

ENVS 5100 INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC)

Time and Location

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 11:20 p.m. starting Sept. 12, 2023.

The “plenary” for all students will be held in person in HNES 140.

From 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. each Tuesday, students will meet in small-group advising sessions with their advisors – details and locations for these advising group meetings will be discussed in class.

Course Director

Ellie Perkins – esperk@yorku.ca

Office Hours

Tuesdays 12:30 – 1:30 in HNES 246, or by appointment (in person, by email, phone or zoom as arranged).

Course Description:

This course introduces incoming MES students to a broad range of debates and interdisciplinary perspectives in Environmental Studies as a basis for the preparation of their Initial Plan of Study.

ENVS 5100 is the mandatory core course for all incoming MES students. It is the only course that all students take together and it is not like any other course in its structure and goals.

Purpose of Course:

In this course, students are introduced to concepts, theories, practical skills and research methods that are considered core to interdisciplinary environmental studies. The knowledge and tools acquired through this course will enable each student to prepare their initial Plan of Study (PoS), which maps out the evolving framework for completing their Master in Environmental Studies (MES) degree. Students will engage in a range of activities, including discussion-based seminars, guest lectures, peer group activities and small group advising sessions, all directed at facilitating the development of each student’s PoS. These goals and activities will be supported by weekly guests including faculty members, students, alumni, and featured scholars, artists and activists. The class will read the work of environmental studies colleagues, many of whom will visit in person to discuss their current and ongoing research. This year the faculty members will focus on connecting their theoretical frameworks and research methodologies specifically to action-oriented social justice and social change in their field. Each week the final hour of class is devoted to small group advising sessions with faculty advisors, to support the writing and development of each student’s PoS.

As an interdisciplinary graduate program, the MES degree encourages unique and imaginative approaches to research, and creativity in addressing environmental issues. With this freedom to design your own MES program comes an opportunity to engage in unconventional methods of research and many forms of inspired graduate work, including informed environmental activism, combining rigorous scholarship with creative action.

Course Objectives

Through the Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental Studies course, students will:

- gain understanding and core knowledge of interdisciplinary environmental studies;
- learn and practice skills that are fundamental to graduate research in interdisciplinary environmental studies;
- become acquainted with theoretical frameworks, research approaches and methodologies of faculty members in the MES program, to help inform subsequent supervisory options;
- develop their own Plan of Study;
- begin to articulate their major research topic, questions, and approach through the development of an annotated bibliography;
- meet other students and engage in mutual support and learning.

Course Requirements

The MES degree obliges students to think about and to do research, so this course introduces incoming MES students to significant aspects of the process of doing research in environmental studies. Students will:

- participate in all weekly seminars in order to gain an understanding of the research process, and to integrate this understanding with their Initial PoS;
- draft sections of the PoS and, as they are required, submit these to their faculty advisor in advance of advising sessions (Note: Advisors may not all follow the same schedule; please discuss in your group advising sessions how to best utilize the plan of study schedule and assignments).
- Develop an annotated bibliography, drawing from assigned readings in this course, other courses and independent reading related to your PoS Area of Concentration, to serve as the basis for your initial Main Currents of Thought/Practice section of your PoS.

All students must also:

- Review all of the (SPARK Student Papers and Academic Research Kit) Modules on academic integrity at <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>
- submit your initial Plan of Study by November 1st in preparation for a MES I-II Examination before the end of the Winter term.

Evaluation

To achieve a Pass in this course, you must submit an Initial Plan of Study that is accepted as satisfactory by your Faculty Advisor (due Nov 1st) and a final annotated bibliography (graded on a Pass/Fail basis) due Dec 6th.

Required Materials

Weekly assigned readings will provide students with an introduction to research methodologies and theoretical approaches in interdisciplinary environmental studies, and to applications of environmental studies research.

In addition, students are encouraged to become familiar with resources such as SPARK –the Student Papers and Academic Research Kit at <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/> and the Sage Research Methods online material at <https://methods-sagepub-com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/> (including the Sage Project Planner) at <https://methods-sagepub-com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/project-planner> -- available via the York University Library.

Students are encouraged to download Zotero or employ another citation management software (Endnote and Mendeley are other examples). Zotero is available through the York University Library at <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/creating-bibliographies-zotero/>

Technical requirements

Here are some useful links for student computing information and resources:

[Student Guide to E-Class](#)

[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)

[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

The full weekly outline of topics and readings will be distributed at the first class and sent to all students. The schedule for the first two weeks is below, along with the due dates for sections of the Plan of Study, and the list of MES advisors this year with the rooms where their Advising Groups will be meeting (11:30 – 12:20 on Tuesdays).

