



GEOG*1220 Human Impact on the Environment

Winter 2024

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: Distance Education (asynchronous online)

Final Assignment (Research Journal – Policy Memo)

Available on: Monday, January 8 at 12:01 a.m. E.T. via the **Assessments** module

Due Date: Monday, April 8 at 11:59 p.m. E.T. via the **Dropbox** tool

Note: There is no traditional scheduled final exam in the course. Instead, you will complete a final assignment. The Final Assignment is to be submitted via the **Dropbox** tool in CourseLink.

Instructional Support

Instructor

Karina Benessaiah

Email: geog1220instructor@uoguelph.ca

Phone: 519-824-4120 ext 58547

Office: See courselink

Pr. Benessaiah is a human-environment geographer, sustainability researcher and inter-and transdisciplinary scholar whose research focuses on understanding how people adapt to rapid, multifaceted social-ecological changes – often called crises – and assessing resulting societal and environmental transformations, see [here](#) for more information.

Office Hours by appointment or during posted office hours. See courselink for further details, these will be posted in the **Announcements** or in the **Contact and office hours** section. See also **Communicating with Your Instructor**.

Teaching Assistant(s)

Students in Group 1

TA 1 Name: Peter Bradley **Email:** TBD

Students in Group 2

TA 2 Name: Beatrix Maddocks **Email:** TBD

Students in Group 3

TA 3 Name: Gideon Binobo **Email:** TBD

Students in Group 4

TA4 Name: Emmanuel Tamufor **Email:** TBD

Students in Group 5

TA 5 Name: Oveka Obroh **Email:** TBD

Learning Resources

Required Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. All required reading materials are located in **Ares**.

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 may 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

<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/course-reserves-ares>

Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

This course introduces foundational concepts for understanding human-environment relationships. Our goal is to recognize how the world's most pressing environmental problems—climate change, biodiversity loss, water pollution, and so on—have their roots in societal structures and processes. We will achieve this by integrating perspectives from both earth system and social sciences.

The course is best described as two-fold. Each week we will learn key concepts—including earth system cycles and feedbacks as well as environmental governance and justice—that help us think about human-environment relationships. Each week we will also apply these concepts by exploring a range of case studies of environmental change, with a focus on food, energy, and water systems. Throughout the course, we will contrast issues and governance approaches from around the world, but with emphasis on Canadian and U.S. contexts.

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

1. Identify and describe human impacts on the environment across a variety of earth systems and scales;
2. Define concepts from earth system sciences that characterize environmental change from a biophysical perspective (e.g., feedback loops, open/closed systems, nutrient cycles, etc.) and apply these concepts to specific cases and examples;
3. Discuss the social scientific concepts that drive human impacts on the environment (e.g., institutional failures, market failures, environmental racism, etc.) and different ways governments, companies, and civil society actors govern environmental change, and apply these concepts to specific cases and examples;
4. Investigate, evaluate, and synthesize diverse sources of knowledge about real-world, place-based environmental issues; and
5. Write a policy memo that provides an overview of what we know about a specific environmental change, its societal drivers, and potentially effective governance approaches.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Method of Learning

In this course, you'll learn how to explain the societal drivers of environmental change by *doing* and *reflecting*. You'll *do* by engaging with a variety of assigned readings—academic and real-world materials, including short background chapters from a textbook, policy reports, and peer-reviewed research papers. You'll also read, listen to, and watch content within each unit. Each unit introduces you to key concepts in earth system and social sciences and expands upon ones covered in the assigned readings. Case studies illustrate how these concepts explain environmental systems and changes in the areas of food and agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity conservation, and more. However, the only way you'll be able to make sense of all the material you're engaging with is by *reflecting* on it along the way. Each unit includes several activities such as “stop and think” reflection questions, interactive maps and charts, and “test your knowledge” quizzes. These are meant to help you solidify your understanding of the material by getting you to interact with and consider it more closely. To demonstrate

your budding expertise in explaining environmental change, you'll conduct a small independent research project over the course of the semester.

