

# FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN CHANGE

## YORK UNIVERSITY

### ENVS 5100 3.0 Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental Studies

Fall 2024

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Professor Liette Gilbert (gilbertl@yorku.ca)  
Tuesdays 9:30am to 12:30pm in HNES 140.

#### Course Description

The course introduces incoming MES students to a broad range of debates and interdisciplinary perspectives in Environmental Studies as a basis for the preparation of their Initial Plan of Study.

**ENVS 5100** is the mandatory core course for all incoming MES students. It is the only course that all students take together and it is not like any other course in its structure and goals.

Students are introduced to concepts, theories, practical skills and research methods that are considered core to interdisciplinary environmental studies. The knowledge and tools acquired through this course will enable each student to consolidate their Plan of Study, which maps out the evolving framework for completing their MES degree. Students will engage in a range of activities, including discussion-based seminars, guest lectures, peer group activities and small group advising sessions.

#### Course Organization

This mandatory provides an opportunity for incoming MES students to come together and learn from each other. During the first part of the course (Weeks 1 to 6) or up to November 1 when the initial Plan of Study is due, students will meet for the first two hours in class and the last hour of the course will be dedicated to advising sessions. After November 1, (weeks 8-11) students will meet for the three hours in class. There will be no class on Week 7 but students are strongly encouraged to participate to the Anita McBride Mentoring Luncheon. There will be no class on Week 12 to allow for MES I-II exams with your advisor.

The course is a mix of readings, discussions/conversations and presentations on key issues in Environmental Studies. The goal is to critically engage with various approaches to research a particular environmental issue. The success of the course depends on students' active and thoughtful participation in weekly discussions, their respectful peer interaction and support, and on their iterative work on their Plan of Study.

#### Anticipated Course Readings

In the first part of the course, required readings/viewing will be organized around key issues related to environmental studies and being object of weekly conversations. In the second part of the course, students will read material related to Plans of Study.

#### Evaluation: Grading and Course Requirements

In addition to successfully completing their MES I-II exam, students will be evaluated for their participation (25%), short assignments related to their Plan of Study (45%), short reading reflections (20%), as well as in-class group presentations (20%). Evaluation for this course is only Pass or Unsatisfactory.

#### Important Course information

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the [Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage](#)

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation