

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

**Paper and Presentation Guidelines**

Each student will be required to prepare a paper, in the form a letter to the lead agency of a proposed action, which could act as a comment to a Draft Environmental Impact Statement or Draft Environmental Assessment. The paper will review the purpose of the proposed project and focus on one environmental attribute. In the paper the student will critically review the methodology and results of the environmental study associated with that attribute and write a comment 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, the graduate students will be required to present a summary of their paper to the class.

In choosing an environmental attribute, you should focus on one element of the environmental attribute. For instance, if you are interested in the Physical Environment, you should choose one attribute within the Physical Environment (e.g. air quality). When you are choosing an attribute you should also be choosing an EIS (EA) to review. For example, if you are interested in air quality in an urban setting, your EIS (EA) should deal with a proposed activity which would affect air quality (such as, a transportation project in New York City).

Your review of the EIS (EA) should be focused on those activities that affect the subject of your chosen attribute. The paper should include a discussion of the purpose of the proposed activity of the EIS (EA), proposed alternatives and how the EIS (EA) addresses the following items of your chosen environmental attribute:

- Identification of Potential Impacts
- Determination of the Study Area
- Determination of Existing Conditions
- Prediction of Impacts
- Determination of Significance of Impacts
- Determination of Mitigation

Your paper should review the different proposed alternatives, but should focus on the methodology and results of the study. Through your critical review of the environmental study associated with your chosen attribute, you should develop and write a comment addressing that study.

Your paper topic (environmental attribute) and selected EIS (EA) should be described in one paragraph and submitted on January 24<sup>th</sup> for the instructor's review.

Your paper should be typed, double-spaced and approximately 10 pages. I do not expect numerous citations. The paper is due from all students on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Graduate students are required to present a summary of their paper to the class during the last week of class or in the final exam period. Each presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes and 5 minutes for questions. You will have access to a computer and projector for PowerPoint presentations or an overhead projector. A sign-up sheet will be circulated asking for your choice of presentation date. I will try to honor your first or second choice.

The grading rubrics for the paper and presentation are available at the course's website.