GEOG*1220 Human Impact on the Environment

Summer 2020
Section: DE01

Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics
Credit Weight: 0.50

Course Details

Calendar Description

A global overview of the changing relationships among society, technology and the environment. This course emphasizes the major stages of human use of resources and the environmental consequences of global changes in production systems. It contrasts Third and First World experiences, focusing on core-periphery relationships.

Pre-Requisite(s): None
Co-Requisite(s): None
Restriction(s): None
Method of Delivery: Online

Final Exam

Release Date and Time: Sunday, August 2 at 9:00am ET
Submission Due Date and Time: Thursday, August 6 by 9:00am ET
Location: Take-home final exam to be submitted via the Dropbox tool in CourseLink
Instructional Support

Instructor

Dr. Dawn Dietrich
Email: ddietric@uoguelph.ca
Office: Hutt 137
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:00am ET to 12:00pm ET (online)

Teaching Assistant(s)

Name: TBA
Email: TBA

Name: TBA
Email: TBA

Learning Resources

Required Textbook

Title: Environment: The Science Behind the Stories
Author(s): Withgott, Jay, Laposata, Matthew, and Barbara Murck
Edition / Year: 3rd Edition (Custom for University of Guelph) / 2019
Publisher: Pearson Education Canada
ISBN: 9781323909362

You may purchase the textbook at the Guelph Campus Co-op Bookstore or the University of Guelph Bookstore. Please note that DE textbooks are located in the Distance Education section of the University of Guelph Bookstore.

https://bookstore.coop/
http://www.bookstore.uoguelph.ca/

Supplementary Materials

This course includes supplementary materials. These materials are meant to supplement the required readings and course content. You can explore the materials at your own pace. To access these materials, select Content on the navbar to locate Supplementary Materials in the table of contents panel.

Course Website
CourseLink (powered by D2L’s Brightspace) is the course website and will act as your classroom. It is recommended that you log in to your course website every day to check for announcements, access course materials, and review the weekly schedule and assignment requirements.

https://courselink.uoguelph.ca

Ares

For this course, you will be required to access course reserve materials through the University of Guelph McLaughlin Library. To access these items, select Ares on the navbar in CourseLink. Note that you will need your Central Login ID and password in order to access items on reserve.

For further instructions on accessing reserve resources, visit How to Get Course Reserve Materials.

If at any point during the course you have difficulty accessing reserve materials, please contact the e-Learning Operations and Reserve Services staff at:

Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 53621
Email: libres2@uoguelph.ca
Location: McLaughlin Library, First Floor, University of Guelph

http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/find-type-resource/course-reserves-ares/how-get-course-reserve-material

Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

Geography is the study of the inter-relationships between people and the environment over time and across space. The study may focus on how the environment functions (GEOG*1300: Physical Geography) and how it affects people (GEOG*1350: Natural Hazards) or it may focus on human-landscape patterns – whether urban, political, social, medical, historical and so on (GEOG*1200: Human Geography) and how people may affect the natural environment (GEOG*1220: Human Impact on the Environment). In this course, we discuss the working environment (the natural flows of energy and matter through the atmosphere, the hydrosphere and the lithosphere) and then focus on the (inevitable?) consequences of human-environment interactions. Subsequently, we consider means of managing human impacts, one of many skills geographers take with them as professional consultants, teachers, park managers, legislators, environmental managers, municipal/provincial/federal planners, outdoor educators, advisors, and so on.

This course provides a global overview of the changing interrelationships between people, technology and the environment. Principal biophysical processes, human use
systems and the major stages of human utilization of resources are introduced. Contemporary issues of resource depletion, environmental degradation and management are explored from geographical perspectives. Regional variations in economic development and environmental impacts are discussed by contrasting experiences and trends of the global north and south.

