

**REM 646: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
Fall 2014**

Instructor: Murray Rutherford; Phone (778) 782-4690; Email <mbr@sfu.ca>

Seminars: Monday 3:30 – 5:20 PM; Tuesday 4:30-6:20 PM.

(Class times may be adjusted to accommodate visiting speakers, field trips, and class assignments. Some classes may be held at SFU Harbour Centre.)

Office hours: Tuesday 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. **Office:** TASC1 8429

This course provides an introduction to the theory and methods of environmental and social impact assessment, and to environmental management systems such as those specified by the International Standards Association (ISO 14,000). The class will:

- 1) Review the principal impact assessment methodologies commonly associated with resource and industrial development, transportation, public utilities, regional planning, and policy analysis;
- 2) Review federal and provincial institutional arrangements and assessment strategies designed to estimate, ameliorate, and provide compensation for adverse impacts;
- 3) Review specific environmental management systems, including the ISO 14,000 standards;
- 4) Evaluate selected impact assessment and environmental management programs;
- 5) Conduct a scoping exercise for an impact assessment problem.

After completing the course, you should have a good understanding of how to organize and conduct an impact assessment of a proposed project, program, plan, policy, or new technology. You should also understand how environmental management systems work. You will be able to critically evaluate these approaches to environmental decision-making, drawing on specific literature about impact assessment and environmental management systems, and broader theory from the policy literature.

Format:

The course will be conducted as a seminar with emphasis on class discussion. Guest lecturers will be invited to speak and lead discussions about case studies that demonstrate the application of impact assessment methods and environmental management systems. The class may also include one or more field trips to examine approaches to environmental management and mitigation in practice.

Assignments/Grading:

- 1) Students will prepare and present to the class an overview and evaluation of a specific tool or methodology used in impact assessment. (15% of the final grade)
- 2) Students will prepare an evaluative case study of an impact assessment conducted under a procedure mandated by government or an international financial or development organization. This case study may be from Canada or any other jurisdiction in the world. The case study will be presented to the class and submitted in a brief written report. (20% of the final grade)

- 3) Working in groups, students will prepare and present to the class an overview and critique of a specific type of environmental management system. (15% of the final grade)
- 4) Working in groups, students will select a proposed or hypothetical project and conduct a scoping exercise for an EIA/SIA. The scoping report will be presented to the class and submitted in a brief written report. (30% of the final grade)
- 5) Class participation and field trip attendance. (20% of the final grade)

Required Textbook: Hanna, K.S. (ed.). 2009. *Environmental Impact Assessment: Practice and Participation*. Second Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press. (On order at the SFU Bookstore)

In addition to the required text, I will assign readings for specific seminars.