BSc ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

ENSC 504 – Research Project in Environmental Science

PROJECT INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

6-credit special topics course, typically done over two consecutive terms. On occasion it can be done in one term - only if the project lends itself to it, and the Supervisor(s) and student can commit to the additional time-commitment required to complete it within one term.

Independent study courses provide Environmental Science majors with a mechanism to carry out advanced work in areas not covered in regular courses or to pursue topics which are covered in more detail.

Structure
Very flexible and may consist of lectures, seminars, reading assignments, term papers and training in theoretical, field and laboratory methods.

Time commitment
Approximately 8 to 10 hours per week.

CONDUCT OF ENSC 504

Getting a Supervisor
It is the responsibility of the student to decide on a general area for this course and to approach a suitable faculty member regarding supervision. To be done in advance of initiating enrolment into the course.

Have a project idea but unsure who to approach as possible Supervisor?
Students who have a project in mind but are unsure which faculty members would be potential supervisors should approach the Program Director for advice.

Meeting with potential Supervisor:
1. Bring a current unofficial copy of your transcript.
2. Agreed-upon value and due date for all course components must be determined with your Supervisor.
3. Be sure to ask about and/or discuss with your potential Supervisor, the following:
   - Options for research projects, including objectives and methodology
   - Preparing your research abstract (required for registration)
   - Research timelines and milestones
   - Course evaluation criteria
   - Ensure intellectual property right and authorship policies are understood and that the Retention of Data and Authorship Agreement is reviewed and signed.

Getting a second reader for the final report
The second reader should be identified at the start of the project, but can be changed if desired. Second reader need not be an ENSC faculty member, but the project theme must be approved by the ENSC Director.

Course evaluation
Once the faculty member has agreed to supervise you in this course, they will clearly outline the procedures whereby your performance will be evaluated.
Final written report
Final written report in the format of a research paper must be submitted to the supervisor at the end of the term - by the deadline indicated by the Supervisor. Final Reports are also to be submitted to the second reader who will provide input to the supervisor on that portion; the supervisor will make the final decision of the grade.

Presentation
There will be a 10 - 20 minute oral presentation (including question period) at the end of the term as part of the Elizabeth Dixon Symposium, unless previously approved by the supervisor and ENSC Director.

REGISTRATION IN ENSC 504

Once the prospective Supervisor has indicated their willingness to supervise you on your project

Complete the webform (https://science.ucalgary.ca/usc-independent-research-course-application) - NO LATER than 10 working days before the add/swap deadline in the term (https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html).

- If approval is denied at this point, you will be notified by e-mail.
- If approval is granted, you will be enrolled into the course by staff in the USC and you will be notified by email.