

## CURRENT ISSUES IN FOREST CONSERVATION (FOR 3000F) 2018

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**Course Coordinator:** Sandy M Smith (s.smith.a@utoronto.ca)  
ESC 2011 (416-978-5482)

**Class Schedule:** Mondays 1:00-3:00pm, ESC 4001 (\*Note Exceptions)

**Course Website:** *Querus*

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### **Objective:**

This is a seminar course intended to expose students to the issues and challenges of managing our world's forests in a global community using, wherever possible, case studies from Canada. Current and emerging critical issues affecting sustainable management and conservation of the world's forests will be examined to help integrate information derived from other courses in the program. Material is presented by experts from both outside and within the University to illustrate the broad nature and complexity of forest conservation, and the degree to which various specializations may contribute to our understanding and ability to effect change. The seminar format allows students to develop practical skills in information synthesis, critique, and evaluation, and to engage in discussion and presentation. A high level of competence in practical real-world, written formats is encouraged, as well as thoughtful, participatory discussion.

### **Course Format:**

The course is comprised of a series of guest seminars either academically-based from within the university or derived from the real world with outside speakers. The guest lectures focus on highly topical issues in forest conservation and generally draw on regional case studies. Students will use these cases as a base to explore the issues through the professionally-based assignments. The topics covered this year include: 1) Settled/Urban Landscapes (policy, planning and ecological implications); 2) Intact Forests (boreal forest initiative; Far North; wood supply issues; wildlife issues); 3) Aboriginal Perspectives (cultural & social aspects; historical issues; traditional environmental knowledge); and 4) the Forest Industry (certification; emerging technology & trends; intensive & sustainable forest management).

The forest conservation topics will be presented by guest lecturers to provide an academic and a real-world, practitioner perspective. Contrasting perspectives are presented throughout the course, from the ENGOs (CPAWS Wildlands League; Wildlife Conservation Society), the forest industry (OFIA, Tembec), Aboriginal communities (Akwasasne, Kayapo), and government (Toronto, CVC Authority). All attempts will be made to present the material sequentially, however, due to individual schedules there may be some overlap between the areas of focus.

Speakers will be asked to provide reading and reference material so that students responsible for leading the question period and discussion during the last half hour of class can come prepared. *It is expected that all students participate each week as part of the participation mark.*

### Course Evaluation:

During the course, each student will prepare three short written reports, either individually or in a team, covering course material in the format of: 1) a lobby letter, 2) a press release and 3) a briefing note. The final major course assignment (4) will comprise of a position paper with an accompanying group presentation. As well, each student will be responsible for participating in one weekly discussion/question group with guest lecturers as part of their participation mark (5). The course “wrap-up” will take place as a final oral exam (6) asking students to consider the roles of different sectors in forest conservation and discussing the issues and aspects raised. The final written exam will take place during the last regularly scheduled class 10 December (2 hours) while the major assignment (position paper & presentation) will take place **outside the regular class schedule on Friday 7 December (3-4 hours)**.

### Course Reading:

Bryan, I. 2015. *Forests – The lungs of the earth (Chapter 7) pp 223-254. IN: Are We Running Out? The Sustainability of the World’s Resources. Sustainability Press. 485pp.*  
(PDF posted on Quercus)

### Evaluation:

**Overall: Individual Evaluation = 70% and Group Evaluation = 30%**

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COMPONENT	VALUE	DUE**
1. Lobby Letter (1 page)	10% (Individual)	1 Oct
2. Press Release (1-2 pages)	15% (Individual)	15 Oct
3. Briefing Note (FAQ) (2-3 pages)	20% (Pair)	5 Nov
4. Position Paper	25% (Group & Individual)	7 Dec*
Written Report (4-5 pages)	15% (Group)	
Presentation	10% (Individual & Group)	
5. Course Participation (Weekly Seminars)	15% (Individual)	Assigned
6. Final Exam (Written Question)	15% (Individual)	10 Dec

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### Note:

\* Outside regularly scheduled class time.

\*\* Assignments are to be submitted to Quercus in PDF format before midnight on the date due. They should be single-spaced wherever possible. **Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day up to a maximum of 40% unless discussed with the instructor.** Unforeseen extensions or delays **must** be justified with a medical certificate and the UoT Verification of Illness or Injury form

<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>. Note, your work may be reviewed using TURNITIN.

**Plagiarism is unacceptable** and will be penalized according to University of Toronto policy (see: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). Assistance in avoiding plagiarism is at: <http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~nscharer/plagmain.htm>.

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Date	Section Topic	Speaker	Assignment Due
Sept. 17	Introduction Settled Landscapes	Sandy Smith	Course Outline Lobby Letter Assigned
24	Conservation Authorities	Laura Timms ( <i>Credit Valley</i> )	
Oct. 1 AWAY	Big Cities (Toronto, NYC)	Amory Ngan ( <i>City Toronto</i> )	<b>Lobby Letter (10%)</b> Press Release Assigned
8	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
15	Intact Forests (Boreal-NGO)	Justina Ray ( <i>Wildlife Cons Soc</i> )	<b>Press Release (15%)</b> Briefing Note Assigned
22	Aboriginal Perspective	Henry Lickers ( <i>Akwesasne 1<sup>st</sup>Nations</i> )	
29	Forest Management Models	Rob Baker ( <i>Temagami District Forester</i> )	
Nov. 5	Aboriginal-Tropical-Forests	Barb Zimmerman ( <i>Envir Defense Fund</i> )	<b>Briefing Note (20%)</b> Positn Paper Assigned
12 AWAY	Innovative Forest Industry	Mohini Sain	
19	Ontario Forest Industry Forest Products Assoc Cdn	Ian Dunn ( <i>OFIA</i> ) Sarah Todgham ( <i>Sustainability FPAC</i> )	
26	Wildlands League - NGO Rouge National Park	Dave Pearce ( <i>CPAWS</i> )	
Dec. 3	<b>(noon-1pm) Research Poster Session</b> Forest Conservation Today	Grad Research Students Stacey Bowman ( <i>Env. Comm. Ont. Office</i> )	<b>(4001 Lobby)</b>