GEOG*1220 is the first course in a series of courses (GEOG*2210, GEOG*3210 and GEOG*4210) offered by the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph that concentrate on the environment and resources and the role humans play in managing resources and thus, the environment.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Present an overview of how the Earth’s systems function and how we are affecting these systems (from both a historical and contemporary perspective);
2. Enhance appreciation of environmental problems from a geographic perspective (for example, the consequences of spatial variability in the availability and use of resources);
3. Facilitate oral and verbal written communication of environmental geography in order to encourage the sort of innovative thinking required to manage human impact; and
4. Analyze management challenges and strategies employed to reduce human impact.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Course Structure

The course is organized into 11 units:

- Unit 01: Key Concepts
- Unit 02: The Historical Context of Human Impact on the Environment
- Unit 03: Natural Physical Systems and their Human Transformation
- Unit 04: Natural Biological Systems and their Human Transformation
- Unit 05: Agriculture and the Transformation of Biophysical Systems
- Unit 06: Environmental Management and Fishery Resources
- Unit 07: Water Resources
- Unit 08: Forest Resources
- Unit 09: Soil and Land Resources
- Unit 10: Energy Resources
• Unit 11: Conclusion: Environmental Ethics and Economics

**What to Expect for Each Unit**

All eleven units are structured in a similar manner. The tasks should be completed in the following order:

- Read the assigned reading
- Read the instructor’s notes
- Participate in the ongoing discussion

The instructor notes will be used to supplement the material in the textbook and required readings. They provide additional information regarding particular issues or concepts as well as providing additional examples to facilitate your understanding.

**Schedule**

It is strongly recommended that you follow the course schedule provided below. The schedule outlines what you should be working on each week of the course and lists the important due dates for the assessments. By following the schedule, you will be better prepared to complete the assessments and succeed in this course.

**Unit 01: Key Concepts**

**Week 1 - Thursday, May 7 to Sunday, May 17**

**Readings**

- Textbook: Chapter 1, pp. 2-22; Chapter 2, pp. 28-44; Chapter 7, pp. 200-208; Chapter 16, p. 510

- **Unit 01** Content, including Slide Shows 01-1, 01-2 and 01-3

**Activities**

- **Introduction Discussion**
  Introduce yourself via the Introductions forum in Discussions
  Due: Sunday, May 17 by 11:59 pm ET

**Unit 02: The Historical Context of Human Impact on the Environment**

**Week 2 - Monday, May 18 to Sunday, May 24**

**Readings**

- Textbook: Chapter 7, pp. 197-200; Chapter 16, pp. 510-522

- **Unit 02** Content
Assessments
- Begin Essay Proposal
  Due: Wednesday, June 3 by 11:59 pm ET

Unit 03: Natural Physical Systems and their Human Transformation

Week 3 – Monday, May 25 to Sunday, May 31

Readings
- Textbook: Chapter 2, pp. 46-47; Chapter 5, pp. 121-124; Chapter 9, pp. 256-278; Chapter 11, pp. 325-358
- Unit 03 Content, including Slide Shows 03-1 and 03-2

Assessments
- Continue Essay Proposal
  Due: Wednesday, June 3 by 11:59 pm ET

Unit 04: Natural Biological Systems and their Human Transformation

Week 4 – Monday, June 1 to Sunday, June 7

Readings
- Textbook: Chapter 2, pp. 34-37, 44-55; Chapter 3, pp. 80-83; Chapter 4, pp. 94-115; Chapter 7, pp. 196-200
- Unit 04 Content, including Slide Shows 04-1, 04-2 and 04-3

Assessments
- Submit Essay Proposal
  Due: Wednesday, June 3 by 11:59 pm ET

Unit 05: Agriculture and the Transformation of Biophysical Systems

Week 5 – Monday, June 8 to Sunday, June 14

Readings
- Textbook: Chapters 5, pp. 120-145; Chapter 6, pp. 149-180
- Ares: World on the Edge: Chapters 5 and 12
- Unit 05 Content, including Slide Show 05-1
Assessments

- Begin **Discussion Question 1**
  Due: Wednesday, June 17 by 11:59 pm ET

### Unit 06: Environmental Management and Fishery Resources

**Week 6 – Monday, June 15 to Sunday, June 21**

**Readings**

- Textbook: Chapter 1, pp. 10-14; Chapter 10, pp. 313-322
- **Unit 06** Content, including Slide Shows 06-1 and 06-2

**Video**

- End of the Line (**Ares**)  

**Assessments**

- **Discussion Question 1**
  Due: Wednesday, June 17 by 11:59 pm ET

- Begin **Essay**
  After you have received feedback on your Essay Proposal, and your topic has been approved you should begin working on your Essay.
  Due: Wednesday, July 8 by 11:59 pm ET

### Unit 07: Water Resources

**Week 7 – Monday, June 22 to Sunday, June 28**

**Readings**

- Textbook: Chapter 9, pp. 255-289
- **Ares**: World on the Edge: Chapter 2
- **Unit 07** Content, including Slide Shows 07-1 and 07-2

