

ENVS 300 (C 1): Community Service Learning in the Environmental Sector - DRAFT**Delivery Mode:** [Individualized study online](#)**Credits:** 3**Area of Study:** Social Science**Prerequisite:** None.**Precluded:** ENVS 300 is only open to registration by students who are pursuing a Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree.**Faculty:** [Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences](#)**Challenge:** ENVS 300 has a Challenge for Credit option.

Overview

ENVS 300 provides students opportunities to deepen their understanding of contemporary socio-ecological problems and issues through educationally meaningful and community-based service learning. Service learning is a work-integrated learning opportunity organized around a student's engagement in community service, and combines theory, practice and reflection as tools to broaden a student's knowledge and critical thinking skills for social change. Learning activities must be organized around educationally meaningful forms of service that addresses a particular need identified by the community organization, and personal educational goals identified by the student. Students reflect on this service experience in relation to topics or subject matter from their readings, as well as the student's own changing perceptions and understandings of community needs and civic responsibilities. Community-based service learning projects are chosen in consultation with a Project Supervisor.

Course Learning Outcomes

On completion of ENVS 300, successful students will:

1. Demonstrate a deeper understanding of civic responsibility and the importance of active participation in their communities
2. Analyze complex social issues and develop creative solutions
3. Work effectively with diverse populations, understanding different perspectives and experiences
4. Apply theoretical knowledge from their coursework to real-world situations, enhancing their academic learning
5. Engage in self-reflection, leading to greater self-awareness and personal development

6. Navigate and engage with various community settings, understanding local resources, networks, and dynamics
7. Develop and execute a project plan

Evaluation

To receive credit for ENVS 300, students must:

- Find a faculty member willing to supervise their ENVS 300 work
- Find a community group/organization to work with
- Identify meaningful work they can undertake for the community group
- Complete a learning contract that includes personal learning goals
- Undertake community service activities
- Undertake a literature review and demonstrate theoretical learning
- Reflect on their community-service and other course experiences, and the relationship between their experiential and theoretical learnings

Note: Tutor approval is required before a student can register in this course. To receive tutor approval, students should e-mail the tutor outlining the service learning they hope to undertake, and the name and contact information of a likely supervising professor. Possible Project Supervisors might include the tutor of this course, a professor who you have already worked with in another course, or one of the AU professors who undertake environmental research. Special cases can be made for supervising professors for ENVS 300 who do not work at Athabasca University with good justification and the permission of the ENVS 300 tutor.

This is a pass/fail course.

Materials

This course utilises on-line course materials and student-identified learning materials.

Challenge for Credit

To challenge ENVS 300: Community Service Learning in the Environmental Sector students must create a portfolio of evidence of their community service work, undertake theoretical learning and demonstrate how their theoretical readings connect to their community service activities/practical experience through an annotated bibliography and essay.

