University of Guelph  
Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics

GEOG*1220DE  HUMAN IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT COURSE DESCRIPTION – Summer 2019

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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 and environmental management). 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.

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 global north and south experiences.

Textbook

Method of Evaluation

Component:  
Grade: 
1. Discussions  
2. Essay Proposal  
3. Essay  
4. Final Examination  
   
30%

10%

30%

30%
Student Responsibilities

You are required to complete all the assigned readings and submit assignments on time. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day, including Saturday and Sunday. Students whose assignment is late because of valid medical reason, family emergency, or other reason accepted by the course instructor will not be penalized. A note from a physician or from Counseling Services (x53244) may be required.

University of Guelph Policy Statements:

E-mail Communication

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.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor [or the teaching assistant in the case of the proposal or essay] in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. Note: if appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary, the course instructor, or delegate, will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required for course components representing less than 10% of the course grade. Such documentation will be required, however, for Academic Consideration for missed end-of-term work and/or missed final examinations. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Summer 2019 courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, July 5, 2019. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of Out-of-Class Assignments

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

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins 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. The University of Guelph takes a serious view of academic misconduct, and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University’s policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission from the relevant instructors. To better understand your responsibilities, read the Undergraduate Calendar for a statement of Students’ Academic Responsibilities; also read the full Academic Misconduct Policy. You are also advised to make use of the resources available through the Learning Commons (http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/) and to discuss any questions you may have with your course instructor, TA, or academic counsellor.

Instructors 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, can be imposed. Hurried or careless submission of work does not exonerate students of responsibility for ensuring the academic integrity of their work. Similarly, students who find themselves unable to meet course requirements by the deadlines or criteria expected because of medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances should review the university’s regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration in the calendar and discuss their situation with the instructor and/or the program counsellor or other academic counsellor as appropriate.

**University Policy on Academic Misconduct**

*Academic misconduct, such as plagiarism, is a serious offence at the University of Guelph. Please consult the Undergraduate Calendar for offences, penalties and procedures relating to academic misconduct.*