

EVSP415

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : EVSP415 **Title :** Environmental Impact Assessment

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This course focuses on the processes, tools, and techniques used to analyze environmental problems, establish state and federal standards, develop environmental impact statements, and make decisions regarding the environment. Students will analyze actual problems, study real environmental impact cases, and learn to use various environmental impact methodologies.

Course Scope:

Students of this course will focus on the processes, tools, and techniques used to analyze environmental problems, establish state and federal standards, develop environmental impact statements, and make decisions regarding the environment to determine the appropriate NEPA pathway/documentation (*i.e.*, categorical exclusion, environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement). Students will develop an environmental assessment beginning with a purpose/need for an action, generate alternatives to complete the needed action and address the environmental (natural, cultural, socio-economic, human health and safety, etc.) consequences of each alternative, including the “No Action” alternative.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

LO-1 Perform an environmental impact assessment.

LO-2 Articulate an awareness of the professional standards, including ethical issues, involved in assessing environmental impacts.

LO-3 Demonstrate comprehension of the concept of alternative courses of action that should be included in an environmental impact assessment, and the reason that alternatives are included.

LO-4 Define the legal requirements that affect the scope of an environmental impact assessment.

LO-5 Explain the important role of stakeholders and the value of working with them.

Outline

Week 1: I. Introduction to EVSP415; Foundation; Basic Concepts; National Environmental Policy Act. II. Environmental Documents and Processing

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Perform an environmental impact assessment.

LO-2 Articulate an awareness of the professional standards, including ethical issues, involved in assessing environmental impacts.

Readings

Marriott Chapters 1 & 2

Assignments

Forum 1

Written assignment

Week 2: I. Scoping and Agency Coordination II. Alternatives

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Perform an environmental impact assessment.

LO-3 Demonstrate comprehension of the concept of alternative courses of action that should be included in an environmental impact assessment, and the reason that alternatives are included.

Readings

Marriott Chapters 3 & 4

Assignments

Forum 2

Written assignment

Week 3: Forum #2 Submit written assignment Week 2 for your “Virtual EA”

Learning Objectives

LO-3 Demonstrate comprehension of the concept of alternative courses of action that should be included in an environmental impact assessment, and the reason that alternatives are included.

LO-5 Explain the important role of stakeholders and the value of working with them.

Readings

Marriott Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8

Assignments

Forum 3

Written assignment

Week 4: I. Traffic and Transportation; Section 4(f); Energy II. Historic and Archeological Resources; Visual Resources

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Perform an environmental impact assessment.

LO-2 Articulate an awareness of the professional standards, including ethical issues, involved in assessing environmental impacts.

LO-3 Demonstrate comprehension of the concept of alternative courses of action that should be included in an environmental impact assessment, and the reason that alternatives are included.

Readings

Marriott Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13

Assignments

Forum 4

Written assignment

Midterm assessment

Week 5: I. Air Quality II. Noise; Environmental Health and Public Safety

Learning Objectives

LO-6 Analyze the basic types of impacts and potentially impacted resources that must be considered.

Readings

Marriott Chapters 14, 15, & 17

Assignments

Forum 5

Written assignment

Week 6: Geology and Soils; Water Resources

Learning Objectives

LO-6 Analyze the basic types of impacts and potentially impacted resources that must be considered.

Readings

Marriott Chapters 16 & 18

Assignments

Forum 6

Written assignment

Week 7: I. Floodplains and Coastal Areas II. Wetlands

Learning Objectives

LO-6 Analyze the basic types of impacts and potentially impacted resources that must be considered.

Readings

Marriott Chapters 19 & 20

Assignments

Forum 7

Written assignment

Week 8: FINAL WEEK I. Vegetation and Wildlife II. Comparative Evaluation

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Perform an environmental impact assessment.

LO-2 Articulate an awareness of the professional standards, including ethical issues, involved in assessing environmental impacts.

LO-3 Demonstrate comprehension of the concept of alternative courses of action that should be included in an environmental impact assessment, and the reason that alternatives are included.

LO-4 Define the legal requirements that affect the scope of an environmental impact assessment.

LO-5 Explain the important role of stakeholders and the value of working with them.

LO-6 Analyze the basic types of impacts and potentially impacted resources that must be considered.

Readings

Marriott Chapters 21 & 22

Assignments

Forum 8

Final assessment

Evaluation

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	24.00 %
Forum 1	3.00 %
Forum 2	3.00 %

Forum 3	3.00 %
Forum 4	3.00 %
Forum 5	3.00 %
Forum 6	3.00 %
Forum 7	3.00 %
Forum 8	3.00 %
Written Assignments	56.00 %
Assignment 1	7.00 %
Assignment 2	7.00 %
Assignment 3	7.00 %
Assignment 4	7.00 %
Assignment 5	7.00 %
Assignment 6	7.00 %
Assignment 7	7.00 %
Assignment 8	7.00 %
Assessments	20.00 %
Midterm Assessment	10.00 %
Final Assessment	10.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Environmental Impact Assessment: A Practical Guide - The VitalSource eBook will be provided through the APUS Bookstore

Author: Marriott, Betty

Publication Info: McGraw-Hill

ISBN: 9780070404106

Book Title: You must validate your cart to get access to your VitalSource e-book(s). If needed, instructions are available here - <http://apus.libguides.com/bookstore/undergraduate>

Author: N/A

Publication Info: N/A

ISBN: N/A

Required Readings

See the Lessons section of the classroom for additional readings and weekly lecture notes

Additional Resources: Please go to the program guides in the APUS Library for additional resources:

- Environmental Science: http://apus.libguides.com/environmental_science

Software Requirements

- Microsoft Office (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint) - American Public University System provides Microsoft Office 365 to AMU/APU students and faculty at no cost
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 15% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the

more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.

- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
 - As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
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University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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