

GEOG*1220 F24: Explaining Environmental Change

(0.5 credits)

General Course Information

Instructor:	Dr. Susan Dupej	
<i>Email</i>	sdupej@uoguelph.ca	
<i>Office Location & Hours</i>	HUTT 345A: Fridays, 10:30am-12:00pm MACS 306: Fridays, 12:30pm-2:00pm or, by appointment via Microsoft TEAMS	
<i>Department/ School</i>	Geography, Environment & Geomatics	
Class Schedule:	Lecture: W 7:00 – 9:50pm	
Classroom:		
	Bruna Negri	bnegri@uoguelph.ca
Teaching Assistant(s) & Email:	Marika Bowrin	mbowrin@uoguelph.ca
	Madeline Medrano	mmedrano@uoguelph.ca

*Students will be assigned a TA who will grade assignments. An announcement will be posted on Courselink to notify you of your TA.

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Guelph (and this classroom) are located on the traditional lands of the Attawandaron people, and the treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit. The presence of other First Nations, Métis, and Inuit neighbours on this land is also acknowledged. As scholars in and of place, it is important to learn about and respect the relationship of the Indigenous peoples to this land.

Course Description

This class provides an overview of the environment's social, economic and political dimensions by examining the changing interrelationships between people, technology and natural resources. It introduces principal biophysical processes and how humans have utilized resources through various use systems from a geographical perspective. This includes understanding the economic and social influencers of environmental degradation, resource depletion and overall ecological functioning. It also includes identifying environmental management strategies of individuals, nongovernmental organizations, industry and governments in helping to provide sustainable solutions. With examples from Canada and countries from around the world, we examine a breadth of human activities and their impacts on the natural environment including: agriculture, fishing, mining, and energy production.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. understand and describe environmental changes from a biophysical perspective using the language of earth system sciences (e.g., feedback loops, open/closed systems, nutrient cycles, etc.);
2. identify, apply and evaluate different theories explaining what drives human impacts on the environment;
3. identify, describe and evaluate approaches to managing human impacts on the environment;
4. think critically about their own environmental ethic;
5. use core concepts and theories in their own areas of research interests.

Learning Format

Lectures: Lectures are primarily based on textbook material. Students will get more from lectures if they read the required chapters before class.

Textbook

Draper, D. and Zimmerman, A., *Our Environment: A Canadian Perspective, 5th edition*, ISBN-13: 978-0-17-650260-7.

Here is the direct link to the bookstore:

E-Book:

<https://www.campusebookstore.com/link/?id=91d6583c-ccdf-47be-9ec1-934d19a14417>

Courselink

The University of Guelph Courselink website will be used extensively throughout this course. Students are expected to check the site on a daily basis for regular updates to course content:

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/d2l/home/893544>

Lecture Slides

PDFs of all lecture PPT slides will be posted to Courselink prior to class.

Assignment Instructions

Detailed instructions for each assignment will be posted to Courselink.

Additional Resources

Links to recommended additional relevant readings and other resources may be posted to Courselink throughout the term. It is expected that students ensure these items are read. The instructor will announce any changes to readings on Courselink.

Course Assessment

Evaluation Component	%	Due Date	Details
Assignment #1: Proposal for Policy Report	10%	October 4, 2024 by 11:59pm (Submit to Courselink Dropbox)	Read 'Assignment #1: Proposal for Policy Report' on Courselink.
Assignment #2: Policy Report	25%	November 15, 2024 by 11:59pm (Submit to Courselink Dropbox)	Read 'Assignment #2: Policy Report' on Courselink.
Midterm	30%	October 16, 2024	The midterm heavily draws from textbook material presented in lecture. More information will be provided closer to the midterm date.
Final Exam	35%	December 9, 2024 (Location: TBA)	The final exam will be written in-person in a location TBA. Students will have 2 hours to write. The final exam is cumulative, meaning it will cover content from the entire term (i.e., from before and after the midterm). More information will be provided closer to the final exam date.
Total	100%		

Class Schedule			
	Dates	Topic and/or Activity	Readings
1	Sept. 11	Welcome, Introduction, Key Concepts and Terms	Syllabus; Chapter 1
2	Sept. 18	Human Relationships with Nature	Chapter 2
3	Sept. 25	Physical and Biophysical Environmental Systems	Chapter 4
4	Oct. 2	Water Resources, Use and Consumption	Chapter 9
5	Oct. 9	Fishery Resources and Tragedy of the Commons	Chapter 10
6	Oct. 16	Midterm	No Readings
7	Oct. 23	Forest Resources and Environmental Ethics	Chapter 11
8	Oct. 30	The Atmosphere, Climate and Air Pollution	Chapter 12
9	Nov. 6	Energy Resources and Politics of the Environment	Chapter 13
10	Nov. 13	Agriculture and Food	Chapter 8
11	Nov. 20	Biodiversity, Conservation and Sustainability	Chapter 7
12	Nov. 27	Managing Waste; Final Exam Prep	Chapter 15
Final Exam: Dec. 9, 2024 Location: TBA			

Course/University Policies

Grading Policies

Unless an extension has been discussed with the instructor well in advance of the due date, late penalties of 5% of the total grade earned per day (including weekends) will be assigned to any assessment (i.e., deducted from the total mark). Extensions will only be granted on the basis of

valid medical or personal reasons, and need to be requested via email to the instructor as soon as possible. Late assignments will not be accepted once graded assignments have been returned officially to the class at large, unless circumstances permit and alternative arrangements have been made.

Students who find themselves unable to meet course requirements by the deadlines or the criteria expected because of medical or personal reasons, should review the regulations on academic consideration in the Academic Calendar and discuss their situation with the instructor, program counselor or other academic counselor as appropriate.

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 in writing, with your name, ID#, and email contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

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 <uoguelph.ca> 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 two working days; 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 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.

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. For advice on proper referencing, please see this link.

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 Digital 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.