

BIOL*4500
Natural Resource Policy Analysis
Course outline

All of Ontario's Natural Resources are subject to management regulations, with formalized policies that describe management expectations and penalties if expectations are violated. This can apply to species of forests, lakes, streams and rivers. It can involve species or systems of economic value, or systems valued strictly for their natural heritage to the citizens of Ontario. A key challenge is balancing the cultural, economic and ecological factors that shape that population performance of all wildlife species in Ontario. This class will examine this dynamic, with five major objectives:

1. To understand **the content and objectives of wildlife policy** in Ontario, for a range of biota (flora and fauna) at a range of spatial resolutions (population to ecosystem).
2. To understand **the biology of managed species**, including how management activities affect the life history of these species.
3. To understand the **past history** of these species, communities, or ecosystems, including First Nations perspectives and how management practices past and present help explain current distributions, abundances, and vulnerability to extinction.
4. To understand the **enforcement** of policy, by government management agencies or other groups, how this enforcement is conducted, and whether it is affective
5. To **critically evaluate the weak links** in the current policies and their enforcement, and propose economically and environmentally viable solutions.

Instructor

Dr. Andrew MacDougall
Office: 2459 Sciences Building
Office Hours: by appointment

Pre-Requisites

Students must have completed all prerequisites as described in the UG Academic Calendar. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Meeting Times

T, Th 1-220 pm

Web Site

This course will make extensive use of the course website. Consequently, you are responsible for all posted information including announcements; please check regularly.

Course work

- This is a 4th year self-directed course, with combined individual and group work including leading a class presentation (a group debate, on a topic to be determined), an essay summarizing your side of the debate, an essay proposal, a final essay, and a final exam.
- Every individual in the class will be expected to attend all classes. The final exam will be short answer questions based exclusively on **ALL** material presented in class by the professor, by students, and by guest lecturers.
- **We will make all efforts to post lecture material on Courselink – however, please note that most presented material will not have accompanying powerpoint slides, emphasizing the critical importance of attending every class**
- If students need to miss a class, they must contact their classmates to obtain notes on materials presented in class – this will not be done by the professor.
- Class format: The class will have a series of scheduled milestones, culminating the submission of a final paper in March and the final exam in April. The sequence of milestones are as follows:
 - (1) formation of debate groups (~18 groups of four students)
 - (2) submission of research proposal for final essay
 - (3) presentation of debate and debate essay
 - (4) submission of final essay
 - (5) exam
- The research proposal is submitted after the first week of class – there will be one proposal for each student. No student can do the same species, ‘community’ (forest, wetland), and ecosystem (carbon storage) research topic (e.g., “management of old growth forest on Ontario crown lands”). **Every project must have a clear and strong connection to Ontario land management policy. Project with weak policy connections or on topics outside of Ontario are not permitted.**
- All debate presentations will be group based – all four members will stand in front of the class to present the work. Two group members will debate one side of the issue (5 minute presentation; three slides maximum, plus five minutes of rebuttal), the other two the opposing side. **Total debate time = 20 minutes, followed by in-class discussion.**
- Each group PAIR will pass in a 2 page summation of their debate topic, including key questions, arguments for their perspective, and relevant citations (minimum 5 citations).
- The final paper will be a maximum of 16 pages double-spaced. It should be formatted as follows:
 - Page 1: title, abstract of 200 words max., student name and number
 - Pages 2-17: double-spaced content, **with 12 point font and 1 inch margins on all sides**. Violation of this formatting will = deductions of 10% of your entire grade. You have been warned ☺. You can write less than 16 pages of content. You can use subheadings etc – the structure of the essay is up to you, as long as it’s clear and well--organized.
 - Pages 18-25 – citations and any figures or tables.

- EXAM: the exam will be ~10-15 short-answer questions, based on all student, guest, and professor presentations. All questions will be conceptual, rather than fact based. We will **not** ask how many dorsal fins are found on the endangered lace shiner. We will ask how the Ontario Species-At-Risk act is written to protect endangered fish, the typical enforcement efforts, and how these efforts are [or should be] shaped around the life history vulnerabilities of rare fish (or not).
- EVALUATION
 - GROUP DEBATE PRESENTATIONS: 25%
 - DEBATE ESSAY: 5%
 - FINAL ESSAY: 50%
 - EXAM: 20%
- We **will not** accept late assignments without documentation from your doctor or program counselor.
- The grading scale is detailed in the University of Guelph Undergraduate Calendar.
- Students who need accommodations because of a disability should speak to me during the first class meeting.
- The TA and instructor will share grading duties.
- **Copies of out-of-class assignments:** Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

COURSE SCHEDULE: PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE SOMEWHAT, DEPENDING ON AVAILBLE OF GUEST SPEAKERS

January 12	INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
January 14	LECTURE 1: POLICY OVERVIEW/WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY TOPIC
January 19	LECTURE 2: POLICY OVERVIEW/ WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY TOPIC
January 21	WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY TOPIC
January 26	WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY TOPIC: ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS
January 28	LECTURE 3: GUEST LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
February 2	DEBATE 4/ WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY
February 4	DEBATE 5/ WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY
February 9	LECTURE 4: GUEST LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
February 11	LECTURE 5: GUEST LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
February 16	SPRING BREAK
February 18	SPRING BREAK
February 23	DEBATE 6/ WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY
February 25	DEBATE 7/ WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY
March 1	DEBATE 8/ WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY
March 3	DEBATE 9/ WORKSHOP YOUR ESSAY
March 8	DEBATE 10
March 10	LECTURE 6: GUEST LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
March 15	DEBATE 11

March 17	DEBATE 12
March 22	DEBATE 13
March 24	DEBATE 14
March 29	DEBATE 15
March 31	DEBATE 16
April 5	DEBATE 17
April 7	DEBATE 18/ LAST DAY OF CLASS: ESSAY DUE
April 11	FINAL EXAM 7 pm-9 pm

Absence and Illness

If you are absent from classes during the semester, you will be expected to make up the missed lecture on your own. When an assignment is missed, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible. If requesting academic consideration on medical or compassionate grounds, be prepared to provide supporting documentation. Be sure to obtain a written statement of your revised grade evaluation from the instructor. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and expects all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Course Evaluation information

CCS now provides the U of G Online Course Evaluation System in a secure, online environment. End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions form part of the information used by Promotion and Tenure Committees in evaluating the faculty member's contributions in the area of teaching. Course evaluations are now conducted through this web site. Login with your central email account login ID and password.

https://courseeval.uoguelph.ca/CEVAL_LOGIN.php

Please Note:

Instructors do **NOT** receive evaluations until the end of exam period. Furthermore, evaluations are anonymous, unless you specifically indicate you want to acknowledge your comments.