**Assessments**

- Continue working on **Essay**
  Due: Wednesday, July 8 by 11:59 pm ET
Unit 08: Forest Resources

Week 8 – Monday, June 29 to Sunday, July 5

Readings
- Textbook: Chapter 8, pp. 224-251
- Ares: World on the Edge: Chapter 10
- Unit 08 Content

Video
- Ares: The Flight of BIRD

Assessments
- Continue working on Essay
  Due: Wednesday, July 8 by 11:59 pm ET

Unit 09: Soil and Land Resources

Week 9 – Monday, July 6 to Sunday, July 12

Readings
- Textbook: Chapter 5, pp. 120-145
- Ares: World on the Edge Chapter 3
- Unit 09 Content, including Slide Shows 09-1 and 09-2

Assessments
- Submit Essay
  Due: Wednesday, July 8 by 11:59 pm ET

Unit 10: Energy Resources

Week 10 – Monday, July 13 to Sunday, July 19

Readings
- Textbook: Chapter 12, pp. 362-395; Chapter 13, pp. 399-439
- Ares: World on the Edge: Chapters 8 and 9
- Unit 10 Content, including Slide Shows 10-1, 10-2, and 10-3

Video
- Ares: Water Warriors

Assessments
• Begin **Discussion 2**  
  Due: Wednesday, July 22 by 11:59 pm ET

**Unit 11: Conclusion: Environmental Ethics and Economics**

**Week 11 – Monday, July 20 to Sunday, July 26**

**Readings**
- Textbook: Chapter 15, pp. 474-504
- Ares: World on the Edge: Chapter 13
- **Unit 11 Content**

**Assessments**
- **Discussion 2**  
  Due: Wednesday, July 22 by 11:59 pm ET

**Unit 12: Review**

**Week 12 – Monday, July 27 to Friday, July 31**

**Activities**
- **Exam Preparation**  
  The final exam will be a take home exam and will take place during the final examination period. Review course content and prepare accordingly.

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**Assessment**

The grade determination for this course is indicated in the following table. A brief description of each assessment is provided below. Select **Content** on the navbar to locate **Assessments** in the table of contents panel to review further details of each assessment. Due dates can be found under the Schedule heading of this outline.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Assessment Descriptions**

**Discussion Questions**

There will be two (2) discussion questions. You will need to participate in each of these discussions in a timely manner, which involves posting your responses before the deadline. You will not be graded on the quantity of your postings to the discussion boards, but rather on the quality of these postings.

**Essay Proposal**

The aim of the Essay is to describe and analyze the environmental impacts of the human use of resources and to identify and evaluate technologies or policies designed to manage these impacts. You will need to select one resource and one country from the lists provided. You must further narrow your topic by identifying a particular activity that is affecting the resource. For instance, if your resource is forests, you may wish to illustrate the impact of logging on the forest resource in Slovakia.

**Essay**

The purpose of this assignment is to describe and analyze the environmental impacts of the human use of resources and to identify and evaluate technologies or policies designed to manage these impacts. Pace yourself and begin now to plan how you will do the required work.

**Final Exam**

This course requires you to submit a take-home final exam to the Dropbox tool in CourseLink. The final exam is comprehensive and may consist of a combination of short answer and / or long answer essay questions. Select Content on the navbar to locate Assessments in the table of contents panel to review further details of the final exam.
Course Technology Requirements and Technical Support

CourseLink System Requirements

You are responsible for ensuring that your computer system meets the necessary system requirements. Use the browser check tool to ensure your browser settings are compatible and up to date. (Results will be displayed in a new browser window).

http://spaces.uoguelph.ca/ed/system-requirements/
https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/d2l/systemCheck

Technical Skills

As part of your online experience, you are expected to use a variety of technology as part of your learning:

- Manage files and folders on your computer (e.g., save, name, copy, backup, rename, delete, and check properties);
- Install software, security, and virus protection;
- Use office applications (e.g., Word, PowerPoint, Excel, or similar) to create documents;
- Be comfortable uploading and downloading saved files;
- Communicate using email (e.g., create, receive, reply, print, send, download, and open attachments);
- Navigate the CourseLink learning environment and use the essential tools, such as Dropbox, Quizzes, Discussions, and Grades (the instructions for this are given in your course);
- Access, navigate, and search the Internet using a web browser (e.g., Firefox, Internet Explorer); and
- Perform online research using various search engines (e.g., Google) and library databases.

