RENR 307 / RRMT 238

Environmental Assessment Principles and Methods / Environmental Protection and Impact Assessment

In Winter 2025, RRMT238, *Environmental Protection and Impact Assessment* is being offered at Yukon University concurrent with the University of Alberta's RENR307, *Environmental Assessment Principles and Methods*, as part of the Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences, B.Sc. Program. All students registered in RRMT238 or RENR307 must adhere to requirements outlined in this course outline. University of Alberta students must also be aware of, and adhere to, the University's Code of Student Behaviour, referenced in the outline; Yukon University students must be aware of, and adhere to, YukonU's Academic Regulations, also referenced in the outline.

INSTRUCTOR: Robin Mennell and Nicole Eriks

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

OFFICE LOCATION: N/A

TELEPHONE/E-MAIL: Robin Mennell: robin.mennell@yesab.ca

Nicole Eriks: nicole.eriks@yesab.ca

Please ensure both instructors are included in all emails.

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Tues & Thurs 4:00 – 5:30 pm and synchronously online if requested.

CLASS LOCATION: A2601

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of environmental protection in Canada and focuses on the assessment and mitigation of impact through environmental impact assessments. It is a second-year course and expectations are set accordingly. Students are assumed to have taken other university-level courses in addition to prerequisites.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

For students taking the course as RRMT 238 at YukonU
Prerequisite(s): ENGL 100 and second-year standing.
For students taking the course as RENR 307: Registration in Yukon University/University of Alberta B.Sc. in Environmental and Conservation Sciences degree program.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Receiving institutions determine course transferability. Find further information at: https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit.

Students in the B.Sc. ENCS program should contact an ENCS advisor if they have questions about equivalency or transferability of this course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand the history and continuing evolution of assessment process within the framework of the Umbrella Final Agreement and other final agreements,
- understand the reasons for conducting assessments,
- understand assessment timelines and process,
- be aware of opportunities for public participation and public engagement in the process and
- understand what information is required, determining the relevance and validity of information and incorporating information into assessments.

COURSE FORMAT

The course consists of two 1.5-hour lectures per week. It is expected that this course will require 4 - 5 hours per week of homework and/or additional reading, however this time will vary by individual.

Students planning to take this course are required to have access to a computer with internet. It is the student's responsibility to be able to access course materials via YukonU's Moodle system and/or use Zoom video conferencing platform.

Delivery format

This course will be delivered in person, however, lectures may be available remotely if requested in advance. Some material will be assigned on Moodle. Students are expected to attend every face-to-face lecture. Copies of slides provided on Moodle are intended as supplementary, not to replace attending lectures. Students are expected to participate in discussions, engage in lecture materials, have readings completed ahead of time, and ask

researched questions of guest speakers regardless of whether they attend in person or remotely.

EVALUATION

The course grade will be determined as follows:

	Percent
Assignments (5 total, best 4 will be counted at 7.5 % each)	30%
Student Presentation	10%
Participation - Readings discussions (5%) - In-class exercises (5%) - Guest speaker preparation (5%)	15%
Final Project	45%

Due Dates

In case of late submissions, contact instructors at least 24 hours in advance for extension requests, failure to notify instructors ahead of due date will result in a 10% deduction per day for a maximum of five days before assignments will no longer be accepted.

Participation

Participation will be worth a total of 15% of the final grade and is described as follows:

Questions to invited speakers

Students are expected to be prepared to attend the presentation by the invited speakers by preparing two questions for the invited speaker. The questions should be submitted on Moodle or by email to both instructors prior to the lecture. These questions will be worth 5% of the total participation mark.

Readings and discussions

A series of assigned reading will be available each week in Moodle. Students are expected to read the provided material before each lecture and come prepared for small group discussions. Participation in class discussions will be worth 5% of the total participation mark.

In-class exercises

The course will incorporate a series of in-class exercises in addition to lectures to help students use critical thinking skills in an IA context. Participation in these exercises will be worth 5% of the total participation mark.

Assignments

Five assignments will be due throughout the course. The assignment with the lowest mark will be dropped making each of the four assignments with the highest grade worth 7.5%.

Assignments will be worth a total of 30% of the final grade. Assignments will be handed in on Moodle by **midnight of the Thursday** the week they are due.

Presentation

An **in-class presentation** will be due the **week of March 18**. Students will be given their presentation date of either March 18 or March 20 in advance by the end of week 8. The presentation is worth 10% of the final grade.

Final Project

The **final project** is due **April 17th, 2025 at midnight** in Moodle**.** The final project is worth 45% of the total grade.

Exams

There will be no formal written examinations for the course. The course consists of a total of 5 assignments, an in-class presentation, and a final project.

ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES

The total numerical score will be converted to a letter grade on Yukon University's letter grading system. See Academic Regulations.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

The last date to drop a course without academic penalty is March 13, 2025 in the YukonU system. https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Students registered in RENR 307 should refer to the UAlberta calendar for important dates (calendar.ualberta.ca).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS

There are no required textbooks for the course, students will be supplied with reading materials and other resources using the Moodle platform.
Please check regularly for updates on the Yukon University's Moodle site https://www.yukonu.ca/ under "My Courses".

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Yukon University Academic Standards and Regulations

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to YukonU Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

University of Alberta Academic Integrity and Code of Student Behaviour

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students at the University of Alberta are subject to the Code of Student Behaviour, as outlined at: http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx Please familiarize yourself with it and ensure that you do not participate in any inappropriate behavior as defined by the Code. Key components of the code include the following statements.

30.3.2(1) No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) c. No Student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student's own work.

PROFESSIONALISM AND CLASSROOM RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Students are expected to attend lectures and engaged in material, including being respectful and prepared for presentations by guest speakers. Please do not use cellular phones during class. Laptops are permitted for note taking and in-class work; however, please do not use laptops in class for non-class-related activities. While in computer labs,

students are expected to refrain from using the computers to engage in non-class-related activities.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No electronic devices are permitted during exams or tests, only non-programmable calculators are permitted.

RECORDING OF LECTURES, LABS, ETC.

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Please note that some classes may be recorded using web conferencing software, and links to recordings may be posted on the class website.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services (https://www.yukonu.ca/student-life/learning-matters/accessibility-services) for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE AND DATES

A general outline of course topics for each week is summarized below. Reading links and details will be posted weekly on Moodle.

WEEK	DATES	TOPIC
Week 1	January 7 and 9	Course Introduction
Week 2	January 14 and 16	What is IA, IA in Canada
Week 3	January 21 and 23	Assessments and the Yukon Context
Week 4	January 28 and 30	Assessments and the Yukon Context Continued **Assignment 1 Due (January 30)**
Week 5	February 4 and 6	YESAB Today – Frameworks
Week 6	February 11 and 13	VESEC Scoping and Case Study **Assignment 2 Due (February 13)**
Week 7	**February 18 and 20**	**READING BREAK – NO CLASSES**
Week 8	February 25 and 27	Impact Characterization **Assignment 3 Due (February 27)**
Week 9	March 4 and 6	Cumulative Effects Assessment **Assignment 4 Due (March 6)**
Week 10	March 11 and 13	Mitigations
Week 11	**March 18 and 20**	Climate Change and Assessment **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**
Week 12	March 25 and 27	Final Recommendations and Decision-Making **Assignment 5 Due (March 27)**
Week 13	April 1 and April 3	Monitoring, Land-Use Planning and the Future of IA
Week 14	April 8 and 11	**NO CLASSES** Office hours for final projects
Week 15	**April 17**	**FINAL PROJECT DUE**