

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	CSE40462
Subject Title	Environmental Impact Assessment – Theory and Practice
Credit Value	3
Level	4
Exclusion	CSE462 Environmental Impact Assessment – Theory and Practice
Objectives	To provide students with an overview and understanding of the principles and current practices of environmental impact assessment (EIA). In particular, emphasis will be placed on environmental impact assessment studies relevant to Hong Kong.
Intended Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: a. understand the EIA process and its significance; b. analyze major environmental issues for large development projects; c. analyze various environmental impacts according to the EIA framework; d. understand the importance of public engagement within the EIA process; e. understand how the EIA process contributes to environmental protection and sustainable development; and f. critically evaluate EIA reports and other related documents.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	(i) Development of Environmental Impact Assessment Historical review: Environmental assessment development in the world and Hong Kong. (ii) Scope and Objectives of Environmental Impact Assessment Environmental considerations: land use, planning, development and management. EIA aims and objectives. (iii) Methodology and Assessment Techniques Methods for analyzing various environmental impact assessments (e.g. air, water, noise and ecology). (iv) Environmental Monitoring & Audit Mitigation and control measures, EM&A. (v) Case Studies Selected case studies on the EIA of infrastructure and other development projects.

Teaching/Learning Methodology	A series of lectures will be conducted to introduce the concepts of the EIA process, enabling students to understand the EIA framework and its application. Tutorials will provide a platform for students to address any questions or challenges related to the lecture content. A combination of group discussions, quizzes, and assignments will be employed to enhance students’ understanding of the purpose, principles, and professional practices within the EIA spectrum. By linking lecture materials to case studies, examples, and best practices, students will develop the necessary knowledge and skills necessary to critically evaluate EIA reports and understand the importance of public engagement and sustainable development, fostering their analytical skills regarding major environmental impacts and their mitigation measures.																																																						
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	<table><tr><th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th><th rowspan="2">% weighting</th><th colspan="6">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed</th></tr><tr><th>a</th><th>b</th><th>c</th><th>d</th><th>e</th><th>f</th></tr><tr><td>1. In-class assignment / Quiz</td><td>10%</td><td>✓</td><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2. Mid-Term</td><td>20%</td><td>✓</td><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3. Group Report and Presentation</td><td>20%</td><td></td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td></td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>4. Final examination</td><td>50%</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>100%</td><td colspan="6"></td></tr></table> Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes: For continuous assessment: To achieve Outcomes a, d and e, in-class assignment/quiz and mid-term are used to evaluate students’ understanding. To achieve Outcomes b, c, e and f, students are required to critically evaluate an EIA report, and subsequently provide a presentation and report to substantiate their findings. Written examination is to test students’ understanding the application of principles related to all intended learning outcomes. Students must pass the final examination and achieve a passing overall score / grade to pass the subject.	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed						a	b	c	d	e	f	1. In-class assignment / Quiz	10%	✓			✓	✓		2. Mid-Term	20%	✓			✓	✓		3. Group Report and Presentation	20%		✓	✓		✓	✓	4. Final examination	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Total	100%						
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Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	Average hours per week
	▪ Lectures / Tutorials / Laboratory	3 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Coursework exercise / Attending seminar and seminar report writing	1.6 Hrs.
	▪ Self Study	4.4 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	9 Hrs.
Reading List and References	The following texts provide the majority of the basic materials to be covered in lectures. Students will need to study other relevant publications, including local case studies and approved EIA reports. Barbara Carroll, 2002. <i>Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook: A Practical Guide for Planners, Developers and Communities</i>. Thomas Telford, London. Canter, L.W., 1996. <i>Environmental Impact Assessment</i>, 2nd Ed., McGraw-Hill. Christopher Wood. 2003. <i>Environmental Impact Assessment: A Comparative Review</i>. Prentice Hall, New Jersey. Riki Therivel, Peter Morris, 2001. <i>Methods of Environmental Impact Assessment</i>, Spon Press, London. Bram F. Noble, 2010. <i>Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment: a guide to principles and practice</i>. Oxford University Press, Don Mills, Ont. John Glasson, Riki Therivel, 2012. <i>Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment</i>. Routledge, Abingdon. Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department http://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/	