

**Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences**

**City College of New York, CUNY**

**160 Convent Avenue, Marshak 106**

**New York, NY 10031**

**Course Syllabus Fall 2017**

**Phase I Environmental Site Assessments**

**EAS 33300-T (23027)/ EAS B3300-G(23026)**

Days & Times Mondays 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

www.ccny.cuny.edu/eas/

p. (212) 650-6452

f. 212.650.6482

Room Marshak 044

Instructor Angelo Lampousis, Ph.D., Lecturer

Email alampousis@ccny.cuny.edu

Office Marshak 717

Office Phone (212) 650-7590

Office Hours Right after class or by appointment

**Catalog Description**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to good commercial and customary practices in the United States of America for conducting environmental site assessments (ESA) of commercial or residential properties with respect to hazardous substances and petroleum products. A Phase I ESA is the process for determining the presence of an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of a release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products into the ground, ground water, surface water of the property, or into structures on the property. Successful completion of this course will benefit those seeking professional employment in the environmental engineering consulting industry, as well as students seeking advanced academic degrees in disciplines that involve subsurface characterization. Students are automatically enrolled in the 10-hour OSHA Outreach Training Program for General Industry, which is intended for entry level workers. The 10-hour outreach course provides basic awareness training on the recognition, avoidance, abatement, and prevention of workplace hazards.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

[Required] **A Civil Action** by Jonathan Harr, First Edition, 1996, ISBN-10: 0679772677, ISBN-13: 978-0679772675 - Available through the CCNY Bookstore

[Recommended] Technical Aspects of Phase I/II Environmental Site Assessments by Hejzlar Zdenek, Kilgore Julie, and Eke Norman, 3rd Edition, ISBN-EB: 978-0-8031-7067-4, and ISBN-PRINT: 978-0-8031-7043-8, Published: 2015

[Provided by instructor] **Interactive environmental databases through Blackboard**

Each student is assigned one site within the New York City’s five boroughs, and provided with access (through Blackboard) to a thorough collection of topographic maps, aerial photographs, Sanborn maps, historical telephone directories, and the “Radius Map” for their respective sites. Students are expected to mine these databases for environmental records of interest and extend their inquiries by accessing additional publicly available databases.

[Required] **10 ASTM Standards for Students Package**

**Student Instructions**:

1. Go to

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A\_\_www.astm.org\_campusstandards.html&d=DwIBAg&c=4NmamNZG3KTnUCoC6InoLJ6KV1tbVKrkZXHRwtIMGmo&r=LmOt9K8tpd91WxVLnEtK3iIFhhTwnzqQkeWoV-aJfdI&m=bz\_Dzp261D66OuPzG3-HgII02ofKxMPbIJqc9jFnz90&s=YvGjPkSOG7nxUzYmEGKkpfxDaExpVJjusjc1XI1\_9\_4&e=

2. Join ASTM as a new Student Member (free).

3. Insert this course code to order ASTM standards: 10630

4. Checkout and pay $10 (Credit Card payment required).

5. After submitting your order, you will receive an email with details on how to login and access the purchased standards package.

6. Problems/Questions - Contact ASTM at support@astm.org

**Selected Standards**

1. E1527 Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process
2. E1903 Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Process
3. E2600 Standard Guide for Vapor Encroachment Screening on Property Involved in Real Estate Transactions
4. E2790 Standard Guide for Identifying and Complying With Continuing Obligations
5. E2115 Standard Guide for Conducting Lead Hazard Assessments of Dwellings and of Other Child-Occupied Facilities
6. E3026 Standard Guide for Readily Observable Moisture Affected Materials and Conditions Conducive to Elevated Moisture in Commercial Buildings: Visual Moisture Assessment Process
7. E2356 Standard Practice for Comprehensive Building Asbestos Surveys
8. E2392 / E2392M Standard Guide for Design of Earthen Wall Building Systems
9. E2506 Standard Guide for Developing a Cost-Effective Risk Mitigation Plan for New and Existing Constructed Facilities
10. E2020 Standard Guide for Data and Information Options for Conducting an Ecological Risk Assessment at Contaminated Sites

**GRADING\***

* **50% Blackboard Assignments** (writing/reviewing Phase I reports, case studies, stand-alone assignments, and reading assignments). Students must submit properly completed Phase I Environmental Site Assessments report(s). Grades will depend on the quality and thoroughness of the investigation and the quality and thoroughness of the reports. Assignments should be submitted exclusively through Blackboard.
* **20% Midterm Exam**
* **20% Final Exam**
* **10% Attendance & Participation** [expanded as described below]
* Establishment of a student profile on LinkedIn (an established professional social networking site to document career progress during and beyond the term of the semester
* Visit a New York-based environmental consulting company

**\*** **Graduate students** are required to perform additional assignment(s) in consultation with the instructor. All graduate students are encouraged to hand-deliver to the instructor by the second week of classes an unofficial copy of their transcript(s) to date, as well as their CVs, which will form the basis in the selection of research topic(s).

