

Faculty of Management
Global Green MBA
DAMIA

Environmental Impact Assessment (209.8215)

Course Syllabus

Instructor:

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course description

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an important tool for public and private development and planning decisions toward creating a sustainable society. In this course, students learn EIA theories, processes, methods and regulations with several case studies.

EIA is used in a variety of ways in professional planning practice, including: (1) Evaluation of proposed state, regional and local comprehensive plans; (2) evaluation of proposed public and private development projects, and (3) evaluation of proposed government policies and programs.

This course takes an applied approach to environmental impact assessment (EIA), with an emphasis on both the regulatory context in which these laws are applied, as well as the techniques for conducting the assessments. The course explores the techniques for developing, preparing, and reviewing environmental impact assessments.

Course objectives

This course introduces students to the theory and methods of environmental impact assessment (EIA). The course objectives are to:

- Introduce students to the legal, economic, administrative and technical process of preparing and/or evaluating environmental impact documents.
- Gain a critical understanding of the use, strengths, and limitations of EIA; and
- Develop working familiarity with EIA methods and analytic techniques.

Course requirements and assessments

Students enrolled in the course are expected to:

- Attend class on a regular basis and actively participate.
- Read assigned readings and prepare for thoughtful engagement in class discussions.

- ☒ Prepare and present 1st assignment: Each student will shortly introduce his country's EIA system. This assignment will be presented to the class in a professional presentation format. Students should aim for a presentation that lasts 15-20 minutes.
- ☒ Prepare, present and submit 2nd assignment: Each student will prepare a review of an EIA report from his country, present it in class and submit it as a paper. The EIA report will be critically analyzed and assessed for its completeness, accuracy and usefulness for decision making. Some background of the report will also be provided: Why it was needed, what the assessment included, how it was conducted, what were its findings, and what have been its outcomes. This case study will be presented in a professional presentation format in the final week of class, and also submitted as a paper. Prior to the start of the 2nd assignment, students must suggest relevant EIA reports for the instructor's approval. Students should aim for a presentation that lasts 20-25 minutes. Papers should be 12-15 pages long, and include citations and attributions where appropriate. The paper is due at 15.5.17 by hard copy and electronically. No late assignments will be accepted.

Grading will be based on the following components:

- ☒ Class Attendance – 10%. Students are allowed 1 unexcused absence per period.
- ☒ Participation – 10%
- ☒ 1st assignment + presentation- 30%
- ☒ 2nd assignment + presentation – 50%

Course Syllabus

Week 1: Environmental impact assessment: Definition, purposes, history and basic concepts

Week 2: The legislation; procedural steps; examples of project alternatives

Week 3: Tools and techniques for screening, scoping and impact assessment

Week 4: public Involvement in EIA; case examples

Week 5: Students' presentation of 1st assignment

Week 6: Impact significance determination; impact mitigation

Week 7: EIA reporting; EIA review; decision making; monitoring and performance assessment; concluding thoughts

Week 8: Students' presentation of 2nd assignment

Suggested Readings

- 1) Bartlett, R. & P. Kurian. 1999. The Theory of Environmental Impact Assessment: Implicit Models of Policy Making. *Policy & Politics*, 27 (4): 415-43.
- 2) Canter, L. W. 1996. *Environmental Impact Assessment*. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.
- 3) Caratti, P, H. Dalkmann and R. Jiliberto. (eds.). 2004. *Analyzing strategic environmental assessment: Towards better decision-making*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.
- 4) Gilphin, A. 1995. *Environmental Impact Assessment: Cutting edge for the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge University Press.
- 5) Glasson, J., R. Therivel & A. Chadwick. 1999/2005. *Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment*. London: UCL Press.
- 6) Munier, N. 2004. *Multicriteria environmental assessment: A practical guide*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic publishers.
- 7) Weston, J. (ed.) 1997. *Planning and environmental impact assessment in practice*. Harlow, Essex, England: Longman.