheme

In this course you will have 2 assignments, a midterm exam (in class) and a final exam. The assignments are provided below.

Assessments

utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm

Schedule of lectures

Date	Topic	Readings	Discussion question
Sept 1	Introduction		
Sept 12	Environmental decision making	Film: On the line Suppl.: Dryzek; Fischer; Wynne; Rees	Who should be involved in environmental decision 0 50 0 Tm /TT1 4 57/TT5

Midterm

Worth 20% of overall mark

In class: October 24, 2016

Answer one of the two following questions for which some additional recommended reading is provided on Blackboard.

1) Who should be involved in environmental decisionmaking?

John Dryzek. 2013. Chapter 64 in *The Politics of the Earth*. Oxford University Press.

Frank Fischer 2003. *Professional Knowledge and Citizen Participation: Citizens, Experts and the Environment*. The Politics of Local Knowledge. Durham, Duke University Press, pp. 20.

Brian Wynne. 1996. *May the Sheep Safely Graze?* In S. Lash, B. Szerszynski and B. Wynne (Eds.) *Risk, Environment and Modernity. Towards a New Ecology*. London, Sage, pp. 43.

Mark Reed. 2008. Stakeholder participation for environmental management: A literature review. *Biological Conservation* 141: 241731.

2) Should nature have rights?

Robin Attfield. 2014. *Some central debates in Environmental Ethics* 2nd Edition. Cambridge, Polity Press pp. 3069.

Clare Palmer, Katie McShane and Ronald Sandler. 2014. *Environmental Ethical Review of Environment and Resources* 39: 41942

Christophe Stone 1979. Should trees have standing? Toward legal rights for natural objects.

Assignment #2

Worth 20% of overall mark

Due in class: November 28, 2016

Length: approximately 8-10 pages (excluding references, double spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins)

In this assignment you will critically review Justin Farrell's *The Battle for Yellowstone*. In your critical review please make connections to the concepts and readings covered in class.

The University of Toronto has several online resources on how to write a critical review. Please consult the following two writing guides that outline the steps to take in writing a critical review:

<http://ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/sites/default/files/CritReview.pdf>

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific/typesof-writing/book-review>