LWS 548 – MLWS Major Project

LWS 548 (6 credits) is the capstone course for the professional Master of Land and Water Systems (MLWS) program. The academic expectation of LWS 548 is a demonstration by the candidates that they can **formulate and articulate a land/water concern or issue, develop a framework that analyzes the issue, provide a synthesis of how the issue may be addressed, and provide recommendations for the resolve of the concern or issue**. The analysis will consist largely but not exclusively of existing (published) information and integration with relevant professional experience.

- Each student enrolled in LWS 548 will be **co-supervised by a UBC faculty member, and an approved adjunct or professional** (drawn from the MLWS Professional Advisor Group or in consultation with the Academic Coordinator). In all cases there will be a minimum of two supervisors/reviewers. The final mark will be set by the two reviewers and will be approved by the Director of the MLWS program.
- The topic of the Major Project will be agreed upon by the Academic Coordinator and Director of the MLWS program, the student and the proposed supervisor(s). The LWS 548 Major Project may be conducted at the site of the adjunct/professional supervisor's employment/business location. If the project is off campus, the MLWS Academic Coordinator, Director, or designate, will ensure that the goals of the Major Project can be adequately conducted on-site.

The Major Project will involve **a final report and an oral presentation** to your co-supervisors, fellow students and other guests. The report format will be modeled after a *professional white paper*, and your guidelines include the following sections:

1) Introduction, stating the subject matter of concern and context of the issue

2) A pertinent literature review

3) Clear objectives and an outline of the approach (methods) taken to address the objectives

4) Results, following the objectives laid out in point 3

5) Discussion of results in the context presented in point 1, and synthesis with point 2

6) Recommendations that emerge from points 4 and 5, directed to a specific target audience

7) Acknowledgments and References.

Important: The objective of your report is NOT to just sit on a shelf or your desktop after it is completed! You are encouraged to utilize online and digital technologies to present your final report in creative and interactive ways. Examples include: creation of a website or blog and allowing comments/feedback from colleagues, using photo series/video to illustrate important concepts or processes, digital mapping, moving graphs, etc.

Literacy in digital and multimedia technologies is one of the learning outcomes of the required course LWS 550 – Professional Communication Strategies. It is expected the students will utilize some of these tools in the execution of their LWS 548 Major Project.

Marking Scheme Guidelines

Final Report (90%)

		%
1.	Context/Rationale/Significance	10
2.	Goals and Objectives – definitions and explanation	10
3.	Approach	20
	a) Methods	
	b) Assumptions	
	c) Justification and explanations	
4.	Outcomes/Discussion	35
	a) Depth (understanding of topic)	
	b) Accuracy	
	c) Limitations/Uncertainties	
5.	Conclusions and Recommendations	15
6.	Overall Presentation	10

Oral Presentation (10%)

		%
1.	Clarity and Organization	15
2.	Audience Attention (appropriateness)	10
3.	Presentation Style (timing, voice, visual aids)	30
4.	Originality/Creativity	25
6.	Handling of Questions	20

Note: These are our guidelines for MLWS students and professional co-supervisors for comment in advance of embarking on the LWS 548 Major Project.

As we embark on a new venture in terms of both a requirement for a Major Project (Professional) and not a traditional thesis, as well as experimenting with untested formats, we encourage innovations in the delivery of the final document. We wish to balance general formatting requirements while still accommodating creativity.

Timeline for Completion of LWS 548:

1. The title and concern/issue will be presented by the student in Term 1 (by December) to the Director and Academic Coordinator of the MLWS program; appropriate co-supervisors will be identified and approve the project concept.
2. The candidate will prepare a draft proposal of the project and a tentative timeline for approval by project co-supervisors by February (cc MLWS Academic Coordinator and Director).
3. Upon completion of the proposal the candidate will, in consultation with the co-supervisors, address data needs, begin analysis and iteratively prepare draft reports as outlined above (March - July).
4. The final draft project will be shared with the Academic Coordinator, Director, and co-supervisors for final feedback and approval (July 31). Final oral presentation will be scheduled (Early August).
5. The grade for the Major Project will be determined by the co-supervisors and approved by the Director of the MLWS program. **This grade must be submitted to the Academic Coordinator by August 15th in order to graduate by August 31st.**

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The integrity of academic work depends on the honesty of all those who work in this environment and the observance of accepted conventions such as acknowledging the work of others through careful citation of all sources used in your work. Plagiarism - including self-plagiarism - and other forms of academic misconduct are treated as serious offences at UBC, whether committed by faculty, staff or students. You should be aware of the sections of the University Calendar that address academic integrity and plagiarism (http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/?tree=3,54,111,959).

The UBC library also has a useful web-based Plagiarism Resource Centre that explains what plagiarism is and how to avoid it (http://help.library.ubc.ca/planning-your-research/academic-integrity-plagiarism).

Turnitin is an online plagiarism checker and educational resource provider. They have created a helpful infographic, identifying the 10 most common examples of plagiarism, called the *Plagiarism Spectrum*. http://turnitin.com/assets/en_us/media/plagiarism_spectrum.php