University of Toronto Scarborough
Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences
EESC13H3 F - Environmental Impact Assessment and Auditing
2012 Outline

Professor: Mandy Meriano
Office: SW627C   Telephone: 416-208-2775
Office hours: Thursday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
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Lecture time: Monday 11 am to 1pm
Location: HW215

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Objectives
Course Textbook (required)
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Assignments

UTSC Bookstore.

Objectives: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has emerged as both an instrument of evaluation and as an important decision-making system. EIA is an integral part of environmental management in environmental policy at regional, national and international levels. While EIA ideally incorporates environmental consideration into planning and development processes, it is very much embedded within the growth ethic—it is not about preventing development. Ideally, EIA helps development occur within an environmentally responsive context. It informs decision-makers about the consequences of development decisions and identifies the likely or known impacts of development. However, even undertaking an EIA cannot guarantee that bad development decisions will *not* be made, that projects will perform as anticipated, or that impact mitigation will be done and will be effective.

        This course examines EIA from a critical perspective as a strategic, comprehensive, and pro active process employed to integrate the ecological and social aspects of development into planning and environmental/resource management processes.
        The course objectives are meant to provide a critical overview of EIA processes, a guide to normative and applied EIA practice, and to impart a

fundamental understanding of how EIA works (or, sometimes,

October 15
Guest Lecture: Mr. Todd Hall
                              Environmental Auditor, Ontario Power Generation

<u>Topic:</u> Environmental Auditing

<u>Readings:</u>

November 19
Guest Lecture: Mr. Graham Rempe
                        Solicitor, City of Toronto Legal Services
Topic: Environmental Assessment Law (Onatrio)

Readings:

Screening, and that's all?
EIA as a 'green stamp of approval'?

December 03
Hearing Exercise
Topic: TBA
Counsel: Mr. Graham Rempe

Students will be divided into three groups (one proponent and two opponent groups). Each group will have to prepare a one to two page summary available to everyone by November 26th (one week ahead of the hearing), and make a 5-10 minutes presentation at the hearing on December 3rd.

Each group will have to discuss and defend their arguments during questioning from Counsel, Tribunal (me), and public (the class).

Major Assignment:
Critical Comparative Review of Canadian EIA Processes (Value 30 marks)

Due: November 05

Prepare a critical paper that describes, compares, and critiques the Environmental Impact Assessment systems in two Canadian jurisdictions. You may choose any province(s) or the Canadian federal EIA legislation. Refer to your course readings and other general and theoretical materials to develop a critique of the EIA approach used in your case study areas.

Consider elements such as the scope of EIA application, adherence to the ideal of effective EIA as indicated in the literature (and your course lectures), the methods used, and the regulatory framework (legislation or legal context) used to implement EIA. Does EIA apply to both private and public sector undertakings? Is policy and program development subject to EIA? What do you think is successful or positive about the jurisdiction's approach to EIA, and what is not? Your paper must include a critical/analytical component as well as descriptive elements.

You must demonstrate that you are familiar with the current state of EIA in your case study jurisdictions; for example, are there any proposals to amend the EA legislation or local/regional debates about aspects of the EA process? Are there any particularly important EA reviews underway or recently completed?

Your paper should be no longer than 12 pages, double spaced, single sided excluding title page, reference list, and any figures or tables you wish to include.

Do not use plastic covers or any form of binder.

Do not use a paper clip; just staple your paper.

Use the APA reference format.

There must be a minimum of 8 references used.

Present your paper in a research paper format.

The use of section headings is suggested.

The use of internet material may be important to your work; however, such sources must be properly referenced.

General Information about Presenting Your Assignment

Grading: Evaluation of assignments takes into account organization and structure, style and presentation, as well as research and content. Writing quality and content are both considered in grading. Your work will be graded by Dr. Meriano. If you have a question or problem with the grade you receive, consult the professor. Your grade may be revised up or down based on the review.

Your assignments must have a plain title page with the title of your assignment, your name, course number, the date, your student number, and the instructor's name. Staple your assignment in the upper left corner; do not use folders, cover slips, or binders.

Late assignments: A late penalty of 1.0 mark is assessed for each late week day. For example, if the assignment is handed in one day late and the original grade is 28.0/30 then the grade would be lowered by 1.0 to 27.0/30. Assignments are not accepted later than 2 weeks after the due date.

Plagiarism: Assignments are checked for plagiarism. Please consult the University Calendar for a discussion and outline of the policy on plagiarism and academic integrity (also see proceeding section below)

Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

Please consult the University Calendar for information about grade distribution and academic conduct.

Accessibility:
Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Access

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