

University of Toronto Scarborough  
Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences  
EESC13H3 F - Environmental Impact Assessment and Auditing  
2017 Outline

Professor: Mandy Meriano  
Office: EV362 Telephone: 416-208-2775  
Office hours: Monday 1-3 pm  
Email: mmeriano@utsc.utoronto.ca

Lecture time: Monday 11 am to 1pm  
Location: MW160

**Index of Outline Topics**

Objectives  
Course Textbook (required)  
Evaluation  
Lecture Topics and Readings  
Assignments  
General Information about Presenting your Assignment  
Student Services

**Required textbook:** Hanna, Kevin S. (Ed.) 2016



**Evaluation:** A significant portion of the course evaluation (45%) is based on individual and group projects where you will explore EIA methods and the regulatory framework, examine case studies, and take on the role of practitioners in various professional roles in the EIA process. The complete evaluation is summarized below and will include: two in-class quizzes: value 5% each; a research paper on EIA methods/approaches: value 25%; a group project resulting in a 300-word summary report on a current or controversial EIA and presentation of results to the class: value 10%; a second group project resulting in a 1-2 page long briefing on the *Kincardine Deep Geologic Repository* and a mock mini-hearing: value 10%; a final exam (written answers): value 35%; and class participation - including the Professional Ethics Workshop: value 10%.

Evaluation Components	% Grade	Key Dates & Deadlines
Two in-class quizzes (multiple choice; 5% each)	10	Sept 25; Oct 23
Individual Project: Research Paper Group Project: Case-Study a. 300-word Summary b. Group	25	Oct 16

**Tentative Lectures and Readings:** Readings are from your course textbook: Hanna (2016). There will be additional assigned readings that will be uploaded to Blackboard or put on reserve at the library as they become available.

*Students should note that topics may span more than one lecture period.*

**September 11**

An overview of the course, expectations, and objectives

Assignments and exams

A quick look at the textbook

Introduction to EIA

The importance of EIA in Canadian environment and resource management

Key themes and definitions

EIA as a planning tool

Ch. 1 Kevin Hanna

The ideal influence and attributes of EIA

Rational planning and EIA

**September 18**

History and background of impact assessment in Canada

Ch. 2 Robert Gibson and Kevin Hanna

Formative events in Canadian EIA

Sustainability

Efficacy

The state of EIA influence

**September 25**

**Quiz #1 (start of class)**

Typical (ideal) stages in the EIA process, what happens at each stage?

Ch 1. Kevin Hanna (*Note: this topic can take more two hours to work through, depending on the level detail (i.e., class discussion) we go into*)

Key terms

What happens at each stage in the EIA process?

How does the generic model compare to our provincial and federal processes?

Different types of impact assessment (strategik6istory anm6Qnl-3( )862 Tf1 0 0 1 406.99 152.66 T

Baseline conditions, environmental attributes  
How do we identify impacts?  
Significance  
Strengths and weaknesses to techniques and tools

**October 02**

The challenge of strategic assessment  
Ch. 5 Bram Noble and Jill Gunn

How do we evaluate plans and policies?  
Method challenges  
Techniques of strategic assessment  
The state of strategic assessment in Canada

**October 09**

Thanksgiving Day - University closed

**October 16**

**Due: Research Paper on EIA Due: Res Due: Res**



<https://www.ontario.ca/page/environmental-assessments>

### **November 27**

EIA as resource planning. How EIA can function as a central planning tool: The example of Nunavut.

Ch. 8 Ginger Gibson, Lidsay Galbraith, and Alistair MacDonald

Ch. 11 D. Scott Slocombe, Lyn Hartley, and Meagan Noonan

Ch. 13 Ryan Barry, Sophia Granchincho, and Jeffery Rusk

EIA as the resource planning mechanism

A unique EIA system

The role of First Nations and traditional knowledge

Venues and setting

Harmonization

Screening, and that's all?

EIA as a 'green stamp of approval'?

