

Course Outline - Environmental Responsibilities & the Law ENVR 3160

Lecture: Wed. 5:30pm – 8:30pm
Room: 221 Wallace Building
Instructor: Leanne Shewchuk
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Course Outline:

This course investigates the concept of environmental responsibility, the sources of that responsibility within Canadian society and the tools available to manage it. It is intended to provide students with an understanding of environmental responsibilities within a 21st century context. Responsibilities derived from the Canadian legal system and key pieces of legislation are explored. The concepts of environmental liability and due diligence are reviewed in relation to the responsibilities of organizations (government/non-government), corporations, and individuals. The topic is investigated through lectures, case studies, assignments and class discussion.

Course Description:

The issue of environmental responsibility has been growing in importance and complexity over the past decade. This course explores the ideas of environmental responsibility and liability at a conceptual level and how these concepts are being applied in Canadian society as well as internationally.

Several questions are considered:

- What is environmental responsibility?
- What does environmental responsibility mean to society as a whole and how is it being interpreted by government, corporations, non-government organizations, environmental practitioners and others?
- What are the sources of environmental responsibility?
- What forces are influencing environmental responsibility and what is the nature of those forces?
- What tools are available to manage responsibility, how are they being applied, and what are the benefits and limitations of each?

In the process of exploring the concept of environmental responsibility, the course will provide basic awareness of environmental issues, legislation, policies and guidelines, liabilities, due diligence, enforcement and environmental management. Sources of environmental responsibility and liability will be discussed through examples drawn from legislation, standards and guidelines, codes of conduct and policy. Other sources of responsibility such as professional ethics will also be considered. Strategies and mechanisms to manage environmental liabilities such as risk assessment, environmental impact assessment, audits, site assessment, management systems, and triple bottom line reporting are reviewed. Case studies are reviewed to show the implications of non-

compliance and other risks, how environmental issues are managed, and the benefits of environmental management strategies.

The course is broken into 3 components

1 – overview of environmental responsibilities and sources of responsibility

2 –environmental liabilities

3 – environmental issues and management strategies

Course Materials:

There are no required textbooks for the course. Various references will be provided electronically. Students are expected to use libraries, the media, the Internet and other sources to obtain materials for use during the course.

Comments:

E-mail: Additional reference materials, lecture schedule, exam dates, etc. will be provided during class and electronically.

Grading Scheme:

Assignments (1 - two part assignment)	35%
In-Class Tests (3 tests)	55%
Class Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

Expectations:

Full attendance is recommended. Punctuality is greatly appreciated. Advanced reading, taking notes during class and summarizing notes are strongly recommended. Outside reading on environmental responsibilities and related issues is expected. Use of additional material is encouraged to augment lectures and for assignments. Environment Canada, Manitoba Conservation and other websites as well as newspapers, magazines, etc. should be used as sources of current environmental information. Students are expected to raise relevant questions during class, participate during class discussions and present results of their assignments to the class.

Your university email account will be used for all official communications, including messages from your instructors, department or faculty, academic advisors, and other administrative offices. http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/email_policy/

Assignments:

Assignment topics will be provided in class and will be based on current environmental issues. Information on the topics is generally available from a variety of accessible resources. Every student is required to submit all assignments. Failure to submit an assignment will result in a mark of zero on that assignment. The course instructor reserves the right to reschedule the due date, assign an alternate assignment or

redistribute the percentage distribution between remaining assignments and or exam for those students who have a valid reason for not completing an assignment. Assignments submitted late without special permission in advance will have the grade reduced by 10% per day. **The final assignment will be due in the last 2 weeks of class.**

In-Class Tests:

Failure to write scheduled tests without a valid medical certificate (original) or compassionate reason (e.g. death of an immediate family member) will normally result in a mark of zero on that test. The course instructor reserves the right to reschedule a mid-test, assign an alternate assignment or redistribute the percentage distribution between remaining assignments and or exam for those students who have a valid reason for not writing. In cases where there is a valid medical certificate or compassionate reason, the instructor may prorate the value for the test over the balance of the grades available. **The final test will occur on the last day of classes and will be worth 20%.**

Evaluative Feedback:

All marks will be posted on Aurora. Let your instructor know immediately if you believe that there has been a marking error. Evaluative feedback will be provided by the voluntary withdrawal date for this course, which is November 12, 2014.

Final Grade:

A total mark of less than 50% in the course will result in a grade of **F**. Marks between 50% and 100% will be graded from **D** to **A+**. Assignments and tests will be graded and recorded as a percentage. The final letter grade will be assigned based on the total percentage marks.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage
F	0%- 49%	B	70%-74%
D	50%-59%	B+	75%-79%
C	60%-64%	A	80%-89%
C+	65%-69%	A+	90%-100%

Plagiarism:

The copying of another student's assignment (or an instructor's answer sheet from a previous year) or the submission of the same material for two or more courses is plagiarism. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are prohibited. The full definition of plagiarism and the possible penalties associated with it are outlined in the General Calendar. If your submitted assignment contains material you have copied from another source (e.g. parts of another person's assignment, or from a textbook, or from the published literature) you must give proper credit to that source.