

University of Guelph
Department of Geography, Environment & Geomatics
GEOG*3600: Geography of a Selected Region Course Outline
Lecture on Mondays 8:30 to 11:20 am
Winter Semester 2023

Instructor: Dr. Diana Lewis (Diana.Lewis@uoguelph.ca)

Classroom: Alexander Hall Room 218

Office: Room 120, Hutt Building

Office Hours: Monday 12:00 to 2:00 pm or by appointment (please set up appointments in advance by email)

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Course Credit Weight: 0.5

Prerequisite(s): None (7.50 credits - Must be completed prior to taking this course)

Land Acknowledgement:

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississauga's of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land, and offer our respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we learn and work.

Course Description:

Over many decades, Indigenous communities in Canada have come under increasing pressure from industrial development. Through a geographic lens, this course will examine the changing history, unique ecology, and the physical and human environment of the Athabasca Oil Sands and the Peace Athabasca Delta in northern Alberta, and the efforts being made to protect and conserve Wood Buffalo National Park and its' irreplaceable biodiversity.

Method of Course Presentation:

The course is structured around the following components: lectures/guest speakers, student discussions, individual assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the physical and human geography of the region;
- To understand the history and culture of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in northern Alberta;
- To explore this region from the perspectives of the sub-disciplines of economic, health, and Indigenous geographies;
- To explore how efforts are made to protect Wood Buffalo National Park.

TEXTBOOKS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

All readings (selected journal articles and government reports) will be made available on the course website (CourseLink). Dates for readings to be completed will be provided in detail on the course schedule.

CLASS FORMAT

Lecture/Guest Lecture/Student discussion. May include video presentations.

COURSE EVALUATION

Component	Percentage	Due Date
Short papers (2) (20% x 2)	40%	February 10 th March 10 th
Participation	20%	Throughout term
Term paper	40%	April 17 th

LECTURE SCHEDULE (Readings/assignments TBD)

	Date
Week 1 – Introduction, review of syllabus, discussion of student interests.	January 9 th
January 13th Last day to add W23 courses	
Weeks 2 – 5 Athabasca Oil Sands	January 16 th – February 6 th
Weeks 6 – 9 Peace Athabasca Delta	February 13 th – March 6 th February 20 th - Winter Break -No Class
March 10th – 40th class - Instructors have provided feedback on a minimum of 20% of final course grade	
Weeks 10 – 13 Wood Buffalo National Park	March 13 th – April 3 rd
April 6th – Last day for regularly scheduled classes.	

University Policies:

Drop Date:

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

E-mail Communication:

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students. Expect that I will respond to your e-mails within 48 hours; if I do not, please resend your e-mail. If your

question or concern is complicated, I may ask that we meet during office hours or at another scheduled time to address the issue in person. To ensure that your e-mail reaches my inbox, be sure to use a University of Guelph e-mail address. Include the course code and the nature of your question/comment in the subject line of the e-mail.

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.

Accessibility:

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 book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day. More information:

www.uoguelph.ca/sas

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 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. Plagiarism includes improper acknowledgement or citation of the work of others, the inclusion of false or misleading references, and the resubmission of work that has already been evaluated at the University. Prevent inadvertent academic dishonesty by carefully referencing and citing the sources you use in your work.

Turnitin In:

This course, we 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. 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. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about this software.

Recording of Materials:

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

Resources:

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Additional Student Resources:

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: make an appointment with a Program Counsellor in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills. You can also set up individualized appointments with a learning specialist.

If you are struggling with wellness issues:

- Counselling services offers individualized appointments to help students work through personal struggles that may be impacting their academic performance;
- Health Services is available to provide medical attention.

Disclaimer: Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website and circulated by email.