



GEOG*4220 - Local Environmental Management

Winter 2024 Course Outline

Lecture Schedule

Tu & Th 11:30am-12:50pm in MCLN*107 (1/8 to 4/4) *Excluding Winter Break

Lab / Seminar Schedule

Day	Time	Location	TA
Mon. (0103)	9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	HUTT 240B	Ece Ikiz
Tue. (0104)	2:30 PM - 3:20 PM	HUTT 240B	Ece Ikiz
Wed. (0101)	12:30 PM - 1:20 PM	HUTT 240B	M. Manjurul Islam
Wed. (0102)	4:30 PM - 5:20 PM	HUTT 240B	M. Manjurul Islam

Instructor Information

Dr. Lisa Mychajluk

Office: HUTT 134 (office hours by appointment)

Email: lmychajl@uoguelph.ca

Additional Support

Teaching assistants:

Ece Ikiz – eikiz@uoguelph.ca

M. Manjurul Islam – mmanjuru@uoguelph.ca

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

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

Calendar Description

This course explores local environmental management from two perspectives: state-driven (where local government agencies or forums created by governments are used) and non-state driven (where local actors come together in new governance arrangements to undertake environmental management). Through comparing and contrasting these broad perspectives in an experiential learning setting, the course builds understanding of a key trend in environmental governance.

Prerequisite(s): GEOG*3210

Department(s): Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics

Course Description

This course offers a survey of themes and issues in environmental management and sustainability, with specific attention to the contemporary social and ecological challenges facing people, communities, and municipalities in Canada and around the world. Themes include: place-building, stewardship, resilience, social and environmental justice, urban sustainability, indigenous knowledge and sovereignty, and societal transformations to sustainability. Our weekly meetings will attend to the:

- root causes of contemporary sustainability problems;
- ecological and social science concepts, frameworks, and theories that comprise environmental management, sustainability, and resilience;
- complexities, challenges, and best practices in environmental management and sustainability planning, and decision-making, including roles and initiatives of state and non-state actors.

The concept of “sustainable community” will be a key framing concept FOR this course, to ground our understanding of “environmental management” as integrated with and inextricable from social, economic, and cultural aspects of our communities and places.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Be able to critically discuss the cultural and behavioral roots of environmental / sustainability problems;
- Knowledge of different management paradigms and issues at local, regional, and global scales;
- Recognize the paradigmatic differences between sustainability and modern, industrial / neoliberal approaches to the environment;
- Identify and clarify one’s own positionality and values in relation to environmental / sustainability problems;
- Follow societal debates about the values, interests and controversies involved in pursuing local solutions, and
- Be familiar with major concepts and topics in sustainability, including: limits to growth and de-growth; weak and strong sustainability; resilience and vulnerability; social and environmental justice; food security and sovereignty; indigenous knowledge and practices (and more).

Learning Resources

Required Resources

Weekly materials will be shared via CourseLink. **Required readings or viewings will be listed in modules at least one week prior to the first lecture of the week.** These readings / viewings will form the basis of discussions that will occur during your labs, so it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you complete these prior to your lab day. A copy of the lecture slides will be shared on CourseLink. Additional reference readings and resources will also be shared.

Campus 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.

Library Course Reserve (Ares)

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. You will need your Central Login ID and password. For further instructions on accessing reserve resources, visit [How to Get Course Reserve Materials](#). If you have difficulty accessing reserve materials, please contact the e-Learning Operations and Reserve Services staff at: 519-824-4120 ext. 53621 | Email: libres2@uoguelph.ca | Location: McLaughlin Library, First Floor.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1: Introduction and contextualization	
<u>January 9: Introduction to the course</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpacking “<i>local environmental management</i>” Focus of the course 	<u>January 11: Contextualizing environmental concerns</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizing the planetary moment (Anthropocene; Planetary boundaries; Eco-footprints) Consumerism and capitalism
Week 2: Local concerns, local actors	
<u>January 16: Environmental concerns at the local level</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and ecosystem services Land as critical resource Climate change and energy Eco-health Food systems Eco-justice 	<u>January 18: Governance and decision-making: Citizen awareness and participation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments, agencies, and institutions Grassroots and environmental NGOS The citizen role: ecological democracy; environmentally-responsible behaviour; citizen science
Week 3: Conceptualizing sustainable community	
<u>January 23: Living within planetary limits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-planet living 	<u>January 25: Dimensions of sustainability</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms of capital Resilience, well-being, “buen vivir” The ecovillage model
Week 4: Working with nature	
<u>January 30: Thoughts of “nature”</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convivial conservation 	<u>February 1: Nature-based solutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems-thinking and ecological design
*February 2 @ 11:59pm: Group project proposal due	
Week 5: Indigenous perspectives and practices	
<u>February 6: Valuing and relating</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature as relative Protecting water through personhood Indigenous land governance and defenders 	<u>February 8: Knowing and doing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous knowledge Indigenous practices
Week 6: Collective conservation and co-management	
<u>February 13: Commons theory</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-management - Tragedy of the Commons debunked Enclosure - The real tragedy of the commons 	<u>February 15: Practices in re-commoning</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land trusts Conservation easements
*Quiz #1 (in lab): covers week 1-5 material	
*February 18 @ 11:59pm: Learning Journal Part 1 due	
WINTER BREAK: Feb. 19 – 23 (no classes)	
Week 7: Sustainable and resilient cities through planning and design	
<u>February 27: Protecting the land and ecological services</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green space and natural features Greenbelts Smart growth 	<u>February 29: Designing for energy conservation and climate resilience</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal net-zero strategies Sustainable transportation 15-minute cities
Week 8: Participatory sustainable communities and community resilience	
<u>March 5: Building community resilience</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social capital, connection, cooperation, and creativity 	<u>March 7: Participatory community models</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecovillages, Transition communities, participatory neighbourhoods, and Low-impact developments

