

THOMPSON RIVERS  UNIVERSITY
Course Outline

Master of Science in Environmental Science

Faculty of Science

ENVS 5100 - 3 credits Fall Semester

Environmental Science I: History, Philosophy and Concepts (3,0,0)

Calendar Description

Provides an introduction to the field of environmental science at the graduate level. Focus on history and philosophy of science in general, and environmental science in particular; guest seminars by faculty and researchers inside and outside of academia; examines the role of environmental science.

Educational Objectives/Outcomes

- Familiarize graduate students with the development of environmental science as a discipline, including the history, philosophy and paradigms that shape modern-day research in the field
- Facilitate group discussions on topics relevant to all students embarking on a career in the field of environmental science
- Introduce students to different personal philosophies of research and investigation, through discussion with researchers both within and outside academia
- Equip students with the background and knowledge needed to understand, appreciate and tailor their own research thesis projects in the field of environmental science

Prerequisites

Graduate student standing and permission of the instructor. In special circumstances undergraduate students with fourth year standing may be allowed to enroll.

Co-requisites

None

Texts/Materials

Various assigned readings by lead instructor and guest speakers

Student Evaluation

General participation in course (attendance, involvement, contributions)	25%
Debate assignment (performance, preparation, involvement)	25%
Question preparation and hosting of guest speaker	10%
Presentation on thesis field of study	20%
Paper/Book Critique	20%
	100%

Course Topics

- History and philosophy of science and scientific research
- Development of the field of environmental science (incl. landmark publications, paradigms)
- Different ways to do research: how to develop questions and seek answers
- What makes a strong thesis? Levels and stages of investigation
- Where is 'environmental science' heading? Is it still alive?

Methods for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

n/a

Attendance Requirements – Include if different from TRU Policy

Attendance for all classes mandatory, with absences affecting general participation mark unless approved by instructor

Special Course Activities – Optional

Opportunistic field trips to research sites or locations showcasing environmental issues may occur