

**SC481**

**Application of Environmental Regulations**

**3 Credits**

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## SC481 Version: 2



# Application of Environmental Regulations

## Calendar Description

This course focuses on the environmental acts, regulations and legislations specific to regulatory requirements in industrial sectors in order to reduce, eliminate, and/or minimize, the negative environmental impacts resulting from development. Practices in environmental management including environmental assessment, compliance and enforcement, government structure, permitting and liability offences are also discussed.

## Rationale

This course may be an elective or required course depending on student program history for either major of the Bachelor of Applied Sciences: Environmental Management program. It is required for the Applied Environmental Sciences and the Wildlife & Fisheries Conservation majors of the Environmental Sciences diploma. Environmental Laws and Regulations are constantly being updated and expanded, which places unprecedented pressures on industry to consider the potential environmental consequences of their operations. Industry must in turn, update and expand their environmental awareness and remain in compliance to prevent liability.

## Prerequisites

None

## Co-Requisites

None

## Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. describe the federal and provincial legislative system and regions of jurisdiction.
2. identify the key factors that drive Environmental Law and Regulation development in Canada.
3. explain the intent, administration and general structure of environmental Acts, regulations and policies.
4. explain the details of industrial sector governance and regulation, with specific reference to compliance and enforcement issues.

5. describe industry codes of practice designed to reduce and/or eliminate environmental impacts.
6. explain the process of applying for, and complying with, an approval.
7. describe key environmental acts and regulations and their applicability to the environmental field.
8. critically assess industry scenarios with environmental concerns and develop plans and strategies that utilize environmental legislation to solve the problem.

## **Essential Employability Skills**

Essential employability skills are critical for workplace success and lifelong learning. Lakeland College prepares its graduates for the workplace and lifelong learning by integrating and promoting essential employability skills development in its curricula. Each credit course offered at Lakeland College emphasizes one or more of the following five essential employability skills:

- A. **Communication Skills** that enable individuals to listen, interpret, express, and convey knowledge and ideas so that they are received and understood.
- B. **Teamwork Skills** that enable individuals to respect the thoughts and opinions of others as they work together to plan activities, meet deadlines, complete projects, and contribute to an organization's goals.
- C. **Critical Thinking Skills** that enable individuals to conceptualize and analyze issues from various perspectives while rationally evaluating the strengths and limitations of each perspective and deciding what action to take.
- D. **Adaptability Skills** that enable individuals to respond quickly, willingly, and positively to new conditions and changing times.
- E. **Positive Attitude and Behavioural Skills** that enable individuals to be confident about themselves and to deal with people, problems, and situations with honesty, integrity, and personal ethics.

## **Resource Materials**

Most of the resource material is covered in the lecture notes or uploaded to the learning management system.

## **Conduct of Course**

This course consists of 42 hours of lecture. Lectures are supplemented by additional work that includes student research, readings, preparation of a major project, classroom discussions, and oral presentations/debates, and guest speakers when possible.

**Completion of the major project and debate are mandatory to receive credit for the course.**

## Evaluation Procedures

The evaluation procedure in this course consists of written assignments, oral presentations, and examinations. The final grade is an aggregate of the following components:

Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	10%
Debate	25%
Major Term Project	25%
Lecture Discussions	10%
Total	100%

## Knowledge/Skills Matrix

Students apply and demonstrate their knowledge and skills to use

### A. Communication Skills

<b>A1. by listening, reading, interpreting information, and communicating effectively</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>A2. by using written, spoken, and/or visual formats and media to communicate and meet needs of each particular audience</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>A3. by using libraries, Internet, technical publications, journals and other sources to find pertinent information</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Assignments/Goals

### B. Teamwork Skills

<b>B1. by using interpersonal skills to create an atmosphere that maximizes the strengths of group members to accomplish tasks</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Assignments/Goals
<b>B2. by using interpersonal skills to resolve conflict, relate to others, and assist others</b>
<b>B3. by contributing and listening to others as group determines realistic objectives, prioritizes tasks, and identifies resources and timelines</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Assignments/Goals
<b>B4. by treating other members of the group open-mindedly and fairly</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Assignments/Goals
<b>B5. by developing tactics/strategies to accomplish tasks</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Assignments/Goals

