

**ESR 429/529**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**  
Winter 2008

Course Time: T, Th 2:00 to 3:50pm  
Room: 203 Ondine Building

Instructor: Joseph Maser, Ph.D.  
Office: 218 Science Building 2  
Office Hours: T, Th 9:30 to 10:45am and by appointment  
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**Course Objective:** The objective of this course is to expose the students to the need for environmental impact assessments and how to prepare the various documents required by state and federal regulations.

**Course Description:** This course will introduce and discuss in detail the National Environmental Policy Act., its implementation and implications. This act, which has been referred to as the “Magna Carta for the environment,” is intended to ensure that balanced decision making occurs regarding the environment. Over a thousand environmental impact assessments are prepared annually. This course will explore the need for environmental impact assessments, the different types of assessments, and the regulatory and technical requirements of preparing an assessment. This course will include a series of lectures and student presentations.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on one examination and the student’s project paper and presentation (graduate students only). The exam will be in-class and open book/notes. Each student will be required to prepare a paper which could act as a comment to a Draft Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment. The paper will review the purpose of the proposed project and focus on one environmental attribute. The student will critically review the methodology and results of the environmental study associated with that attribute and write a comment, in the form of a letter to the lead agency, addressing that study. The environmental attribute and the EIS or EA investigated in the paper are the student’s choice, but must be approved by the instructor. In addition to the written assignment, graduate students will be required to present a summary of their paper to the class. The students’ performance in this class will be based for the following:

In-class exam	100 points
Project Paper (graduate students)	100 points
Presentation (graduate students)	50 points
Project Paper (undergraduate students)	150 points
Participation	50 points
Total	300 points

**Course Web Site:** [http://web.pdx.edu/~maserj/ESR 429\\_529/ESR 429-529.htm](http://web.pdx.edu/~maserj/ESR_429_529/ESR_429-529.htm)



Week 4-5:	Predication and Assessment of Impacts - Biological Environment Terrestrial Ecosystems Wetland Ecosystems Aquatic Ecosystems Threatened and Endangered Species	6
Week 6:	Predication and Assessment of Impacts - Human Resources Demographics Economics Land Use Infrastructure	
Week 7:	Predication and Assessment of Impacts - Human Resources Archaeological and Historic Visual Safety – Hazardous waste	
Week 8:	Evaluation of Alternatives Scaling, Rating, Ranking Decision Matrix Exam – March 1	
Week 9:	Public Participation Regulations Objectives Types of Publics Methods  Management of Environmental Impact Assessments Expertise Needed Time Needed Money Needed  Writing an Environmental Impact Assessment Audience Special Studies Pages	4
Week 10:	Student Presentations All Students -- Term Paper Due at March 13 <sup>th</sup>	
Final Week:	Student Presentations Monday, March 17, 10:15am	

The topics and schedule of discussions listed in this syllabus may change.