**NOTE:**

**\*Fri 7 DEC (noon-4pm) Position Paper Presentation Position Paper (25%)**

**Mon 10 DEC (1-3pm) Final Course Evaluation Final Exam (15%)**

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### Assignments:

Unless stated otherwise, assignments are to be submitted electronically through Quercus at midnight on the due date. *Late assignments will be penalized 10% per weekday up to a maximum of 40%, unless discussed with the instructor.* Assignments should be single-spaced in 12pt Times Roman.

### Grading standards:

The University of Toronto grading scale will be used for marking.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Definition for Graduate Students	
90-100	A+	Excellent	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
85-89	A		
80-84	A-		
77-79	B+	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.
73-76	B		
70-72	B-		
67-69	C+	Inadequate	Student who has limited understanding of the subject matter in the depth required for graduate work; ability to develop only simple solutions to problems in the material and unable to address the inherent complexity.
63-66	C		
60-62	C-		

### Academic integrity:

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, which all students are expected to know, says it is an offence to:

- Use someone else's ideas or words in their own work without acknowledging that those ideas/words are not their own with a citation and quotation marks, i.e. to commit plagiarism.
- Include false, misleading or concocted citations in their work.
- Provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student completed work.
- Submit their own work for credit in more than one course without permission.
- Falsify or alter any documentation required by the University. This includes, but is not limited to, doctor's notes.
- Use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam.

Thus, plagiarism is unacceptable and will be penalized according to [University of Toronto policy](#). Assistance in avoiding plagiarism can be found [here](#) (Ctrl + click to follow). Please be aware that all written assignments may be reviewed using TURNITIN.

### **Attendance:**

It is expected that all students attend lectures, as they are chosen and designed to help with the course assignments. If a student cannot make it to a lecture, it is expected that the student will get updates from fellow classmates. Whenever possible, PowerPoint presentations of lectures will be uploaded to Quercus, but be advised that this material alone will often not suffice to understand what was taught in the class. It is not the instructor's nor the TA's responsibility to inform students about a lecture's content when a lecture was missed.

All students are expected to appear some minutes ahead of the lecture, so that the lecture can start on time. This is especially important for guest lectures, as it is a sign of disrespect to the guest lecturer if students arrive late and thus disturb the lecture. To avoid lateness due to time required to change rooms from a previous lecture, the course will start every week at 10:10am (which means that you are required to arrive BEFORE that time).

### **Communication with the Instructor and the TA:**

You can communicate with the course instructor either in person before or after the lecture, or by email (see email addresses above). Office hours are to be arranged with the Professor and TA as necessary. The TA will announce his availability for Office Hours, but students can write the instructor for a meeting anytime. The TA will not attend all lectures but will generally be able to answer emails and arrange meetings by email, if needed. For all communication by email, it is advised to use your official University of Toronto account (e.g., @mail.utoronto.ca), as sometimes emails coming from other email providers will end up in the spam folder.

### **Health and safety:**

The course follows the University of Toronto's Health and Safety Policy and students are responsible for being safe in compliance with this policy.

### **Accessibility needs:**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; [accessibility.utoronto.ca](http://accessibility.utoronto.ca).

### **Student support:**

In order to excel in this course, students must keep up with the assignments and readings, as well as attend lectures. The course is designed to help students achieving excellency, when all instructions are followed. If in doubt about the understanding of any course content, please contact the TA or course instructor. Because writing is a key-component in the assignments of this course, please refer to the [University of Toronto's Writing website](#), where useful advice can be found.

### **Mental health and wellness:**

As a university student, you may experience a range of health and/or mental health issues that may

result in significant barriers to achieving your personal and academic goals. The University of Toronto offers a wide range of free and confidential services and programs that may be able to assist you and you should seek out these resources early and often.

Student Life Website: <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca>

Health and Wellness Website: <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc>

If, at some point during the year, you find yourself feeling distressed and in need of more immediate support, visit the Feeling Distressed Webpage:

<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/feeling-distressed>, for more campus resources.

All students in the Faculty of Engineering have an Academic Advisor who can advise on academic and personal matters. You can find your department's Academic Advisor here:

<http://undergrad.engineering.utoronto.ca/advising-support-services/academic-advising/>

Immediate help is available 24/7 through Good2Talk, a post-secondary student helpline at 1-866-925-5454.

### **Acknowledging Toronto's First Peoples:**

Toronto is a city of immigrants and has been for hundreds of years and has been a gathering site for humans for over 15,000 years. This sacred land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

The territory was the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, a coming together of the Iroquois and Ojibwe Confederacies and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, Toronto is still a meeting place for Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and immigrants, both new and old, from across the world. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, and on this territory.