Week 9: Food and farming	
<u>March 12: Growing with nature</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agroecology Restorative agriculture Permaculture 	<u>March 14: Eating sustainably</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local food Food sovereignty Regenerative community food systems
Week 10: Economies of conserving and sustainable communities	
<u>March 19: Resource conservation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular economies Sharing economies Simple living 	<u>March 21: Economies for a sustainable future</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> De-growth Re-localizing / community economies Regenerative and well-being economies
Week 11 & 12: Group presentations	
Presentation schedule (TBD)	
*Quiz #2 (in lab): covers week 6-10 material	
*April 7 @ 11:59pm: Learning Journal Part 2 due	
* April 14 @ 11:59pm: Group project report + personal reflection due	

Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Participation Lab discussions based on readings and in-lab activities	10%	On-going
Quizzes Based on lecture materials & required readings / viewings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #1 covers weeks 1-5 material Quiz #2 covers weeks 6-10 material 	10% 2 @ 5% each	Quiz 1: Week 6 (in lab) Quiz 2: Week 11 (in lab)
Learning journals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1 covers weeks 1-6 Part 2 covers weeks 7-12 	30% 2 @ 15% each	Week 6 (Feb 18 @ 11:59pm) Week 12 (Apr 7 @ 11:59pm)
Group project Groups of 3-4 students (formed in labs) prepare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group project proposal Presentation Final report Personal reflection on group project (submitted individually)	50% Proposal – 5% Presentation – 10% Final report – 30% Personal reflection – 5%	Week 4 (Feb 2 @ 11:59pm) Presented during Weeks 11&12 Apr 14 @ 11:59pm Apr 14 @ 11:59pm

Assignments

A detailed description of assignments, instructions, expectations, and evaluation rubrics, will be provided in CourseLink. Assignments will also be discussed during lectures and labs.

In CourseLink you will find guidelines and tips for participating in class / lab discussions.

Submission of Assignments

All written assignments are to be submitted via the CourseLink DropBox no later than 11:59pm on their due date. A checklist is provided in CourseLink for you to refer to when preparing your submissions.

All written assignments must be properly referenced using APA 7 (or similar) citation style. Be consistent in your use of citation style.

Late Assignment

Late assignments will not be accepted without prior communication related to some legitimate and verifiable issue. Begin your assignments early so that you have plenty of time to organize your submissions to the CourseLink DropBox. Only under very specific and rare occurrences will computing challenges be accepted as a reason for an extension to the due-date. Students are expected to make every effort to meet deadlines. That said, when you find yourself unable to meet a deadline because of illness or compassionate reasons, please inform the course instructor and the teaching assistant by way of email or in person immediately, prior to the due date of a given assignment. We are only able to make accommodations if we are aware of your situation, so please keep the lines of communication open as early and often as possible.

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Winter 2024 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: **April 08**. After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

CSAHS Academic Misconduct Policy

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar. 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.

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.

Instructors **shall not** determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct (e.g., copied material from a website like CourseHero) on an assignment or exam.

Instructors **can** determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

For more information about Academic Integrity resources and how to prevent Academic Misconduct.

Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

1. Academic Integrity

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 outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

2. 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 make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the [SAS website](#).

3. Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations](#).

4. 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.

5. 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 undergraduate students 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 the [Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses](#).

6. 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.

7. Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the [Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness](#). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a [Student Wellness Navigator](#) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our [mental wellbeing resources](#). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

8. 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).

9. Recording of Materials

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

10. Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

11. 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](#).