Course Structure

The course is organized into the following 12 weekly units:

- Unit 01: Overview and Earth System Science
- Unit 02: The Anthropocene
- Unit 03: Population
- Unit 04: Institutions
- Unit 05: Ethics and Values
- Unit 06: Writing Research Summaries
- Unit 07: Risk Governance
- Unit 08: Markets
- Unit 09: Political Economy
- Unit 10: Settler Colonialism
- Unit 11: Environmental Justice
- Unit 12: Synthesizing Research

What to Expect for Each Unit

Each unit includes an introduction where you'll encounter the learning outcomes and assigned readings. In general, each unit consists of 1-3 relatively short background readings that you should take notes on before engaging with the rest of the content. The introduction is followed by 1-3 pages that review and/or introduce key concepts, and then 1-2 case studies that provide more concrete applications of these key concepts to a specific environmental issue, such as water scarcity, eutrophication, or biodiversity loss. Most units also include an exercise in which you'll be prompted to do a short activity related to the unit's theme and then reflect on what you've learned. Finally, most units also include a short quiz that will clue you into the most relevant facts and definitions from the unit and solidify your recall of them.

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: Overview and Earth System Science

Week 1 – Monday, January 8 to Sunday, January 14

Readings

- Ares: Turner's *The Anthropocene*
 - Section 1 – Question 3: What is the Earth System?
 - Section 1 – Question 4: What are Biogeochemical Cycles?
- CourseLink: Unit 01 content

Activities

- Familiarize yourself with the course website by selecting **Start Here** on the navbar.
- Review **Outline** and **Assessments** on the course website to learn about course expectations, assessments, and due dates.
- Confirm your access to the course reserve materials by selecting **Ares** on the navbar.
- Participate in the **Introduce Yourself Discussion** via the **Discussions** tool.
- Complete the **Unit 01 Activities** and **Unit 01 Reflection Exercise**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Unit 01 Quiz** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Mon, January 8 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Sunday, January 14 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 02: The Anthropocene

Week 2 - Monday, January 15 to Sunday, January 21

Readings

- Ares: Turner's *The Anthropocene*
 - Section 1 – Question 1: What is the Anthropocene?
 - Section 1 – Question 2: Is the Anthropocene a Geological Time Unit?
- CourseLink: Unit 02 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 02 Activities**, **Unit 02 Stop and Think Questions**, and **Unit 02 Reflection Exercise**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Unit 02 Quiz** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Monday, January 15 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Sunday, January 21 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 03: Population

Week 3 – Monday, January 22 to Sunday, January 28

Readings

- Ares: Turner's *The Anthropocene*
 - Section VII – Question 63: Does an increasing population alter environments?
- Ares: Cummins, E. 2020. The Dark Search for a "Silver Lining" to the Coronavirus.
- CourseLink: Unit 03 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 03 Activities** and **Unit 03 Stop and Think Questions**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Unit 03 Quiz** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Monday, January 22 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Sunday, January 28 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.
- Submit your **Research Journal – Topic** to the **Dropbox** tool
Due: Sunday, January 28 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 04: Institutions

Week 4 – Monday, January 29 to Sunday, February 4

Readings

- Ares: Berkes, F., D. Feeny, B. Mccay, and Acheson, J. 1989. The Benefits of the Commons. *Nature*, 340, 91–93.
- Ares: Food and Agriculture Organization's The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 — Read "Key Messages" and "Part 1"
- CourseLink: Unit 04 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 04 Activities**, **Unit 04 Stop and Think Questions**, and **Unit 04 Reflection Exercise**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Unit 04 Quiz** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Monday, January 29 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Friday, February 4 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 05: Ethics and Values

