

**Centre for Environment
Environmental Studies
Collaborative Program Core Course**

**ENV1001H F
Environmental Decision Making
Fall term 2008**

Description:

This course introduces and critically considers concepts and methods for making public decisions about environmental problems. Topics include critical thinking, quantitative and qualitative approaches to decision making, science and the use of models, addressing conflicting objectives and stakeholders through formal evaluation methods and collective decision making, dealing with uncertainties, values, perceptions and ethical considerations. The material is presented through lectures and class discussions using examples and case studies.

Classes: Fridays, 10:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for lectures and discussions
Health Sciences Building, Room 108 (155 College St., at McCaul St.)

Instructors:

Prof. Philip Byer, Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering and Centre for Environment,
byer@ecf.utoronto.ca, 416-978-5980, Galbraith Building, 35 St. George Street, Room GB413

Prof. Kenn Maly, Adjunct Professor, Centre for Environment, kenn.maly@utoronto.ca

Course Web Site: The course actively uses a Blackboard web site via the UofT Portal. Note that not all course material will necessarily be posted on the site, and students must ensure that they receive all announcements and handouts given out during the classes.

Assignments and Grading (Subject to Change depending on enrollment number; finalized by September 26):

Assignment	#1 – Identifying environmental decision-making complexities	10%
Assignment	#2 – Rational approach to decision making	20%
Assignment	#3 – Ethics, public policy and dominant cultural constructs	20%
Group Assignment	– Group presentation and individual report	25%
Final Exam		25%

Assistance on Work: While you are encouraged throughout the course to discuss concepts, issues and methods in a general way with others, you are to work on and complete each of the non-group work assignments without discussing or working on it with anyone else, other than the course instructors. Submitting work that is the result of such discussions or joint efforts, or which uses wording taken from another source without proper attribution, may be considered an offence under the University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

Readings: A course reading package, with the required readings, can be purchased from Alicos Copy Centre at 203A College St. (corner of College and St. George St.) for approximately \$56 plus tax. Some additional required readings will be handed out in class or put on the course web site. It is important that students read the material for each class BEFORE the class in order to be prepared for the lectures and discussions.

ENV1001H F OUTLINE - 2008
(subject to change)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Primary Instructor</u>
Sept. 12	Introduction to Course and Environmental Decision-making <i>Assignment #1 Out</i>	Byer/Maly
Sept. 19	Rational Decision Making: Process and Case Study	Byer
Sept. 26	Science and Use of Models: Health Risk Assessment <i>Assignment #1 Due</i> <i>Assignment #2 Out</i>	Byer
Oct. 3	Introduction to Group Project <i>Group Assignment Out</i>	Maly/Byer
Oct. 10	Resolving Conflicts and Making Tradeoffs Collective Decision-making	Byer
Oct. 17	Dealing with Risks and Uncertainties Reflecting on the Rational Approach	Byer
Oct. 24	Science, Ethics, and Public Policy <i>Assignment #2 Due</i> <i>Assignment #3 Out</i>	Maly
Oct. 31	Group meetings with instructors (Class will not meet as a whole.)	
Nov. 7	Critical Understanding of Dominant Values/Constructs	Maly
Nov. 14	Environmental Philosophies or "Naming the Natural" <i>Assignment #3 Due</i>	Maly
Nov. 21	Sustainable Development and Decision-making	Maly
Nov. 28	Final Exam	
Dec. 5	Group Presentations	
Dec. 12	Group Presentations	
Dec. 15	<i>Group Assignment Individual Reports Due by Noon</i>	

Sept. 2, 2008