Academic Honesty

York students are required to maintain high standard of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty as set out by York University and by the Faculty of Environmental Studies.

Please read the *Senate Policy on Academic Honesty* (which can be found as Appendix One of the *Academic Regulations of the Faculty of Environmental Studies* or in the University Policies and Regulations section of the *York University Undergraduate Programs Calendar*), available at:

<https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

Students are expected to review the materials related to Academic Integrity on the Spark website at: <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

Access/Disability

York provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. It is the student's responsibility to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice. *You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs.* Failure to make these arrangements may jeopardize your opportunity to receive academic accommodations.

Additional information is available at <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca>

Week/ Date	Weekly Theme	Weekly Assignments
1 Sep 12	<p>Introduction (and course overview)</p> <p>Liette Gilbert, Graduate Program Director – MES options: planning program; MES/JD, MES diplomas (Environmental & Sustainability Education; Business & Environment); Footprint Initiative</p> <p>Footprint Initiative: Eric Miller, Flor Gomez, and Peri Dworatzak, 10:30</p>	<p>Read: MES Program <u>Handbook</u></p> <p>and Plan of Study information on the EUC website: https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/environmental-studies/current-students/degree-requirements/#mes</p> <p>Review Footprint Initiative website: https://footprint.info.yorku.ca/</p>
2 Sep 19	<p>Plan of Study Exercises</p> <p>Claire Hooker, Visiting Scholar, 10:15 Art, Health, Risk and Disasters</p> <p>Luisa Sotomayor, 10:45</p>	<p>Readings and exercises to come (in class)</p> <p>Hooker, C. and Hooker, G. (2022), “Expertise, a framework for our most characteristic asset and most basic inequality.” <i>Spontaneous Generations</i>, 10, 1, 27-35. DOI: https://doi.org/10.4245/spongen.v10i1.38196</p> <p>Luisa Sotomayor & Corals Zheng (2023, ahead of print), “Who Drinks Bubble Tea? Coethnic Studentification in Toronto’s Chinatown”. <i>Housing Policy Debate</i>, DOI: 10.1080/10511482.2023.2192190</p>

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Schedule for Developing your Plan of Study

5100 Advising sessions schedule: Tuesdays 11:30-12:20 (or as scheduled by advisors)

This schedule is designed to support you in preparing your first Plan of Study which is due **November 1st**.

Week 1: September 12

Create a working Title and identify your main Area of Concentration, Keywords, Personal Statement (optional) and three Learning Components. (Helpful hint: Can be generated as a mind map/diagram and could be two fuller Components –with more learning objectives)

Week 2: September 19

Refine the descriptions of the Learning Components to best represent the Area of Concentration and develop **two-three Learning Objectives** for all Learning Components. List learning strategies and course material readings into an annotated bibliography format.

Week 3: September 26

Identify the Learning Strategies for the Learning Objectives of all three Components and develop the 6-term Course Schedule. Generate a Bibliography with a minimum of 15-20 titles (a mix of books and articles). *Librarian Dana Craig invited in ENVS 5100.*

Choose a referencing style, such as APA, MLA or Chicago for consistency and look up guidelines.

Week 4: October 3

Start drafting your Currents of Thought and Practice drawing from your annotated bibliography and ongoing course work. Revise your 6-term course schedule and refine your Learning Strategies (courses, experiential education, and other activities) to best support your Learning Objectives.

FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASS on OCT 10

Week 5: October 17

Complete your Currents of Thought and Practice. Combine all sections into a complete draft of your Plan of Study.

Week 6: October 24

Refine Currents of Thought and Practice. Edit revise and proofread all sections of the PoS draft for submission on the dossier on November 1

Week 7: October 31

11. Have prepared the *final draft* of Initial Plan of Study for submission tomorrow. Make sure to include the references from your working bibliography and class sources.

PLAN OF STUDY DUE ON NOVEMBER 1.

Upload in the Dossier under Plan of Study MES I-II Exam

Advisor	Room	Time
Sheila Colla	HNES 143	11:30-12:30
Jenny Foster	Ross North 401	11:30-12:30
Liette Gilbert & Mahtot Gebresselassie	Ross North 120	11:30 -12:30
Andil Gosine	Ross North 432	11:30-12:30
Laura Taylor	HNES 138	11:30-12:30
Peter Timmerman	HNES 102	11:30-12:30
Mark Winfield	HNES 262	11:30-12:30