Week 5 – Monday, February 5 to Sunday, February 11

Readings

- Ares: Turner's *The Anthropocene*
 - Section VII – Chapter 68: Do cultural values and norms shape environmental behaviour?
 - Section VI – Chapter 55: Is human activity creating a new mass extinction?
- Ares: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2020). Global Biodiversity Outlook 5: Summary for Policy Makers. Montréal.
- CourseLink: Unit 05 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 05 Activities**, **Unit 05 Stop and Think Questions**, and **Unit 05 Reflection Exercise**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Unit 05 Quiz** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Monday, February 5 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Sunday, February 11 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 06: Writing Research Summaries

Week 6 – Monday, February 12 to Friday, February 16

Note: This is a shortened learning week because of Winter Study Break. Please note any due dates carefully.

Readings

- CourseLink: Unit 06 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 06 Activities**.

Assessments

- There are no assessments due this week.

Unit 07: Risk Governance

Week 7 – Monday, February 26 to Sunday, March 3

Readings

- Ares: Turner's *The Anthropocene*
 - Section VIII – Chapter 72: Do views about human–environment relationships cross-cut cultures and social groups?
- CourseLink: Unit 07 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 07 Activities**, **Unit 07 Stop and Think Questions**, and **Unit 07 Reflection Exercise**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Unit 07 Quiz** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Monday, February 26 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Sunday, March 3 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.
- Submit **Research Journal – Sources & Summaries** assignment to the **Dropbox** tool
Due: Sunday, March 3 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 08: Markets

Week 8 – Monday, March 4 to Sunday, March 10

Readings

- Ares: Banerjee, S., S. Secchi, J. Fargione, S. Polasky, and S. Kraft. 2013. How to sell ecosystem services: A guide for designing new markets. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 11:297–304.
- CourseLink: Unit 08 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 08 Activities**, **Unit 08 Stop and Think Questions**, and **Unit 08 Reflection Exercise**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Unit 08 Quiz** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Monday, March 4 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Sunday, March 10 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 09: Political Economy

Week 9 – Monday, March 11 to Sunday, March 17

Readings

- Ares: Turner's *The Anthropocene*
 - Section VII – Chapter 67: Are some economies and political economies more environmentally degrading than others?
 - Section IV – Chapter 33: What are water withdrawal, water consumption and water footprint, and their implications for water availability?
 - Section IV – Chapter 35: Has human activity degraded groundwater and aquifer stocks globally?
- CourseLink: Unit 09 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 09 Activities**, **Unit 09 Stop and Think Questions**, and **Unit 09 Reflection Exercise**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Unit 09 Quiz** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Monday, March 11 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Sunday, March 17 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 10: Settler Colonialism

Week 10 – Monday, March 18 to Sunday, March 24

Readings

- Ares: Liboiron, M. 2018. How Plastic is a Function of Colonialism. *Teen Vogue*.
- CourseLink: Unit 10 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 10 Activities** and **Unit 10 Stop and Think Questions**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Unit 10 Quiz** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Monday, March 18 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Sunday, March 24 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 11: Environmental Justice

Week 11 – Monday, March 25 to Sunday, March 31

Readings

- Ares: Waldron, I. 2020. Environmental Racism in Canada. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO's IdeaLab.

- CourseLink: Unit 11 content

Activities

- Complete the **Unit 11 Activities**, **Unit 11 Stop and Think Questions**, and **Unit 11 Reflection Exercise**.

Assessments

- Complete the **Comprehensive Exam** via the **Quizzes** tool
Opens: Monday, March 25 at 12:01 a.m. E.T.
Closes: Sunday, March 31 at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Unit 12: Synthesizing Research

Week 12 – Monday, April 1 to Sunday April 7th

Readings

- CourseLink: Unit 12 content

Assessments

- There are no assessments due this week.