**TENTANTIVE COURSE CALENDAR & CONTENT**

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| **Week** | **Day** | **Date** | **Topic** |
| 1 | Monday | 28-Aug | Introduction of the course - Environmental Legislation Overview |
|  | Monday | 4-Sep | Labor Day – College Closed |
| 2 | Monday | 11-Sep | Innocent Landowner Defense & Other Defenses  The World of Standards and ASTM |
| 3 | Monday | 18-Sep | All Appropriate Inquiries Final Rule versus ASTM Standard E1527 |
| 4 | Monday | 25-Sep | Types of Records: Government environmental records, Physical setting sources, Historical land use records |
| 5 | Monday | 2-Oct | Guest speaker: Michael Burke, CHMM, Principal/Vice President,  LANGAN |
|  | Sunday | 8-Oct | [optional] 3 pm – 8:30 pm OSHA 10-hour Outreach Training Program for the Construction Industry |
|  | Monday | 9-Oct | Columbus Day – College Closed |
|  | Sunday | 15-Oct | [optional] 3 pm – 8:30 pm OSHA 10-hour Outreach Training Program for the Construction Industry |
| 6 | Monday | 16-Oct | Site Reconnaissance: General Site Setting, Geologic, Hydrogeologic, Hydrologic, and Topographic Conditions.  ~~First (Midterm) Exam~~ |
| 7 | Monday | 23-Oct | Special Session: Katie Nailler, Director, Career and Professional Development Institute, City College of New York. |
| 8 | Monday | 30-Oct | **First (Midterm) Exam** |
| 9 | Monday | 6-Nov | Site Reconnaissance (continued): General Site Setting, Geologic, Hydrogeologic, Hydrologic, and Topographic Conditions. |
| 10 | Monday | 13-Nov | Deviations, Limitations, Data Gaps. |
| 11 | Monday | 20-Nov | Special Event at Macaulay Honors College, 35 W 67th St, New York, NY. Trichloroethylene: Movie screening on court case on TCE, an industrial solvent, and its contamination of a local aquifer. |
| 12 | Monday | 27-Nov | Findings, Opinions, Conclusions, and Report Preparation |
| 13 | Monday | 4-Dec | Findings, Opinions, Conclusions, and Report Preparation (continued) |
| 14 | Monday | 11-Dec | What You Need to Know as a Phase I EP that is Not in the  ASTM E 1527 Standard. |
|  | Monday | 18-Dec | **6:00pm–8:15pm**  **Second (Final) Exam** |

**Attendance** is paramount for this course. With the exception of rare emergencies, students are expected to arrive in class promptly and not leave class early. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. If you must miss a lecture class for reasons beyond your control, arrange to get the notes from one of your classmates.

**Extra credit**: Since there are many opportunities in this course to academically perform, there will be no extra credit assignments.

**Use of instructional technologies**: All lecture materials, assignments and course updates will be delivered exclusively through Blackboard. Students must ensure their complete access to Blackboard and make sure that their email address on-file with the IT office is current.

**Email Policy**: Language abbreviations common in online chatting and text messaging will not be appreciated in email communications. The instructor reserves the right to not respond to emails from students who will not follow the following basic principles in email communications:

**a)** include your last name and course number in the email subject line

**b)** sign your message with your full name, department and major information

**c)** spell-check your message

**d)** preferably use your CCNY email account in all communications

**Electronic Devices**: Cell phones must be turned off or set on vibrate during lectures. During exams, all electronic devices, except your calculator, when needed, must be silenced and remain in your purse or pack.

**Academic Integrity**: Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit must be the student’s own work. Students are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and course readings with other students. However, this cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of any work done by someone else (in the form of an email, an email attachment file, a diskette, CD, DVD, flash drive, or a hard copy). During examinations and quizzes, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion in not permitted during the exams, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way during exams or quizzes. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York, and is punishable by failing grades, suspension and expulsion. Therefore, any collaborative behavior during examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

*For more information visit: http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/about/integrity.cfm*

**Accommodations for students with disabilities**: The AccessAbility Center (AAC) facilitates equal access and coordinates reasonable accommodations and support services for City College students with disabilities while preserving the integrity of academic standards.

*For more information visit: http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/accessability/*

**Syllabus Change Policy**: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.