

## **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 conceptual, 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:

- Read assigned readings

- ☒ Prepare and present 1<sup>st</sup> assignment: A short introduction of a selected EIA system. This assignment will be presented in a professional presentation format. Students should aim for a presentation that lasts 15 minutes.
- ☒ Prepare, present and submit 2<sup>nd</sup> assignment: Preparing a review of a selected EIA report, present it 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 hard copy. Prior to starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> assignment, students must suggest relevant EIA reports for my approval.

Additional details on the assignments will be provided separately.

Grading will be based on the following components:

- ☒ 1<sup>st</sup> assignment + presentation - 40%
- ☒ 2<sup>nd</sup> assignment + presentation – 60%

### **Time Table**

<b>Date</b>	
16.5	Lecture; 1 <sup>st</sup> Assignment – presentation by the lecturer
23.5.19	Lecture; 1 <sup>st</sup> Assignment – submission of pairs names
31.5.19	Lecture; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assignment - presentation by the lecturer
6.6.19	Lecture; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assignment - submission of team's names
13.6.19	1 <sup>st</sup> Assignment – presentation in class 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assignment - suggesting relevant EIA reports for my approval
20.6.19	Lecture; 1 <sup>st</sup> Assignment – submission of presentations electronically
27.6.19	Lecture
4.7.19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Assignment – presentation in class
18.7.19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Assignment – submission of presentations electronically, and submission of written reports electronically and as a hard copy

### **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) Gilpin, 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.