

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ENVR 726

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading *</u>
1	June 23	Introduction – NEPA	Chapters 1 & 2
2	June 26	EPA Regulations-Content of an EIS The Environmental Setting	Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6
3	June 30	Biological Impacts – Water Impacts	Chapters 7, 8, 9
4	July 7	Air Impacts – Noise Impacts	Chapters 10 & 11
5	July 10	EPA Presentation	
6	July 14	Hazards and Nuisances Impacts on the Cultural Environment Socioeconomic Impacts	Chapter 12 Chapters 13, 14 & 15
7	July 17	EXAMINATION	
8	July 21 or 24	Reports	
9	July 28	Reports	
10	July 30	Reports	
11	Aug 4	Reports	

***TEXT:** Bregman, J.I. and K.M. Mackenthun, **Environmental Impact Statement**, CRC/Lewis Publishers Sons, Boca Raton, FL, (1992)

Grading:

Mid-Term	=	40%
Written Paper	=	30%
Presentation	=	20%
Participation & Evaluations	=	10%

2)

Objective:

The term paper is intended 1) to provide each student an opportunity to analyze a recent EIS or related document, 2) to help each student learn the regulations which cover EIS preparation and 3) to increase the overall class experience with various types of environmental assessments.

Selection of Document for Review:

Draft and final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's) may be obtained from government agencies that prepare them, libraries and the U.S. EPA which reviews all the EIS's. Environmental Inventories, Environmental Assessments and various other documents which are used in the preparation of an EIS also may be available from federal government agencies. Some states have legislation analogous to NEPA and a state equivalent to an EIS may be used as the basis for the term paper. If the document analyzed is not a federal agency EIS, the student has the responsibility to get copies of the pertinent regulations so that he or she can determine how well the document meets the requirements of the regulations.

Nature of the Papers:

The term paper is to be written as critical analysis of the document. Questions to be addressed in the paper include the following: Does the document accomplish the purposes of NEPA? Does it meet the requirements of the CEQ and other pertinent regulations? Are there any major environmental components ignored? Are all feasible alternatives included in the analysis? And, how could the analysis of environmental impacts have been improved?

A possible outline for the term paper is as follows:

- I Introduction
 - A. Identification-Project, Agency, Location, etc.
 - B. Purpose of the Project
 - C. Reviewers and Other Interested Parties

- II Content of the Document – Compare with 40 CFR part 1502
 - A. Cover Sheet
 - B. Summary
 - C. Purpose and Need for the Action
 - D. Alternatives
 - E. Affected Environment
 - F. Environmental Consequences
 - G. Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - H. Methodology

3)

III Critique of Document

- A. Completeness – Major Omissions
- B. Evaluation of the Assessment Methodology
- C. Probability that the Predictions of Effects are Accurate

IV Summary

Length:

The term papers should be long enough to deal adequately with the document reviewed but excessive length is to be avoided. Most of the papers will be between 5 and 10 pages.

Presentation:

Each paper will be presented in class so that the other students can benefit from the knowledge of the various types of projects assessed and the different approaches to analysis of the statements. A schedule of presentations will be distributed before the midterm exam.