

HUMAN IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

GEOG*1220

COURSE DESCRIPTION – Winter 2019

Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics | University of Guelph

Provisional

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 the experiences in various countries around the world.

Instructors	Dr. Kirby Calvert	Dr. Eric Nost
Email	calvertk@uoguelph.ca	enost@uoguelph.ca
Office Hours	TBD Hutt 122	TBD Hutt 344
Primary Responsibilities	Weeks 1-6	Weeks 7-12
Teaching Assistants	See CourseLink for info/office hours	See CourseLink for info/office hours
Course Website	Located via CourseLink	Located via CourseLink

Method of Presentation

Lectures, slides and audio-visual presentations.

Resources

Withgott, J., Brennan, S. and Murck, M., (2015) *Environment: The Science Behind the Stories*, 3rd Custom Edition, Toronto: Pearson. **REQUIRED.** (Limited copies are available on Course Reserves in the library)

- with Mastering Package. ISBN 13: 9781323909362 nost
- Mastering Environmental Science standalone. ISBN: 9780134267876

Methods of Evaluation

Component	Timeline	Grade
Essay proposal	Wednesday, January 30, online by 4:00pm	10%
Mid-term exam	TBD	25%
Essay	Wednesday, March 13, online by 11:59pm	25%
Assignments	Throughout (via Mastering)	5%
Participation	Throughout lectures (via Learning Analytics)	5%
Final exam	TBD	30%

Asking for Help

Should you require clarification on any aspect of the course, please pursue the following, in order:

1. Check the Course Syllabus
2. Ask in class (your peers may benefit from clarification)
3. Ask a classmate
4. Check the "Get Assistance" link from the Library: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance>
5. Go to a TA's office hours, email TA
6. Go to an Instructor office hours, email Instructor

Timeline

WEEK	TOPIC AND NOTES	READINGS*
1	Human Impact: Key Concepts and Terms	Ch.1 (3-12, 19-26); Ch.2 (33-37); Ch.7 (186-190); Ch.16 (480)
2	Historical Context of Human-Environment Interactions: Transitions ESSAY ASSIGNED (Wednesday, January 16)	Ch.16 (481-486)
3-4	Natural Physical Systems and their Human Transformation	Ch.2 (46-47); Ch.5 (107-110); Ch.9 (245- 262); Ch.11 (309-336)
5	Natural Biological Systems and their Human Transformation PROPOSAL DUE (Wednesday, January 30)	Ch.2 (37-40, 44-55); Ch.3 (63-67); Ch.4 (80-100)
6	Agriculture and the Transformation of Biophysical Systems MIDTERM EXAM (TBD)	Ch.5 (119-133); Ch. 6 Brown: Ch.5; Ch.12 recommended
7	Introduction to section 2: Social drivers of environmental transformation	Ch.1 (3-10); Ch.16 (486-492)
8	Soil, land, and 'tragedy of the commons'	Ch. 5; Ch.6
9	Energy resources and 'externalities' ESSAY DUE (Wednesday, March 13)	Ch.12; Ch.15 (460-477); Ch.11 (317-330)
10	Alternative energy and human impact on environment	Chapter 13
11	Human dimensions of the hydrological cycle	Ch.9; Ch.10 (290-303)
12	'Environmental ethics' Exam Prep	Ch.15 (446-458)
	FINAL EXAM (TBD)	

* Additional readings will be found on CourseLink.

Mastering Environmental Science

As part of this course, you will complete a series of assignments on a web supplement to the course text. Details TBD.

Learning Catalytics Teaching Platform

As a way to facilitate engagement in a large class setting, this class will use the Learning Catalytics teaching platform. You will find it at TBD. This platform allows an instructor to pose questions to the group, and to summarize and visualize responses. Students respond to questions through their cell phone, tablet, or laptop. The instructor will use Learning Catalytics to assign participation grades for the course.

Students enrolled in the course will received an invitation to join Learning Catalytics. If you have enrolled late and did not receive an invitation, please ensure that you seek direction on how to sign up. There is a cost associated with this platform, but it is relatively cheap and the cost matches the value students will derive from this. If you are having any issues with this platform,

please see the course instructor. Note that the platform requires you to bring a digital device to class (cell phone, tablet, laptop). If you do not own one of these devices, or feel comfortable bringing it to class, then please see the instructor.

Learning Resources for First-year Students at the Library

The Library and Learning Commons offer free services to help you succeed at the University of Guelph. At the Library, you can:

- Get feedback on your writing
- Get assistance finding journal articles and books
- Fine-tune your time management skills
- Develop new study strategies
- Attend Supported Learning Groups (SLGs)
- Learn about citation and reference styles
- And more!

Visit the Library website to learn more about our workshops, online guides, individual appointments, and other services: www.lib.uoguelph.ca

Student Responsibilities

You are required to attend all lectures and do the assigned readings. Assignments must be submitted on time in the appropriate dropbox. 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.

Counselling Services

The University of Guelph can be a challenging environment. Counselling Services provides a wide range of strategies to help you do your best during your time here at UofG. At Counselling Services you can find help with everything from Stress Management, to Academic Support, to Mental Health, to Emergencies/Crisis Mitigation. For more information about their services or to book an appointment, please call them at (519) 824-4120 ext.53244, visit them in University Centre - Level 3 South, or visit their website at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/counselling/>.

Note for Students with Disabilities

The Centre for Students with Disabilities collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the Centre at the beginning of each academic term. Once registered with the Centre, please meet with the professor, in confidence, to discuss your needs. In addition, consider reviewing the support available through Library Accessibility Services (<http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get- assistance/accessibility/library-accessibility-services>)

Course Notes

Limited lecture notes will be posted online. Any notes posted will be available on CourseLink (in the "Content" section of the webpage), normally by 4pm the day before any given lecture. It is recommended that you print off these notes ahead of class and bring these so you can add the remaining content (discussion notes, off-the-cuff examples given in class, etc.). Students missing lectures must get their lecture notes from a friend or another student in class. Lecture notes will not be distributed in printed form and do not replace hand written notes.

Laptop use in class

Students are expected to access course material only while in-class. Anybody found accessing the Internet for other purposes (e.g. checking email, visiting non-course sites, playing on-line games, etc.), or using laptops off-line for non-course purposes (e.g. games, movies, music), will be asked to leave the class. Laptop use can influence your grades and the grades of your distracted peers. Repeated complaints about laptop use will require students to receive permission from the course instructor to use in class. *Note: There will be some classes where we will rely heavily on laptops as part of the learning process. All cellular phones, iPhones, Blackberries, iPods, or similar devices will be off while in-class.

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 Winter 2019 courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, March 8. 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 Integrity Statement and 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.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

In this course, a submission must be within the 0-20% range of 'unoriginal material' (i.e., 80-100% original material) in order for the assignment to be graded without penalty. A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment. Only the most recently submitted file to the dropbox folder will be retained and put forth for grading; all previous submissions will be deleted automatically from the dropbox folder.

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.

Student Accessibility Services

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. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the [website](#).