### C. Critical Thinking Skills

<b>C1. by seeing critical thinking as a lifelong process of self-assessment</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>C2. by examining problems closely</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>C3. by examining beliefs, assumptions, and opinions, and weigh them against the facts</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>C4. by seeking out the truth</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>C5. by finding solutions; make decisions</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>C6. by incorporating new ideas that may not necessarily agree with previous thought on the topic</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>C7. by seeing connections between topics and use knowledge from other disciplines to enhance reading and learning experiences</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals

### D. Adaptability Skills

<b>D1. by working independently or as part of team</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>D2. by carrying out multiple tasks or projects</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>D3. by being innovative and resourceful: identify and suggest alternative ways to get the job done</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>D4. by being open and respond constructively to change and uncertainty</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals

### E. Positive Attitude and Behavioural Skills

<b>E1. by dealing with people, problems, and situations with honesty, integrity, and personal ethics</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>E2. by showing interest, initiative, and effort</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals
<b>E3. by affirming the need for positive solutions and encourage positive interaction and feedback</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s):</b> Written Exam 1 and 2; Quizzes; Goals 1-6; Assignments/Goals

<b>E4. by balancing personal and family activities with job-related activities</b>
<b>Evaluation(s)/Goal(s): Assignments/Goals</b>

### Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

*A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.*

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

**Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.**

### Attendance

Classroom and laboratory attendance is considered vital to the learning process and as significant to the students' evaluation as examinations and reports, therefore absenteeism is recorded.

- a. Students having a combination of excused and/or unexcused absence of 20 percent or higher for the scheduled course hours can be required to withdraw and would then automatically receive a "RW" (required withdrawal) for the course, regardless of any other evaluation results. (RW is a failing grade).
- b. An excused absence is one that is verified with your instructor. Verification should be prior to the absence or the next class day following the absence. Verification of the absence may take the form of a note from your doctor/College nurse regarding illness, or a note from another instructor regarding a field trip or other activity, or authorization by your instructor following an in-person meeting. Be sure to contact your instructor and ask what they will require from you as verification for each absence. An unexcused absence is anything NOT verified by the instructor prior to the absence or the next class day following the absence.

NOTE: Any exceptions to the above attendance policy (e.g. timetable conflicts, work-related issues) must be approved in writing by the Department Chair prior to the beginning of the course.

It is the students' responsibility to know their own absentee record.

Normal hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with potential for evening courses, exams or extended field trips. Students are expected to be available for classes during these times.

## Course Units/Topics

### Unit 1: Introduction to Environmental Law

- Introduction to Environmental Law
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Introduction to Government and Government Structure in Canada

### Unit 2: Regulatory Bodies in Canada

- Case Studies
- Regulatory Bodies at the Provincial and Federal Levels for Environmental Projects
- Environmental Legislation in Canada
- Introduction to Stakeholder Engagement
- Environmental Compliance in Alberta and Canada

### Unit 3: An Exploration of Key Acts and Regulations Applicable to the Management of Environmental Programs

- The Migratory Bird Convention Act
  - An overview of the Act
  - Applications and approvals
  - Case Studies/Debates
- The Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
  - An overview of the Act
  - Applications and approvals for projects in Alberta
  - Case Studies/Debates
- The Federal Fisheries Act
  - An overview of the Act
  - Applications and approvals for projects in Alberta
  - Case Studies/Debates
- The Provincial and Federal Water Act(s)
  - An overview of the Acts
  - Comparing the differences and overlapping jurisdictions
  - Applications and approvals
  - Alberta *Water Act* Code of Practice
  - Case Studies/Debates
- The Provincial Wildlife Act and Species at Risk Act
  - An overview of the Act
  - Applications and approvals for projects in Alberta
  - Case Studies/Debates

- The Public Lands Act
  - An overview of the Act
  - Exploration of Land Rights in Alberta
  - Applications and approvals for projects in Alberta
  - *Forestry Act, Weed Control Act*
    - An overview of the Acts
    - Exploration of the application of forestry and weed management as they relate to public lands
  - Case Studies/Debates
  
- Indigenous Law
  - An overview of the History of Indigenous Law in Canada
  - Exploration of the application of modern Indigenous Law
  - An introduction to First Nation Consultation
  - Case Studies/Debates



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