ABOUT THE COURSE
The aim of this course is to develop a broad understanding of the conceptual, operational and normative foundations of environmental impact assessment (EIA). The focus is on Canadian EIA.

APPROACH
Lectures will provide an overview of key topics and highlight important themes. Seminar sessions, drawing from assigned readings, will encourage students to contribute to the generation of a common critical understanding of selected issues in a discussion format. A group project will provide an opportunity to build on and strengthen the students’ understanding of the EIA process through an in-depth analysis of a current case study from Canada.

Participation is essential, both in lectures and seminars. Here you will learn the essentials of EIA required to prepare your report and assignments.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE COURSE
At the end of the course, you can expect to have acquired the following:

- Knowledge of environmental impact assessment procedures, techniques and issues in Canada
- An understanding of EIA as a technical process, a social process for environmental governance, and as a decision-making process
- Practical experience reviewing an EIA document
- Improved research, writing and critical thinking skills
- Understand the strengths and limitations of EIA in regard to environmental management
- Know the EIA frameworks and regulations that apply in Canada
- Know the format of an EIA Report (Environmental Impact Statement, or Environmental Statement)

TEXT BOOK AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Seminar readings will be available on the course website (Courselink). Additional readings will be assigned as appropriate and will be provided on the course website.
EVALUATION
This section briefly describes assignments and the final exam. Additional details for each component will be provided in separate handouts available on the course web site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Value (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group project</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar critique assignments (total: 4)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (take home)</td>
<td>30</td>
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Group Project Report
In a team of 3 students you will review the terms of reference of a case project and provide a report on how to perform an EIA on one environmental component. The marks assigned to the group project are divided between a draft report (worth 15 marks), a final report (worth 25 marks). Draft project reports are due in early March. Final project reports are due at the end of March.

A group self-evaluation process will be used to ensure that individual contributions to the group project are evaluated fairly. People who do not pull their own weight will not receive the full mark assigned to the project. The group self-evaluation process is described in a separate handout on the course web site. It must be handed in by each group member with the final report. A detailed overview of the assignment requirements will be provided on January 16.

Seminar Critique Assignments
Six discussion seminars will take place during selected class periods. Seminars will explore topics relating to the lectures and specific components of the environmental assessment process. For each seminar session, discussion topics and readings will be assigned in advance in the course web site.

In addition to participating actively in the seminar discussions, you must submit short critiques relating to the topics and discussions. Each critique is worth 7.5 marks. A critique for seminar 1 is mandatory. You must also submit at least three other critiques (total: 4 critiques). Critiques are due in the following class after each seminar. Late seminar critiques will not be accepted.

Final Exam
The final exam will be a take home exam. It will be made available on the first day of exams.