

Environmental Evaluation and Assessment
Geography 286W – Spring 2008

Lecture 8-9:15 T/TH
CLAS 434

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12 and by appointment, CLAS 425

Course Description:

This course is designed as a practical, writing intensive introduction to environmental evaluation and assessment. The main foci of the course will be: 1) the proper preparation of Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements, and 2) the composition of environmental reports in a concise, clear, and professional manner. The course will examine the procedures and methods required to successfully complete these assessments, using the Canter text and selected supplementary readings as our primary resources. Much of the course will relate to one chosen case study of a proposed or in-progress action on or near the UCONN Storrs campus.

Course Objectives:

- To use an interdisciplinary approach to environmental evaluation and assessment
- To apply your specialist knowledge from your chosen concentration to a large, multi-faceted environmental assessment
- To use written and oral skills to clearly communicate complicated ideas to colleagues from varying scientific backgrounds
- To familiarize you with the policies and procedures relevant to many of the tasks performed by environmental professionals

Expectations of the Students:

Class Participation: In order to participate in class, you must be there. As a result, each student is expected, at the very least, to attend every scheduled class meeting (excluding documented emergencies, of course). In addition to being present, every student is expected to participate actively in section discussions, which will require knowledge of the day's topic. The best way to be prepared for discussion is to do the assigned readings **before** you come to class.

Writing Assignments: Each student will be responsible for several written projects throughout the semester. These assignments are due on the date indicated on the class schedule. Late assignments will be penalized by 10% each day past the due date.

Excused late assignments will be accepted without penalty *as long as you can provide documentation to prove why the paper is late.*

Final Project Assignment: Each student will write one SECTION of an Environmental Impact Assessment focusing on the class case study project. Ideally, each student should be able to choose the EIA section most appropriate to his/her interests and academic concentration. Some in-class time will be devoted to this project, but it is expected that you will have to do considerable work outside of class to properly complete this assignment.

Grading:

Class Participation	20%	Exam 1	20%
Final Project Report	40%	Final Exam	20%

“W” Component: To satisfy the “W” course requirement, you must complete *at least* 15 typed, double-spaced pages of finished written work that is evaluated by the instructor and then re-written. A student will not pass this course if he/she does not pass the “W” component of this course.

Grading System

94-100	A	73-75.9	C
90-93.9	A-	70-72.9	C-
86-89.9	B+	66-69.9	D+
83-85.9	B	63-65.9	D
80-82.9	B-	60-62.9	D-
76-79.9	C+	Below 60	F

Readings:

- OPTIONAL TEXTBOOK: Canter, L.W. Environmental Impact Assessment, second edition. ISBN: 0070097674. (I encourage you to look on Amazon.com, ecampus.com, etc. to find cheap used copies – this is a pricey book otherwise)
- Additional readings bulleted below lecture/discussion topics

Course Assignment/Reading Schedule

Tuesday January 22	Course Introduction
Thursday January 24	Writing Exercises
Tuesday January 29	NEPA and the History of the Environmental Impact Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canter: Ch 1
Thursday January 31	Writing Exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paragraph homework due
Tuesday February 5	Environmental Assessment and Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canter: Ch 2 and 3
Thursday February 7	Tool Exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canter: Ch 2 and 3
Tuesday February 12	Environmental Indicators and Descriptors Introduction to case study project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canter: Ch 4 and 5
Thursday February 14	***Case study site visit*** <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Case Study Handout
Tuesday February 19	No Class
Thursday February 21	No Class
Tuesday February 26	Socio-economic Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canter Ch: 14
Thursday February 28	Cultural, Visual and Noise Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canter: Ch 9, 12 and 13
Tuesday March 4	Traffic Exam Review
Thursday March 6	Exam 1
Tuesday March 11	Spring Break
Thursday March 13	Spring Break
Tuesday March 18	Exam Return and Project Work

Thursday March 20	Air, Soils and Geology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canter: Ch 6
Tuesday March 25	Soil Surveys and Case Study Activity
Thursday March 27	Surface Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canter Ch: 7
Tuesday April 1	Surface Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canter Ch: 7
Thursday April 3	Groundwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canter: Ch 8
Tuesday April 8	Biological Systems and Habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canter: Ch 10 and 11
Thursday April 10	Cumulative Impacts, Evaluation of Impacts, Decision Making, Alternatives and Public Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canter: Ch 15 and 16
Tuesday April 15	NO CLASS
Thursday April 17	NO CLASS
Tuesday April 22	Presentations
Thursday April 24	Presentations
Tuesday April 29	Presentations
Thursday May 1	Presentations Exam Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FINAL DRAFT OF PROJECT DUE