

**MES Environmental Sciences Research Project
LEARNING CONTRACT
(ENVS*6500)**

Student Name:	
Project Title:	
Supervisor(s):	Second Reader ¹ :

¹The second readers must be a: faculty member, or postdoctoral fellow. The supervisor may come from outside of the School or the University, provided they obtain special graduate faculty status. The second reader should be able to evaluate and provide constructive criticism of the student’s final report. The second reader is to be provided with a copy of the learning contract, and at that time, they should be notified when to expect the report and due dates for submission of their grade.

Marking Scheme & Deadlines (use one additional page, if necessary)

Milestones or Research Objectives ²	% of final grade	Deadlines
1)		
2)		
3)		
4)		
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²For each Milestone/Research Objective include the expected output, e.g. draft of literature review, Lab or field performance, submission of lab and/or field data sets, and an anticipated deadline (if applicable). Please enlarge area as needed to accommodate additional Milestones/Research Objectives.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- In this course, the student will undertake an independent research project of a practical or theoretical nature that relates to environmental sciences and is conducted under the supervision of a faculty member-their advisor, or under the co-supervision of an external advisor outside of the University/SES and an SES faculty co-advisor.
- The project may include analysis of a data set (derived from lab, field, or computer simulation), or major, critical literature review. The data may come from a pre-existing source

or from measurements performed by the student.

- The length of the final report may vary, but it should be no more than 30 double-spaced pages including figures and tables.
- The students' advisory committee will consist two members: the faculty advisor and a second reader OR the external co-advisor and the faculty co-advisor in the event that the project is undertaken outside of the University/SES. Advisory committee members must be members of the graduate faculty. External advisors or postdocs can apply for special graduate faculty status as needed but the postdoc cannot be working under the supervision of the other advisory committee member.
- Students must make arrangements with a faculty advisor, within the first or second semester of their MES program. Although the summer semester is the most common time for students to carry out their research project, students may chose to start their project in their first or second semester. (*Students only register once for the course in the semester that they expect to submit their final report*).
- As a **1.0 credit** course over one semester, the student will be required to do, *on average*, approx. **20-24 hours** per week of independent work with some contact with your supervisor.
- *In addition to this learning contract, the faculty advisor or co-advisor will also fill out the advisory committee form and degree program form with the student. **All three documents should be submitted to Marie Vickery (graduate program assistant) by February 15, 2014.***

Important Dates and Grading Information:

- Due dates and marking scheme for all deliverables are to be determined between the student and the faculty advisor. While the deliverables will vary depending on the project, all students must make a presentation and submit a final report.
- The **faculty advisor is responsible for evaluating all materials submitted towards the final grade and for submitting the final grade.** Both the faculty advisor and second reader will evaluate the final report (numeric grade), which will be averaged to give a final grade for the report.
- The presentation will be graded by the advisor and one other faculty, and these marks will be averaged to provide a grade for the presentation.
- The final report will be submitted to the advisor and second reader at least four weeks prior to the end of the semester of submission to allow sufficient time for grading. Final presentations will be scheduled at the end of the semester in consultation with the student.

Signatures:

Student:	Advisor:	Second Reader ¹
Date:	Date:	Date:

¹ Second Reader will be the faculty co-advisor when a research project is undertaken outside of the University/SES.