

SEDV 605: ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INDIGENOUS CULTURES

Inter-relationships between ecological systems, sustainability and aboriginal cultures; Review of government policies with regard to environmental issues; Case based analysis of selected issues and strategic management mechanisms for dealing with aboriginal concerns in resource project development and the approval process; Aboriginal law and its relation to resource development.

Instructor:

TBD

Course Overview:

This course provides in depth analysis of Indigenous Peoples and ecological sustainability in relation to energy management. Drawing from systems ecology, ecological economics, cultural anthropology and indigenous rights, conceptual foundations for sustainable development are presented in the global context of Indigenous Peoples and business ethics with primary focus on Aboriginal peoples in Canada. Treaties and government policy are addressed including the duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal peoples with emphasis on reconciliation. Students are familiarized with traditional ecological knowledge and land-use systems and their interface with Western science based resource management. Differing cultural perceptions and development goals of resource industries and indigenous communities provide a focus for examining cross-cultural communication and strategy, negotiation styles and professional capacity building. Community engagement is presented with attention to intercultural competence for indigenous corporate relations. Class time includes lectures, videos, small group discussion, experiential learning activities and Indigenous guest speakers. An in-class professional simulation and role-play with written report constitute the final exam. Bi-weekly Learning Journal entries record key take home lessons for personal insight and professional application. Group work involves the research, presentation and write-up of comparative domestic and international cases.

Objectives:

In taking this course, students will gain:

- Insight into the social-ecological relationships of Indigenous Peoples with lands and resources;
- Understanding of functional dynamics of ecological systems with relevance to sustainability;
- Familiarity with the social, legal, historical policy context of Indigenous People living in Canada;
- Foundations for working with Indigenous Peoples in energy project management.

Outcomes

With respect to Indigenous Peoples, sustainability and energy management students will:

- Articulate fundamental concepts of sustainability and how these shape effective ethical business practices with Indigenous Peoples in energy industries internationally and locally;
- Apply principles of Aboriginal rights, treaties and title with regard to the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate Indigenous Peoples in relation to Canada's energy sector;
- Experience authentic Indigenous cultural teachings reflecting on the relevance to their personal learning journey and professional career path.