

Arts & Science 3EH3 – Exploring Hamilton Inquiry

2020-2021 (Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. John Maclachlan

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Class Times: Th: 8:30am-11:20am (virtual held in Microsoft Teams; link to be posted on the Avenue Course Shell)

Office: GSB 430

Office Hours: We. 1:30-2:30pm
(virtual held in Microsoft Teams; link to be posted on the Avenue Course Shell)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, we will have the opportunity to explore the City of Hamilton from political, community and geologic perspectives. Our focus will revolve around the environment issues that are impacting Hamilton and how the municipality looks to tackle the issues moving forward. Throughout this course we will explore environmental issues on a global level with applications at the local level. For example, through a conversation of climate change we will discuss necessary changes to municipal environmental assessment acts moving forward to not only combat Climate Change but also live through the, likely, inevitable environmental changes in the upcoming years.

The course will be organized in a unique manner. We will be spending much of our class time discussing environmental issues within smaller groups that will coalesce into larger full class discussions. When a lecture is necessary to give background information (for example 'What is Environmental Assessment?') these will be made available asynchronously to be viewed prior to class. The class time will be used for discussion and further exploration of the issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Communicate the complex environmental issues of the City of Hamilton
2. Discuss the future environmental directions of the City of Hamilton
3. Relate the environmental challenges and opportunities of the City of Hamilton to various municipalities

REQUIRED TEXTS:

There is no textbook for this course although readings will be assigned both by the instructor and the guest speakers no longer than a week prior to them being necessary. When possible, all readings will be posted on Avenue.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

The first class will be on January 14th. Readings will be added throughout the semester as environmental issues present themselves.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Reflections (4 total)	Throughout Semester	= 20%
Hamilton Exploration	March 10 th	= 15%
Environmental Solution	March 31st	= 15%
Student Seminar and paper	Various (April 9th for paper)	= 40%
Participation	Throughout term	= 10%

GENERAL COURSE SCHEDULE

The weekly schedule for the course will be posted on Avenue prior to the first class:

- January 14th** – Introduction, course expectations and course outline. Setting the stage for the semester ahead. Important question: *What is the Environment?*
- January 21th** – What do we know about Hamilton? A discussion of Hamilton the City and what are some of the unique characteristics that lead to unique environmental challenges?
- January 28st** – What is Environmental Assessment? How can sustainable building practices impact the environment? Who should pay for the sustainability?
Reading: <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/master-plans-class-eas/environmental-assessments>
- February 4th** – Discussion of the final seminar assignment and paper. Topics must be finalized by the end of this class (this includes approval by the instructor). This will be discussed prior to this date. Class discussion will revolve around Climate Change. What is Hamilton's responsibility towards the Climate Crisis?
Reading: <https://conservationhamilton.ca/climate-change-and-hca/>
- February 11th** – The Hamilton Harbour. The Harbour has been a dumping ground (often legally and transparently) by corporations and the municipality for decades. Now what to do?
Reading: <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/our-harbour/harbour-history>
- February 18th** – Reading Break. No class nor office hours.
- February 25th** – Urban Sprawl and all of the complications that come with it.
Reading: Behan, K., Maoh, H., & Kanaroglou, P. (2008). Smart growth strategies, transportation and urban sprawl: simulated futures for Hamilton, Ontario. *The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien*, 52(3), 291-308.
- March 4th** – The Red Hill Valley Expressway. The road that took 100 years to build.
Reading: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/headlines/5-years-later-was-the-red-hill-valley-parkway-worth-it-1.1275560>
- March 11th** – What do the citizens of Hamilton want Hamilton to be doing about environmental issues. It isn't as simple as it seems to be.
Reading: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/headlines/hamilton-ranks-poorly-on-environmental-report-card-1.1342608>
- March 18th** – The future of environmental issues in Hamilton
Reading: Reading list to be created by class
- March 25th** – A potpourri of environmental issues. Throughout the semester we will keep an eye on the current issues and discuss those at this time.
Reading: Reading list to be created by class
- April 1st** – Student seminars
- April 8th** – Student seminars and wrap up

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Reflections (20%)

Throughout the course you will be asked to reflect on our discussions and journeys. On select weeks starting with week three and ending week 12, you will be asked to complete a short reflection (500 words) on your thoughts towards the class discussion. Each reflection will be worth 5% of your final grade

Hamilton Exploration (15%)

This assignment gives you freedom to explore any aspect of the City you find interesting. You are not required to tie your topic to the environment. For example, you may want to explore the history of the city in some way or explore a current issue in depth (such as 'Should Hamilton bid for the 2026 Commonwealth Games?'). The final deliverable will be due March 10th with the final format to be agreed upon with the instructor. You will have the option of completing this assignment as a traditional written piece or you may choose to submit something non-traditional such as a video or blog post.

Student Seminar and Paper (40%)

Working as individuals or in groups of 2-3 students will be responsible for exploring an aspect of an environmental question/issue impacting Hamilton. This could be done by choosing a geographic area to answering a pressing question. Students will be responsible for setting up readings and engaging the class in a discussion on the issue. Students will be graded on their presentation/seminar, the associated paper and their assessment of a classmate's seminar. All papers are to be completed individually and will be due on April 9th.

Environmental Solution (15%)

It is one thing to discuss an environment issue, it is another thing all together to formulate a solution. This assignment gives students the opportunity to present realistic solutions to current municipal environmental issues. The final deliverable will be due March 31st. This is intended to be submitted as a written report.

Participation (10%)

Participation is extremely important for a class such as this. Each week we will be building on the knowledge of the week before making attendance imperative. Each week there will be small deliverables and class discussion that everyone is expected to participate in.

ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES & MISSED/LATE WORK

Students are expected to hand in all assignments on the specified due dates. Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of 20% per day (including weekend days). Assignments submitted after the beginning of class on the due date will be counted as one day late. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes.

Given that some course assignments require electronic submission, you should familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn Assignment in advance of the deadlines, and ask for assistance as necessary. Problems with electronic submission WILL NOT be accepted as an excuse for lateness.

SUSTAINABLE WRITTEN WORK SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The written work submission guidelines have been chosen to support the more sustainable use of paper, energy, and toner, and meet the Platinum standard of the Office of Sustainability; <http://www.mcmaster.ca/sustainability/>. Each assignment will have different standards in terms of font size, margins, etc. but seeing as all work can be handed in digitally the Platinum standard is still met.

SENATE-APPROVED ADVISORY STATEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.** Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., online

search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ONLINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use online elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses online elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other

reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office ***normally within 10 working days*** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

NOTES FOR ALL ARTS & SCIENCE COURSES

1. Some of the statements above refer to a “Faculty Office”; please note that the Arts & Science Program Office serves in this capacity.
2. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email regularly. Announcements will be made in class, via A2L, and/or via the course email distribution list <d-as3EH3@mcmaster.ca>.