

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS &amp; TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

CODE NO.: ENV 320-2 SEMESTER: VI

PROGRAM: ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

AUTHOR: BRAD KIRK

DATE: APRIL 1995 PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED: MAY 1993

APPROVED:

  
DEAN, SCHOOL OF SCIENCES &  
NATURAL RESOURCES

  
DATE

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

**ENV 320-2**

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**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:** 32

**PREREQUISITE(S):** None

**I. PHILOSOPHY/GOALS:**

Environmental laws affect the actions of individuals, municipalities and companies in an ever increasingly complex manner. This course is designed to provide the technical student with a general understanding of Ontario, the relevant Canadian, environmental legislation.

**II. STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe key elements of Ontario's Environmental Acts.
2. Understand the application of regulations and requirements.
3. Describe the Environmental Assessment process.
4. Describe elements of ensuring compliance with the acts and regulations.

**III. TOPICS TO BE COVERED:**

1. Nature and Function of the Law in Canada and Ontario
2. An Overview of Environmental Law
3. Federal Environmental Legislation
4. Ontario Environmental Protection Act
5. Environmental Assessment Process
6. Ontario Water Resources Act
7. Pesticides Act
8. Working Within the Law
9. Dealing with Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE)
10. Environmental Lobbyists
11. Legislation Relevant to Plant Closures and Site Decommissioning
12. Municipal/Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA)

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IV. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Nature and Function of the Law in Canada and Ontario
  - brief overview of historical development of law
  - the Constitution and the Charter of Rights
  - distribution of powers
2. An Overview of Environmental Law
  - purpose of laws and regulations
  - business community and environmental laws
  - environmental laws of Canada
  - major Ontario environmental statutes
  - general scheme of provincial legislation
3. Federal Environmental Legislation
  - Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)
  - Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act
  - Fisheries Act
  - Canada Shipping Act
  - Navigable Waters Protection Act
4. Ontario Environmental Protection Act
  - definitions
  - control order
  - stop order
  - provincial officer - definition and rights
  - penalties
  - spills - definition, notification, liability and compensation
  - defense
5. Environmental Assessment Process
  - aims
  - documents
  - the decision making process
6. Ontario Water Resources Act
  - purpose
  - definitions
  - major features of the Act
7. Pesticides Act
  - definitions
  - major features
  - licensing requirements

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IV. LEARNING ACTIVITIES (continued)

8. Working Within the Law
  - concerns
  - inspections
  - environmental audit
  - due diligence
  - strategies for achieving compliance
  
9. Dealing with Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE)
  - abatement programs
  - responsibilities
  - control orders
  - prosecutions
  - license applications
  
10. Environmental Lobbyists
  - Pollution Probe
  - Canadian Environmental Lobbyists Association (CELA)
  - Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation
  
11. Legislation Relevant to Plant Closures and Site Decommissioning
  - Environmental Protection Act
  - Environmental Assessment Act
  - Ontario Water Resources Act
  
12. Municipal/Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA)
  - three phases of MISA
  - monitoring programs

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**V. EVALUATION METHODS:**

The final course grade will be based on the aggregate score of a series of tests to be held throughout the semester. Dates for all tests will be announced approximately one week in advance and attendance at all tests is mandatory.

A final letter grade will be assigned as follows:

|    |           |
|----|-----------|
| A+ | 90 - 100% |
| A  | 80 - 89%  |
| B  | 70 - 79%  |
| C  | 60 - 69%  |
| R  | below 60% |

Students who have achieved less than 60% but more than 55% on all the tests may be given the opportunity to write a supplemental test covering all of the course material. This is only granted where all of the tests have been written and attendance is satisfactory.

**VI. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:**

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the instructor.

**VII. REQUIRED STUDENT RESOURCES:**

Ontario Environmental Protection Act  
Ontario Environmental Assessment Act  
Ontario Water Resources Act  
Pesticides Act

**VIII. SPECIAL NOTES:**

Students with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, learning disabilities) are encouraged to discuss required accommodations confidentially with the instructor.

Your instructor reserves the right to modify the course as he/she deems necessary to meet the needs of students.

