

**Department:** GEOG

**Course No.:** 286W

**Title:** Environmental Evaluation and Assessment

**Credits:** 3

**Contact:** Alexander Vias

**WQ:** W

**Catalog Copy:** 286W. Environmental Evaluation and Assessment. First semester. Three credits.  
Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250. Recommended preparation: GEOG 205 or 236.

Concepts and methods of environmental analysis in contemporary geography. Emphasis on the ecological impact of human activities and on the evaluation and assessment of existing and future environments.

**W Criteria:** Each student is responsible for several written projects throughout the semester. Several (6-8) one-page article summaries are intended to focus the students on important concepts in the course material and increase their ability to concisely synthesize and present information. The Final Project Assignment (15-20 pages) consists of individual (12-15 pages) and group (5-7 pages) writing tasks and focuses on transferring the course content to an applied real-world problem. Each student chooses the Environmental Impact Assessment sections most appropriate to his/her interests and academic concentration, and researches and writes a professionally styled assessment of the assigned problem. Each student must also work with his/her group to synthesize their individual work into a complete assessment report. Comments and revisions are completed at each stage of the writing process, from the outline to the final draft. The final project is intended to ground, extend and deepen the students' understanding of the course material as well as immerse them in the process of writing a professional scientific report.

Writing instruction in lecture focuses on the art of crafting concise, clear paragraphs. Individual conferences with students focus on student-specific writing issues, such as sentence composition.

Failure of the writing component of this course constitutes failure in the entire course.