GEOG*4210: Environmental Governance
Course Outline
Department of Geography, University of Guelph
Fall 2023

PROVISIONAL – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Instructor:
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E-mail: grayn@uoguelph.ca
Office Hours: e-mail for time

Teaching Assistant:
TBD
E-mail:
Office hours: TBA

Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30-9:50am, MINS 106

Seminars (Labs): Hutt 240B; please refer to your individual registration details for day/time

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

“Environmental governance,” according to geographers Bridge and Perrault (2009: 486) refers to the “institutional re/alignments of state, capital, and civil society actors in relation to the management of environments and resources, and the implications of these configurations for social and environmental outcomes”. The purpose of this course is to help students develop an advanced understanding of the contemporary dynamics of environmental governance and management, focusing on: ‘the environment’ (nature, resources) as domains of governance; the social, political and economic contexts that shape governance; and the shifting configurations of state and non-state actors and interests that produce governance processes and outcomes. In this course, we adopt a critical political ecology approach to the study of environmental governance – rather than consider ‘best practices’ in how to govern the environment, we ask critical questions such as governance of what, by whom, and with what outcome(s)? In considering these questions, we will consider examples and cases across scales (from local to global) and from a variety of contexts (both Canada and international). However, recognizing that many students are considering careers working as environmental governance professionals, we will also consider how these critical questions might inform your own professional interests and skill development.

By the end of the course, students will:

- Be familiar with the range of actors, institutions, and processes that constitute contemporary environmental governance;
• Be able to identify and assess the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of approaches to environmental governance;
• Have refined and demonstrated strong skills in researching and evaluating examples of environmental governance in practice; and
• Be able to effectively communicate ideas and arguments about environmental governance in both oral and written formats, working individually and as a member of a group.

The course is designed to encourage and facilitate student participation; its success will depend on students coming to class prepared to engage actively with the course material and one another.

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**Calendar Description**

This course builds knowledge and experience in the processes, politics and institutional arrangements that society uses to make decisions about the environment. Designed for emerging environmental professionals, it incorporates advanced study of contemporary approaches to environmental governance with consideration for strengths, weaknesses and criticisms of environmental governance as it is designed and applied at various scales.

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**Territorial Acknowledgement**

As instructors and students in this class, we acknowledge that the University of Guelph resides on the ancestral territory of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. The Dish with One Spoon wampum reminds us of our responsibility to leave sustainably and peacefully on the land. Today, the University of Guelph and the surrounding community is a gathering place for many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land and to one another.

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**Course Readings**

All required readings (selected journal articles and book chapters) will be available through Courselink and/or through the library (e-reserves). Please see the full list of readings at the end of the outline and refer to the course schedule for detailed information on when the readings should be completed.

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**Evaluation**

15% Seminar Discussions (Weeks 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10; see details below)
10% for preparing for discussions (six seminars, drop lowest grade)
5% for quality of discussion – large group grade (you receive group grade if you attend at least five of the six discussions; group grade is reduced if you miss more than one seminar – see University Policies if illness/compassionate reasons apply)
10% Term Paper Proposal, **Due Oct. 6th** via Dropbox on CourseLink (2 pages; details to be distributed separately)

10% Analytical Report I, **Due Oct. 20th** via Dropbox on CourseLink (5 pages; details to be distributed separately)

25% Term Paper, **Due Nov. 10th** via Dropbox on CourseLink (8 pages; details to be distributed separately)

20% Podcast – group assignment (Due during your seminar section, Week 12; details to be distributed separately)

20% Final Exam, date TBD

**Seminar Guidelines**

In Weeks 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 the seminar sections will be devoted to discussions of assigned podcasts. All podcasts are available at [https://www.ecopoliticspodcast.ca](https://www.ecopoliticspodcast.ca)

**Assessment of Seminar Preparation (10%)**

You are expected to:

1. Listen to the assigned podcast (see course schedule below).
2. **On the day before your seminar (by 11:59pm), submit 3 questions and/or critical comments** related to the podcast (via Dropbox on CourseLink). Your comments/questions should explicitly engage with specific aspects of the podcast, connect to at least one required reading for the week, and be substantial and critical/reflective (rather than factual or superficial). Submission should be ~250 words.
3. Participate in the discussion, by drawing on your prepared notes/comments and responding to other ideas presented in the seminar.

**Assessment of Seminar Discussions (5%)**

Rather than assign individual participation grades, the entire large seminar group will receive the same grade (out of 5) for the overall quality of the seminar discussions. See rubric below for details.

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<th>GRADE</th>
<th>CATEGORY &amp; COMPONENTS</th>
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<td>/2.5</td>
<td><strong>INSIGHT AND QUALITY:</strong> Seminar discussion focuses on the central ideas and arguments from the podcast, raises connections between the podcast and other course material (readings, lectures), and recognizes both strengths and limitations of the podcast in addressing the relevant topic.</td>
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<td>/2.5</td>
<td><strong>PARTICIPATION:</strong> All students participate in the discussion (whether in small break-out groups or the large group). Participation is relatively even across the entire group (rather than from only a few people). The majority of students attend and participation quality improves and/or remains high over all seminars. Students engage actively and thoughtfully in discussion of the podcasts.</td>
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Full List of Readings


Course Policies

Late Assignments:
Seminar discussions must be completed on the date assigned and seminar questions must be submitted the day before the relevant seminar — the lowest grade will be dropped. If students miss more than one seminar for a valid medical or personal reason, they should consult the instructor as soon as possible.

For all written assignments (Analytical Reports I and II, Term Paper Proposal, and Term Paper), late penalties will apply @5% of the earned grade per day late. **However** - students have seven ‘free late days’ that they may use for any of these assignments, without prior permission or the need to consult the instructor. The instructor will update after each assignment regarding the number of ‘free late days’ remaining for each student. (For example – a student may submit the first report 3 days late, the proposal 2 days late, and the term paper 2 days late, for a total of 7 ‘free late days’. They do not need to request permission to do this).

Any students who encounter problems for a valid medical or personal reason, and for whom the seven ‘free late days’ described above are insufficient, should speak to the instructor as soon as possible, and definitely on or before the due date for the assignment. A note may be required, particularly as extensions are already provided per the policy above.
University Policies

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 designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

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

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.

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.

Drop Date
Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students.
The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.
Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses
Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes
Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

**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.

**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.

**Resources**
The Undergraduate Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.