# THOMPSON RIVERS 🔄 UNIVERSITY

## **Course Outline**

### Master of Science in Environmental Science

## **Faculty of Science**

## ENVS 5100 - 3 credits Fall Semester

## **Environmental Science I: History, Philosophy and Concepts** (3,0,0)

#### **Calendar Description**

Provides an introduction to the field of environmental science at the graduate level. Focus on history and philosophy of science in general, and environmental science in particular; guest seminars by faculty and researchers inside and outside of academia; examines the role of environmental science.

#### **Educational Objectives/Outcomes**

- Familiarize graduate students with the development of environmental science as a discipline, including the history, philosophy and paradigms that shape modern-day research in the field
- Facilitate group discussions on topics relevant to all students embarking on a career in the field of environmental science
- Introduce students to different personal philosophies of research and investigation, through discussion with researchers both within and outside academia
- Equip students with the background and knowledge needed to understand, appreciate and tailor their own research thesis projects in the field of environmental science

#### Prerequisites

Graduate student standing and permission of the instructor. In special circumstances undergraduate students with fourth year standing may be allowed to enroll.

#### **Co-requisites**

None

#### **Texts/Materials**

Various assigned readings by lead instructor and guest speakers

#### **Student Evaluation**

General participation in course (attendance, involvement, contributions)	25%	
<b>Debate assignment</b> (performance, preparation, involvement)	25%	
Question preparation and hosting of guest speaker	10%	
Presentation on thesis field of study	20%	
Paper/Book Critique	20%	
	100%	

#### **Course Topics**

- History and philosophy of science and scientific research
- Development of the field of environmental science (incl. landmark publications, paradigms)
- Different ways to do research: how to develop questions and seek answers
- What makes a strong thesis? Levels and stages of investigation
- Where is 'environmental science' heading? Is it still alive?

#### Methods for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

n/a

#### **Attendance Requirements – Include if different from TRU Policy**

Attendance for all classes mandatory, with absences affecting general participation mark unless approved by instructor

#### **Special Course Activities – Optional**

Opportunistic field trips to research sites or locations showcasing environmental issues may occur