

Environmental Impact Analysis (EnvS/UrbP 185) – Fall 2007

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Office Hours:

Wednesdays: 9:30-12:30;
WSQ 118b

Class Meets:

3-unit lecture: Mondays 1:30-4:15 p.m.
Health Building 405

1-unit Service Activity: 2 hours weekly
(independent)

Course Description and Objectives:

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) laws are among the most powerful tools currently available to identify and influence the environmental effects of human activities. These laws are soundly praised and roundly criticized by city councils, developers, and environmental advocates alike, but the majority of the public is simply unaware of the power these laws can give to the average citizen.

This course will teach you the basis for understanding, using and analyzing the **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**, one of the first and most influential environmental impact laws on the books. We will also become familiar with the federal impact assessment law, **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**, and we will survey the state of **international** environmental impact assessment.

Through a combination of lecture, field and project work, we will learn to conduct introductory assessments of the impacts of real projects on our air, water, traffic and wildlife.

In addition, this course incorporates community service. In the activity portion of the course, we will link the project work we do with the needs of the local community.

Impact assessment requires careful study of information from multiple disciplines, and it covers many environmental resources. Analyzing and producing environmental assessment documents requires significant group work, perseverance, creativity and a lot of work. Remember this is a four-unit course! Buckle your seatbelts (put on your bike helmets) for a challenging, but exhilarating, ride.

Prerequisites: 001 and 124, or graduate standing.

Required Text: Bass, R.E., A.I. Herson and K. Bogdan. 1999. *CEQA Deskbook, second edition*. Solano Press Books, Point Arena, CA. (w/2001 Supplement)

You support public transit,
want to save open space,
clean up the air and water,
promote clean energy,
reduce waste, and
protect rare species?