University of Guelph  
Department of Geography  
GEOG*6340 Human-Environment Relations  
Winter 2022

Instructor: Dr. Lauren Sneyd  
Email: lsneyd@uoguelph.ca  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Class structure: Virtual class via MSTeams during scheduled class time and Hutt 234 for in person classes Wednesdays 2:30-5:20

Territorial Acknowledgement
Acknowledging the territory on which we learn and work honours the relationship between lands/waters and the Indigenous ancestors and stewards of them. This acknowledgement is adapted from the University of Guelph Aboriginal Resource Centre and Student Life:

“The University of Guelph rests on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron people. We therefore acknowledge the Attawandaron people and offer our respect to Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as the university and community strive to strengthen our relationships with them. We also recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land. The Dish with One Spoon Covenant is a peace agreement made between Indigenous nations before the Europeans arrived. It characterizes our collective responsibility to each other and Mother Earth - we should take only what we need, leave enough for others and keep the dish clean.”

Description
This course focuses on a survey of key themes and schools of thought in human-environment geography. Students will explore theoretical and empirical elements through readings, core assignments and seminar-based class sessions.

The course content will be tailored to individual student interests and as such the final reading and topic list will be designed collectively.

Course Objectives
Through this course, students will:
• Engage with major schools of thought in human-environment geography  
• Survey several different approaches to understanding human-environment relations  
• Identify how different philosophical perspectives influence different environmental approaches  
• Examine their own research interests and experiences in relation to human-environment geography perspectives  
• Enhance their writing skills  
• Practice and improve facilitation skills
**Approach**
The course is seminar-based and relies on active student participation. Students are expected to come to class sessions prepared to engage with weekly readings and topics during in-class discussions and exercises. My role as instructor is to assist and facilitate student learning while at the same time recognizing my own position as an active learner given the diversity of perspectives and insights we all bring to the table. All course participants are expected to be respectfully critical of the materials read and each other’s thoughts and perspectives.

**Assessment**
You will be assessed based on your participation in and preparation for seminars as well as through several short writing assignments (see instructions in separate documents). Assignments throughout the semester aim at in-depth application and further extension of course materials to real world scenarios and the discipline of geography.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Due date *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly seminar facilitation and participation</td>
<td>30%*</td>
<td>Ongoing, includes a reading reflection due each Sunday by 5pm, a response to two people’s reflections due Monday at 5pm; seminar facilitation and participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic selection for Analysis 1 and 2</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>February 4th at midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1 Analysis - weeks 2-5</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Feb 16th at midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #2 Analysis - weeks 6-11</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 5th at midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #3 Contemporary H-E Geography Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>April 16 at midnight</td>
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*You will be given ongoing qualitative feedback on your participation throughout the semester.

**If you need an extension on any of these dates please request one in advance.

**Schedule & Readings**
Please do readings in the order listed on the syllabus for each class

**Week 1 (Jan 12): Introduction** – facilitated by Dr. Sneyd

Introduction to each other, course structure and topics

Collaborative design of the course
Week 2 (Jan 19): Environmental Determinism – facilitated by the group


Week 3 (Jan 26): Cultural Landscape – facilitated by the group


Weeks 4-11 – facilitated by different class members
For the next several weeks we need to pick eight approaches out of the following:

1. Risks/Hazards Geographies
2. Systems and Resilience
3. Marxist and structural approaches to nature
4. Political Ecologies
5. Social Constructions of Nature
6. Feminist ecologies
7. Indigenous perspectives
8. Postcolonial and anti-racist geographies
9. Hybrid Geographies and Actor Network Theory
10. Animal Geographies
11. Critical Physical Geography
12. Digital Natures
13. Something else...?

Week 4 (Feb 2):

Week 5 (Feb 9):

Week 6 (Feb 16):
Reading Week/Winter Break

Week 7 (Mar 2):

Week 8 (Mar 9):

Week 9 (Mar 16):

Week 10 (Mar 23):

Week 11 (Mar 30):

Week 12 (Apr 6): Conclusions, Reflections


Other relevant information

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.

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. Please note that I do not check my e-mail on the evenings or weekends and don’t expect you to either.

Late Policy
A late penalty reduction of 10% for every 24 hours will be applied to all late assignments.

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 as soon as possible to make other arrangements. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

The University will not require verification of illness (doctor's notes) from fall 2020.
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 graduate 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.

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. 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 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 Graduate Calendar.

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 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.