Handout 1

Biology in Environmental Management: BIOL 4265 3.0, winter 2009_10
(Formerly Pollutants, Invaders and Global Change)
Prerequisites: Biol 2050 (Ecology), 2060 (Biometrics)
classes from 10:00-11:30, Tuesdays & Thursdays, Founders College 108
course director – Dr. Norman Yan

N. Yan’s office: Lumbars 212B
contact info: tel: 416 736-2100 x22936 email: nyan@yorku.ca FAX: 416 736-5698, but use WebCT mailer at all times to communicate with Yan.
office hours: generally Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Please pre-arrange.
Course website: activate and consult your “myWebCT” account for course materials, by:
  1. going to http://www.yorku.ca/computing
  2. selecting Website for Current Students
  3. Clicking WebCT on the Quick Links
  4. Under the New Users tab, selecting “activate your WebCT service”.
Readings: see handout 5 and click on the “Reserves” tab at www.library.yorku.ca.

Course Goal: This course summarizes our progress in conceptualizing, 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 WebCT site. If these articles are available online through York’s library eServes, you will be able to download them from www.library.yorku.ca by selecting course reserve materials, then the course number. Where readings are not available online, 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 (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 (25 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>February 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-page preview of planned paper</td>
<td>Classes 1-11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>February 9**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-pg paper on indicator and target development &amp;</td>
<td>Classes 1-14</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>March 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>assessment or recovery using the indicators &amp; targets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poster on invaders (groups of 2 students)</td>
<td>Classes 18-21</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>March 30, April 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Notes: *Assignments will not be accepted for marking beyond 4 pm on the due date.
**To be marked, returned and reviewed on Feb 11th, i.e. before reading week
***Last date to drop course without receiving a grade: March 8th

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