Handout 1 – the Syllabus

Biology in Environmental Management: BIOL 4265 3.0, fall 2012_13

Prerequisites: Biol 2050 (Ecology), 2060 (Biometrics)
classes from 10:00-11:30, Tuesdays & Thursdays, CB 129
course director – Dr. Norman Yan

N. Yan’s office: Lumbers 212B
contact info: tel: 416 736-2100 x22936  email: nyan@yorku.ca  FAX: 416 736-5698,
office hours: generally Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Please pre-arrange.
Course website: activate and consult your moodle account for course materials,
Readings: see handout 5 and click on the “Reserves” tab at www.library.yorku.ca.

Course Goal: This course summarizes our progress in recognizing, understanding and
solving large-scale ecological problems caused mainly by pollutants and non-indigenous
species. The course is built on a simple, conceptual framework of the ecological
management process. Using mainly aquatic examples, to contrast with many other
ecology courses, it highlights the fundamental roles applied ecologists play in solving
ecological problems.

Readings: Required and recommended readings are provided in handout 5 on the course
moodle site. If these articles are available on line through York’s library eservices, you
will be able to download them from www.library.yorku.ca by selecting course reserve
materials, then the course number. If readings are not available on line, hardcopies are on
reserve on a 2-hour loan in the Science library.

Assignments: There will be no final exam. Rather there will be a test on ecological
assessment techniques (25 marks), a major project in two parts on ecological assessment,
including a short (2-page) plan of the essay (10 marks), followed by a 7 page essay + 1
page brief (35 marks) in which each student will use all key steps in the ecological
assessment process, and a poster presentation on non-indigenous species, prepared in
groups of two students (30 marks). This assignment plan is summarized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>See Readings</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Due Date*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test on ecological assessment</td>
<td>Classes 1-9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>October 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-page preview of planned paper</td>
<td>Classes 1-9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 11**</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-pg paper + brief on indicator and target development &amp; assessment of damage or recovery using the indicators &amp; targets</td>
<td>Classes 1-14</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Nov 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poster on invaders (groups of 2 students)</td>
<td>Classes 18-22</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Nov 27 &amp; 29</td>
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</tbody>
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Notes:
*Assignments will not be accepted for marking beyond 4 pm on the due date.
**to be marked and returned
important general information about academic honesty.
***Last date to drop course without receiving a grade: Nov 9th