Assessments

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 1: Course Assessments

Assessment Item	Weight	Learning Outcomes
Weekly Quizzes (Best 7 out of 9; 3% each)	21%	1, 2
Comprehensive Exam	24%	1, 2
Research Journal – Topic	10%	3
Research Journal – Sources & Summaries	20%	3, 4
Research Journal – Policy Memo	25%	3, 4, 5
Total	100%	

Assessment Descriptions

Weekly Quizzes

There are nine online quizzes that test your comprehension of the ideas and facts from the course and your ability to define key concepts and identify them in real-world examples. Each quiz covers specific material from each unit, including content from the unit itself as well as from the assigned readings. While the course will have 9 graded quizzes, only your 7 best marks will be taken for grading (the 2 lowest quiz marks or non-completed quizzes will be dropped).

Please note that for the quizzes, you are not expected to memorize and recall specific, obscure numbers. Instead, you'll be asked questions about trends from distinct choices; as long as you generally remember the relative magnitude of something, you'll be able to select the right response.

Comprehensive Exam

The Comprehensive Exam will cover material from Units 01-11 in the course, including specific content from each unit and the assigned readings. The exam is designed to assess and measure the knowledge you gain from the entire course and will test your ability to define elements of the course's key concepts and to identify them in real-world examples. As with the weekly quizzes, you are not expected to memorize and recall specific, obscure numbers. Instead, you'll be asked questions about trends from distinct choices; as long as you generally remember the relative magnitude of something, you'll be able to select the right response.

Research Journal – Topic, Sources & Summaries, and Policy Memo

A key component of environmental science and policy is being able to formulate a research topic, gather sources to study it, summarize those materials, and synthesize what you have learned into a report. The Research Journal is the major assignment for the course and will be completed in three parts—Topic, Sources & Summaries, and Policy Memo—so that you can obtain feedback, reflect on this feedback and make improvements as you work on the next part of the assignment. The Topic and Sources & Summaries components will be due during the semester, and the Policy Memo component will be due during the exam period.

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).

<https://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/system-and-software-requirements>

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/d2l/systemCheck>

Zoom Requirements

This course may use **Zoom** as a video communication tool. A Webcam, headphones/speakers may be needed. Review the [Zoom information for students \(uoguelph\)](#) to ensure that your computer meets the technical requirements.

<https://support.opened.uoguelph.ca/students/courselink/tools/content/zoom>

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, Chrome); 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 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Phone/Email Hours (Eastern Time):

Monday thru Friday: 8:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Course Specific Standard Statements

Acceptable Use

The University of Guelph has an [Acceptable Use Policy](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/infosec/aup), 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. 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 do their best to respond to your email within 48 to 72 hours.
- **Online meeting:** If you have a complex question you would like to discuss with your instructor, you may book an online meeting. Online meetings depend on the availability of you and the instructor, and are booked on a first come first served basis.

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 T.A.s;
- Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services;
- Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system;
- Sharing your username and password; and
- Recording lectures without the permission of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments to Dropbox

The Topics, Sources & Summaries, and Policy Memo components of the Research Journal assignment 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 recommend 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](#).

<https://support.opened.uoguelph.ca/contact>

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 (including weekends) after the deadline for the submission of the assignment to a limit of five 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 do their best to have grades posted online within 2 weeks of the submission deadline, if the assignment was submitted on time. 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.

Final grades will be available at the end of the semester. Students can access their final grade by logging into [WebAdvisor](#) (using your U of G central I.D.).

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://www.uoguelph.ca/webadvisor>

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

Rights and Responsibilities When Learning Online

For distance education (D.E.) 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>

Turnitin Originality Check

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.

The Summaries and Policy Memo components of the Research Journal assignment submitted to the **Dropbox** tool 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.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that you will be able to educate and empower yourself 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.

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

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 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

University of Guelph Degree Students

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

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

<mailto: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 Open Learning program Counsellor](#). 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 Open Learning program Counsellor](#) 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.

<mailto:counsellor@OpenEd.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-amisconduct.shtml>

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For more information about students' rights and obligations with respect to copyrighted works, review [Fair Dealing Guidance for Students](#).

<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/about/policies/fair-dealing-policy>

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.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).