Technical Support

If you need any assistance with the software tools or the CourseLink website, contact CourseLink Support.

CourseLink Support
University of Guelph
Day Hall, Room 211
Email: courselink@uoguelph.ca
Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 56939
Toll-Free (CAN/USA): 1-866-275-1478

Walk-In Hours (Eastern Time):
Monday thru Friday: 8:30 am–4:30 pm

Phone/Email Hours (Eastern Time):
Monday thru Friday: 8:30 am–8:30 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am–4:00 pm
Sunday: 12:00 pm–6:00 pm

Course Specific Standard Statements

Acceptable Use

The University of Guelph has an Acceptable Use Policy, which you are expected to adhere to.

https://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/infosec/aup

Communicating with Your Instructor

During the course, your instructor will interact with you on various course matters on the course website using the following ways of communication:

- **Announcements**: The instructor will use Announcements on the Course Home page to provide you with course reminders and updates. Please check this section frequently for course updates from your instructor.

- **Ask Your Instructor Discussion**: Use this discussion forum to ask questions of your instructor about content or course-related issues with which you are unfamiliar. If you encounter difficulties, the instructor is here to help you. Please post general course-related questions to the discussion forum so that all students have an opportunity to review the response. Be sure to monitor the discussion board for responses to course-related questions that you might have. To access this discussion forum, select Discussions from the Tools dropdown menu.

- **Email**: If you have a conflict that prevents you from completing course requirements, or have a question concerning a personal matter, you can send your instructor a private message by email. The instructor will respond to your email within 48 to 72 hours.

Netiquette Expectations

For distance education courses, the course website is considered the classroom and the same protections, expectations, guidelines, and regulations used in face-to-face settings apply, plus other policies and considerations that come into play specifically because these courses are online.

Inappropriate online behaviour will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate online behaviour include:

- Posting inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students;
• Using obscene or offensive language online;
• Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own;
• Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references;
• Buying or selling term papers or assignments;
• Posting or selling course materials to course notes websites;
• Having someone else complete your quiz or completing a quiz for/with another student;
• Stating false claims about lost quiz answers or other assignment submissions;
• Threatening or harassing a student or instructor online;
• Discriminating against fellow students, instructors, and/or TAs;
• Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services;
• Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system; and
• Sharing your username and password.

Submission of Assignments to Dropbox

All assignments for this course should be submitted electronically via the online Dropbox tool. When submitting your assignments using the Dropbox tool, do not leave the page until your assignment has successfully uploaded. To verify that your submission was complete, you can view the submission history immediately after the upload to see which files uploaded successfully. The system will also email you a receipt. Save this email receipt as proof of submission.

Be sure to keep a back-up copy of all of your assignments in the event that they are lost in transition. In order to avoid any last-minute computer problems, your instructor strongly recommends you save your assignments to a cloud-based file storage (e.g., Google Docs), or send to your email account, so that should something happen to your computer, the assignment could still be submitted on time or re-submitted.

It is your responsibility to submit your assignments on time as specified on the Schedule. Be sure to check the technical requirements and make sure you have the proper computer, that you have a supported browser, and that you have reliable Internet access. Remember that technical difficulty is not an excuse not to turn in your assignment on time. Don’t wait until the last minute as you may get behind in your work.

If, for some reason, you have a technical difficulty when submitting your assignment electronically, please contact your instructor or CourseLink Support.

http://spaces.uoguelph.ca/ed/contact-us/

Late Policy
If you choose to submit your individual assignments to the Dropbox tool late, the full allocated mark will be reduced by 5% per day after the deadline for the submission of the assignment to a limit of six days at which time access to the Dropbox folder will be closed.

Extensions will be considered for medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances. If you require an extension, discuss this with the instructor as soon as possible and well before the due date. Barring exceptional circumstances, extensions will not be granted once the due date has passed. These rules are not designed to be arbitrary, nor are they inflexible. They are designed to keep you organized, to ensure that all students have the same amount of time to work on assignments, and to help to return marked materials to you in the shortest possible time.

