

# ENV323H1 S

## Ontario Environmental Policy

### Winter 2025 Syllabus

#### Course Meetings

##### ENV323H1 S

Section	Day & Time
LEC0101	Thursday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

#### Course Contacts

**Instructor:** Mr. James Whitestone

**Email:** [jim.whitestone@utoronto.ca](mailto:jim.whitestone@utoronto.ca)

**Office Hours and Location:** By appointment only

#### Course Overview

Introduces students to public policy and institutional foundations of public policy in Canada, with an emphasis on environmental policy in Ontario. Provides an insiders perspective on how environmental policy has been developed in Ontario.

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The course will give students a detailed glimpse into the internal world of the Ontario Government. This glimpse will be set in the context of current theories about the nature of government policy in advanced liberal democracies and the roles of the various competing interests "stakeholders".

#### Course Learning Outcomes

Students will learn:

- The over-all Ontario government organization as it pertains to environment. natural resources and energy, both in its current form and its evolution over the past twenty odd years;
- The more detailed organization of the relevant departments - Environment, Energy; inter-ministry coordinating bodies, provincial agencies; the powerful central bodies (Finance, Cabinet Office and Treasury Board); and relevant administrative tribunals;

- The internal processes used to develop and implement policy in these organizations; and
- The key skills used by professionals there including writing options papers and briefing notes along with the application of these to specific policy issues.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 8.0 credits including ENV221H1/ENV222H1. Students who do not meet the prerequisites are encouraged to contact the Undergraduate Associate Director.

**Corequisites:** None

**Exclusions:** None

**Recommended Preparation:** None

**Credit Value:** 0.5

## Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
<b>Environmental Policy Proposal</b>	10%	Prepare a brief proposal (no more than 500 words - approximately one page - in a format provided by instructor) for an environmental policy issue or topic area that will become the subject of the Briefing Note and Options Paper. Consultation with the instructor is strongly recommended.	2025-01-26

<p><b>Environmental Policy Briefing Note</b></p>	<p>25%</p>	<p>Each student will submit a Briefing Note on the environmental policy issue or topic of interest chosen for the Proposal with the assistance of the instructor. Briefing Notes typically use the following headings: Issue, Background, Proposal and Comments. They should be clear and concise (no more than two pages in a format provided by instructor). They are meant to provide decisionmakers such as a government Minister (e.g. Minister of Environment), a Mayor or city councillor(City of Toronto) or a Board/Executive Committee of a stakeholder organization (industry associations, environmental non-government and civil society organizations, support groups such as environmental health advocacy groups, or faith-based organizations) with a quick summary of an issue.</p>	<p>2025-02-16</p>
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<b>Options Paper</b>	35%	<p>In the practice of public policy, the “workhorse” of policy analysis and development is the Options Paper. Some variant of the Options Paper is used to develop policy and to present issues to decisionmakers. In Ontario, the Cabinet Submission Guidelines represent the implementation of the format for the Ontario Cabinet. The format of Options Papers includes the following key headings: Issue, Background, Options, Evaluation and Recommended Option. Students will be asked to write an Options Paper on a subject of particular interest, with permission. The paper should not exceed 3000 words (approximately 10 pages) and should follow acceptable style guidelines (Kate Turabian's guide is recommended).</p>	2025-04-18
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<p><b>Mock Cabinet Presentation and Report</b></p>	<p>10%</p>	<p>Students will each be assigned a role of either a Deputy Minister (e.g. Deputy Minister of the Environment) presenting an environmental policy proposal to a Cabinet Committee (Environmental Policy Committee of Cabinet) or a Cabinet Committee Member (Other Ministers such as Industry, Energy, Transportation etc.). The student assigned to the role of the Deputy Minister presenting an environmental policy proposal will prepare and present a short policy proposal to the Cabinet Committee based on their briefing note along with a proposed cabinet minute (1/2 page summary based on briefing note + short proposed minute). The students assigned to the role of Cabinet or Executive Committee Member will be assigned a ministerial portfolio such as Industry, Energy, Transportation etc. and will prepare a question reflecting the impact of the proposal on their portfolio and based on the presenting Minister's/student's briefing note along with a recommendation for the proposed cabinet minute (1/2 page question on briefing note circulated in advance + short proposed minute).</p>	<p>2025-03-13,2025-03-20,2025-03-27,2025-04-03</p>
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<b>Readings Log</b>	20%	Each student will submit a set (five readings) of short summaries of the readings (total words, about 2,700) drawn from the Reading List, supplemental readings on the website or other readings relevant to a topic area that the student has chosen to be the subject of the Briefing Note and Options Paper. Each summary has two brief components: a précis and a statement of the student's main response to the main points of the reading.	2025-04-03
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### **Late Assessment Submissions Policy**

A penalty of 2% a day for the first two days and then 5% per day late thereafter including weekends of the total mark for the assignment.

## **Policies & Statements**

### **Academic Integrity**

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism is representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to me or your TA for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the [U of T writing support website](#). Consult the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see the [U of T Academic Integrity website](#).

### **Plagiarism Detection Tool**

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

## **Late/Missed Assignments**

All written assignments handed in after the due date will be subject to late penalties of 2% per day for the first two days after the assignment is due and then 5% per day thereafter. There will be a one-week cutoff after which students will need to contact the instructor to be able to submit the assignment at a later date.