



ENVS*6501 - Integrating Science and Policy in Environmental Science

Fall 2026 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

A case-study approach, based on current and historical issues, and involving presentations from faculty, professionals and students, will be used to develop an advanced understanding of current issues in the environmental sciences, including examination of the underlying science and management of the issues, and the effectiveness of associated policies.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Master of Environmental Science and Master of Toxicology students.

Department(s): School of Environmental Sciences

Lecture Schedule

Mon 8:30am-11:20am in MCKN*234 (9/10 to 12/22)

Instructor Information

Ryan Prosser

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James Longstaffe

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Learning Resources

Course Resources

Course notes and assignments will be posted on the course link site.

Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

Delete these instructions: Include the itemized cost of all textbooks and learning resources required or recommended for this course. If there are no costs for textbooks or learning resources indicate that here as well. To add a row in the table, go to the bottom right cell of the table and press 'tab'.

Textbook / Learning Resource	Required / Recommended	Cost
An Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy	Recommended	\$102



Students are advised that prices are often determined by the publisher or bookstore and may be subject to change.

Course Level Learning Outcomes

1. *Professional and Ethical Behaviour.* You will be exposed to group work, where professional and ethical behavior should prevail while delivering the course requirements.
2. *Communicating.* You will be challenged to communicate complex ideas in written, oral and multimedia platforms
3. *Literacy.* The students will continue to develop their literacy skills through reading policy -related paper to understand global issues. You will continue to develop your literacy skills through the preparation of short discussion papers that will require research and communication skills.
4. *Critical and Creative Thinking.* This learning outcome will be addressed through the written work and students' independent ability to think and develop problem solving frameworks in order to inform policy.
5. *Global Understanding.* Throughout the course, you will be challenged to think about environmental and policy problems that span the globe.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Weekly Activities

Week 1(Sept 14): Introduction/ Wicked Problems/ Post-Norma Science/ Place in environments policy development

Week 2 (Sept 21): Environmental Law in Canada / MES IDP presentation

Week 3 (Sept 28): Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Involvement in Environmental Policy

Week 4 (Oct 5): International Policy/ Protection Regimes and Regulatory Tools

Week 5 (Oct 12): Thanksgiving

Week 6 (Oct 19): Land-use Planning and Management

Week 7 (Oct 26) Interface Between Science & Policy

Week 8 (Nov 2) Group Work on Systematic Map Protocol

Week 9 (Nov 9) Group Work on Systematic Map Protocol

Week 10 (Nov 16) Group Work on Systematic Map

Week 11 (Nov 23) Group Work on Systematic Map

Week 12 (Nov 30) Group Presentations on Systematic Map

Week 13: (Dec 7) Group Presentations of Systematic Map

Assessment Breakdown

{NOTE: instructor can add another row by hitting "TAB" button when they are at the end of the row}

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Discussion Question 1	15%	September 21
Discussion Question 2	17.5%	October 5
Discussion Question 3	17.5%	October 26
Systematic Map Protocol	15%	November 16
Presentation of Systematic Map	15%	December 2 & 6
Systematic Map	20%	December 15

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Fall 2026 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: December 04

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

Course Grading Policies

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are due in the appropriate course link dropbox by the required due date.

Late Assignment

Please notify the instructor if you will need an extension on an assignment. Assignments submitted after the posted due date will be deducted by 25% unless an extension has been assigned.

Standard Statements for Graduate Courses

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of 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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Graduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 business days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodation of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>)

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.

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/registration/>) dropping courses are available in the Graduate Calendar (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/registration/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigation/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing



resources. (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year>) The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Graduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/grounds-academic-consideration/>).