**Obtaining Grades and Feedback**

Unofficial assessment marks will be available in the Grades tool of the course website. Your instructor will have essay proposal and discussion grades posted online within 2 weeks of the submission deadline, if the assignment was submitted on time. The essay grades will be up within 3 weeks of valid submission. Once your assignments are marked you can view your grades on the course website by selecting Grades from the Tools dropdown menu on the navbar. Your course will remain open to you for seven days following the last day of the final exam period.

University of Guelph degree students can access their final grade by logging into WebAdvisor (using your U of G central ID). Open Learning program students should log in to the OpenEd Student Portal to view their final grade (using the same username and password you have been using for your courses).

https://webadvisor.uoguelph.ca
https://courses.opened.uoguelph.ca/portal/logon.do?method=load

**Rights and Responsibilities When Learning Online**

For distance education (DE) courses, the course website is considered the classroom and the same protections, expectations, guidelines, and regulations used in face-to-face settings apply, plus other policies and considerations that come into play specifically because these courses are online.

For more information on your rights and responsibilities when learning in the online environment, visit Rights and Responsibilities.

http://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/rights-and-responsibilities

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**University Standard Statements**

**University of Guelph: Undergraduate Policies**
As a student of the University of Guelph, it is important for you to understand your rights and responsibilities and the academic rules and regulations that you must abide by.

If you are a registered University of Guelph Degree Student, consult the Undergraduate Calendar for the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for current and previous academic years.

If you are an Open Learning Program Student, consult the Open Learning Program Calendar for information about University of Guelph administrative policies, procedures and services.

https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/
http://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/open-learning-program-calendar

Email Communication

University of Guelph Degree Students

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their uoguelph.ca e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Open Learning Program Students

Check your email account (the account you provided upon registration) regularly for important communications, as this is the primary conduit by which the Open Learning and Educational Support will notify you of events, deadlines, announcements or any other official information.

When You Cannot Meet Course Requirements

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise your course instructor in writing, with your name, ID number and email contact.

University of Guelph Degree Students

Consult the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml

Open Learning Program Students

Please refer to the Open Learning Program Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for requesting Academic Consideration.

http://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/open-learning-program-calendar
Drop Date

University of Guelph Degree Students

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. Review the Undergraduate Calendar for regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses.
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml

Open Learning Program Students

Please refer to the Open Learning Program Calendar.
http://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/open-learning-program-calendar

Copies of Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment.

University of Guelph Degree Students

Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact Accessibility Services at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208, email Accessibility Services or visit the Accessibility Services website.
accessibility@uoguelph.ca
https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility/

Open Learning Program Students

If you are an Open Learning program student who requires academic accommodation, please contact the Academic Assistant to the Director. Please ensure that you contact us before the end of the first week of your course (every semester) in order to avoid any delays in support. Documentation from a health professional is required for all academic accommodations. Please note that all information provided will be held in confidence.

If you require textbooks produced in an alternate format (e.g., DAISY, Braille, large print or eText), please contact the Academic Assistant to the Director at least two months
prior to the course start date. If contact is not made within the suggested time frame, support may be delayed. It is recommended that you refer to the course outline before beginning your course in order to determine the required readings.

The provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between OpenEd and the student requesting accommodation. It is recognized that academic accommodations are intended to "level the playing field" for students with disabilities.

jessica.martin@uoguelph.ca

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ami misconduct.shtml

Copyright Notice

Content within this course is copyright protected. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters and articles) have either been licensed for use in this course, or have been copied under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

The fair dealing exemption in Canada's Copyright Act permits students to reproduce short excerpts from copyright-protected materials for purposes such as research, education, private study, criticism and review, with proper attribution. Any other copying, communicating, or distribution of any content provided in this course, except as permitted by law, may be an infringement of copyright if done without proper license or the consent of the copyright owner. Examples of infringing uses of copyrighted works would include uploading materials to a commercial third party web site, or making paper or electronic reproductions of all, or a substantial part, of works such as textbooks for commercial purposes.
Students who upload to CourseLink copyrighted materials such as book chapters, journal articles, or materials taken from the Internet, must ensure that they comply with Canadian Copyright law or with the terms of the University’s electronic resource licenses.

For more information about students’ rights and obligations with respect to copyrighted works, review Fair Dealing Guidance for Students.

http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/sites/default/files/fair_dealing_policy_0.pdf

Plagiarism Detection Software

Students should be aware that faculty have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University can be imposed.

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.