### Readings (elective):

Simpson, L.B. 2014. Land as pedagogy: Nishnaabeg intelligence and rebellious transformation. Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society, Vol 3, 3, 1-25

Links to other works by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson:

<http://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/attawapiskat-revisited>

<http://leannesimpson.ca/writing/poetry-2/>

### **December 04**

**Due: Peer evaluations (mini-hearing)**

**Mini-Hearing Exercise**

Kincardine Deep Geologic Repository

# Assignments:

## (1) Individual Project: Term Paper (25%)

### **Critical Review of Canadian EIA Processes**

**Due: October 16** - You will submit a digital copy of your paper in Blackboard (Turnitin.com) and will hand in a hardcopy at the START of class.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

You are also required to submit a hardcopy of your paper at the start of class

Do not use plastic covers or any form of binder.

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

### **Paper submission requirements:**

Prepare a critical paper that describes and critiques the Environmental Impact Assessment systems in one Canadian jurisdiction. You may choose any province 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 chosen province.

Your paper should be no longer than 12 pages, double-spaced, excluding title page, reference list, and any figures or tables you wish to include. Take care to proofread your paper in order to correct any faulty grammar and punctuation. Marking will be based on merit/content, style, and organization.

Your paper must include a critical/analytical component as well as descriptive elements. 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?

Be sure to:

Use the APA reference format.

Use a minimum of 8 references



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

You must demonstrate that you are familiar with the current state of EIA in your chosen jurisdictions; for example:

has there been 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?

General criteria for assessment of your research paper include:

the quality of argument

use of referencing

accuracy of English

use of evidence to support conclusions

imagination and originality

## (2) Group Project: Case-study and Student Led Class Presentation/ Discussion (10%)

You can choose a controversial or relevant EIA topic (to be approved by the instructor) or you can choose from a list provided in Blackboard. Copies of the 'work plan' and 'peer evaluation' forms will be provided in Blackboard and must be completed by the due dates. Peer evaluation will be considered in the assessment of participation grade.

- a. Group Work Plan (submit a digital copy in Blackboard) due: Oct 30
- b. Summaries (300 words - submit a digital copy in Blackboard) due: Oct 30
- c. Student Led Class Discussions: Nov 06, 13
- d. Individual Peer Evaluation (submit a digital copy in Blackboard) due: Nov 20

## (3) Group Project: Mini-Hearing Exercise (10%)

The mock tribunal mini-hearing will be on the Kincardine Deep Geologic Repository. Students will be divided into two groups (one proponent and one opponent). Each group will be subdivided into four subgroups (geologic disposal site, cumulative effects, social impact and economic impact). Each subgroup will prepare a one to two-page summary/brief to be made available to everyone by November 20th (two weeks ahead of the hearing), and make a 5-10 minutes long presentation at the hearing on December 4th. Each group will have to discuss and defend their arguments during questioning from Counsel (Mr. Graham Rempe), Tribunal (Mandy Meriano), and public (the class).

- a. Group Work Plan (submit a digital copy in Blackboard) due: Nov 13
- b. Group Summaries/Briefs due: Nov 20
- c. Mini-hearing: Dec 04
- d. Individual Peer Evaluation (submit a digital copy in Blackboard): Dec 04

Details for the assignments will be discussed in class and distributed in Blackboard.

## **General Information about Your Term Work**

**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 for the case-studies, student led presentations/discussions, and mini-hearing will be graded by Prof. Meriano and the course TA. Your term paper will be graded by the TA. If you have a question or problem with the grade you receive, consult the professor or the TA. 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:** The late penalty is assessed as follows:



specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

## References for the sources of information, data, and text used in the course:

[Auditing Association of Canada](#)

[Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency](#)

Estrin, D. and Swaigen, J. 1993. *Environment on Trial: A Guide to Ontario Environmental Law and Policy*. 3rd ed. Toronto: Edmond Montgomery Publications Ltd.

Hanna, Kevin S. (Ed.) 2009. *Environmental Impact Assessment: Practice and Participation*. Oxford University Press, Toronto. pp. 467

Hanna, Kevin S. (Ed.) 2016. *Environmental Impact Assessment: Practice and Participation*. Oxford University Press, Toronto. pp. 488

Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal ([Journal](#))

[International Association for Impact Assessment](#) (IAIA)

Lindgren, R.D. Burgandy, D. 2010. Environmental Assessment in Ontario: Rhetoric vs. Reality, *Journal of Environmental Law and Practice*, 21(2), 279-303  
(<http://s.cela.ca/files/766.LindgrenDunnFinal.pdf>)