

GLOBAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY

FALL 2019

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Lecture: Tuesdays 8.30-11.20

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11.30-12.30 or
by appointment

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Week 1 (Tuesday September 3rd): Introduction to Policy, Law and Global Health and the Environment	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 2 (Tuesday, September 10th): Environmental causes of diseases and policy response	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 3 (Tuesday, September 17th) – Risk and hazard, the risk assessment process	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 4 (Tuesday September 24th)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Cost-Benefit analysis and the precautionary principle	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Week 5 (Tuesday, October 1st)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Transparency and access to information	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 6 (Tuesday, October 8th)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Industrial chemicals and toxics ignorance	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Readings:	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 7 (Tuesday, October 15th)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 8 (Tuesday, October 22nd)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Air Pollution	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (1 page): http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=56D4043B-1&news=A4B2C28A-2DFB-4BF4-8777-ADF29B4360BD	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 9 (Tuesday, October 29th)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Climate change and health	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Climate change and health, Key facts: http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 10 (Tuesday, November 5th)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Pesticides and food security	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 11 (Tuesday, November 12th)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Hazardous waste	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Export of e-Waste from Canada A Story as Told by GPS Trackers http://wiki.ban.org/images/8/8b/Export_of_e-Waste_from_Canada_-_A_Story_as_Told_by_GPS_Trackers.pdf	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Greening Our E-Waste James Kao TEDxSJSU: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JYZDfmkVL4	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Week 12 (Tuesday, November 19th)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Plastic pollution	Error! Bookmark not defined.

The Chinese import ban and its impact on global plastic waste trade (6 pages)
<http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/6/eaat0131.full> **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Towards a Zero Plastic Waste Canada
<https://environmentaldefence.ca/plasticsdeclaration> **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Week 13 (Tuesday, November 26th) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Water Pollution **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Debate day – topic t.b.d **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Week 14 (Tuesday, December 3rd) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Tobacco Smoking and e-cigarettes **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Debate day – topic t.b.d **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

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Course Description

This course surveys environmental stressors responsible for adverse health outcomes and explores how decision making processes lead to the regulation or lack thereof of these environmental stressors. Environmental health includes those aspects of human health, including quality of life, that are determined by physical, chemical, biological, social and psychosocial factors in the environment. It also refers to the theory and practice of assessing, correcting, controlling, and preventing those factors in the environment that can potentially affect adversely the health of present and future generations” (World Health Organization [WHO], 2004). It was estimated that in 2015 pollution was responsible for 9 million premature deaths, that’s 16% of all deaths worldwide (Lancet 2017). The course will address the issues on how scientific knowledge about adverse health effects from exposure to environmental factors are converted into policies. The course covers and assesses the concept of risk, scientific uncertainty, cost-benefit analysis access to information and the precautionary principle. The course is students centered and will try to recreate in class policy debates trying to understand the position of various stakeholders (citizens, governments, industry, NGOs). The environmental health topics that will be discussed include chemicals, hazardous wastes, air pollution and climate change.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the complexities of the connections between environmental hazards and human health
- Gain real world experience and develop novel approaches on what instruments may be used to address environmental health threats
- Understand the decision making process from the identification of a possible health impact to the adoption of a risk management measure
- Critically reflect on the role of various stakeholders in a decision making process related to environmental stressors
- Navigate grey and academic literature on environmental health and understand a policy paper.

Required Materials and Texts

- Many readings will be selected from the book Environmental Health: From Global to Local by Howard Frumkin (available electronically on the McMaster library). Other materials will include academic articles, newspaper articles, policy papers, and documents from international organizations, government agency or other relevant stakeholders and will be made available electronically

Class Format

Students will explore some of the core issues in environmental health through lectures by the instructor and a series of interactive discussions. Students will consider the various environmental pressures that globally affect health, the type of players involved and the current political environment in which environmental health decisions are taken. Seminar session may feature discussions on a particular tool in the decision making process related to environmental pressures to health and/or problem-based learning exercises with role-playing applied to specific case-studies on current or past issues. Participation in this course is crucial; most of the time in class will be dedicated to discussions, student lead discussions and presentations and group activities.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Written assignment: 10%, due September 28
2. Policy memo proposal: 10%, due October 17
3. In class participation and attendance: 20%
4. Reading summaries 10%
5. Group presentation: 20%
6. Policy Memo 30%, due December 7

Course Evaluation – Details

Written Assignment (10%), due September 27th

Students will identify an environmental health issue that they are interested in or that is directly relevant to them and describe how it impacts various stakeholders. Word limit: 1000.

Policy memo proposal (10%), due October 11th

Students will select a current environmental health issue of their choice and explain why it is relevant at a global level, who are the relevant stakeholders and what position they will be defending in their policy memo (a private interest, a public interest, a local interest, etc).

In Class participation, attendance and quizzes (20%)

General participation and asking good questions. This course aims at being as interactive as possible and to maximize interaction, engagement and peer-to-peer learning. Meaningful participation would need regular review of the required readings and sharing with the class stories from the media that are relevant for the course. The instructor will require students to take brief quizzes in the course of the semester to verify that basic concepts have been acquired.

Reading analysis (10%)

Students are expected to read the required readings. Each week a group of students will present a critical analysis of the readings (not a summary!) to the class and facilitate a critical discussion through activities and case studies.

Group debate (20%)

A group debate will be organized to simulate a discussion between public officials, public interest advocates and private interest advocates. The discussion will aim at verifying that students understand and master the tools of environmental health decision making.

Policy memo (30%), due December 6th

Policy memos will be a maximum of 2500-3000 words in length (including abstract and key messages, but excluding references and appendices), with a preference for concise writing that achieves a word count in the lower part of the range. The research memo must be informed by extensive research that is cited appropriately.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Date	Topics	Groups presenting
Week 1 - September 3, 2019	Introduction to Global Environmental health, course structure and basic concepts	
Week 2 - September 10, 2019	Environmental causes of diseases and actors in Global Environmental Health Policy	
Week 3 - September 17, 2019	Risk, Hazard and Risk assessment	
Week 4 - September 24, 2019	Cost- Benefit Analysis and the Precautionary Principle	1 group
Week 5 - October 1, 2019	Transparency and access to information	2 groups
Week 6 -	Industrial Chemicals and Health	2 groups

October 8, 2019		
Week 7 - Reading Week	No Class	
Week 8 - October 22, 2019	Air Pollution (indoor and outdoor)	2 groups
Week 9 - October 29, 2019	Climate change and Health	2 groups
Week 10 - November 5, 2019	Pesticides, GMOs and Food Security	2 groups
week 11 - November 12, 2019	Waste, Plastics and Health	2 Groups
Week 12 - November 19, 2019	Water Pollution and health	1 group
week 13 - November 26, 2019	Debate (Tobacco and e-cigarettes)	
week 14 - December 3, 2019	Debate and final reflections	

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All written assignments must be submitted through Avenue to learn on the stated deadline dates at the stated deadline times. Late assignments submitted within 1 hour of the deadline will receive a deduction of 10%. Assignments submitted within 24 hours

will have a penalty of 25%, within 48 hours of 50%, within 72 hours of 75%. After that will not be accepted and will receive a mark of 0. Note that this is the default situation.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

[Insert policy on late assignments]

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Course Modification

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. If any modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity), located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. [Student Accessibility Services](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity) can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity) policy.

If you require this course outline in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the Department of Health, Aging & Society (ext. 27227 | e-mail: hasdept@mcmaster.ca).

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.