

GEOGRAPHY ENVIRONMENTALSTUDIES 1120-YA (2012-2013)

Environmental Issues – A Geographical Approach

Time / Location: Monday-Wednesday from 4:00 – 5:30pm / UC2011

Instructor: Dr. Mitchell Taylor, Department of Geography
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Office Hours: Office location: RC 2006E Thunder Bay Campus. I am on campus M-F from 8:30 to 5:00. If you wish to see me in person you can stop by or make an appointment.

Communication: Please use the email address above for all digital communications. I will not monitor the WebCT communication option just because there is no need for two independent addresses. Please consult the reference materials provided on WebCT before messaging me with a question. The Course Outline will be updated periodically, so please check it periodically. All questions are welcome, but please be patient. I will reply as soon as I can.

Content: Current and historical environmental issues will be examined using a geographical approach which stresses the interrelationships between environments and societies. Such issues are seldom completely new, but have evolved over decades or even centuries. The major physical components of the earth's lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere will be considered in the fall term in a mainly Canadian context to provide a base for the understanding of the nature and development of worldwide contemporary environmental concerns. The causes, characteristics and impacts of historical, global and specific problems will be examined in more detail in the second term, and potential solutions will be evaluated through consideration of such elements as technology, politics, economics and planning in a case history context.

Texts:

Fall term: Dearden, P. and Mitchell, B. (2012) *Environmental Change and Challenge: A Canadian Perspective*. 4th Edition. 606pp. (available in LU Bookstore).

Winter Term: Diamond, J. 2005. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Succeed or Fail*. New York. Viking Penguin Books 573pp. (available in LU Bookstore).

Supplementary Resources will be identified during the course and provided on WebCT.

Fall Term Web Project:

In order to provide you with other learning experiences besides just lectures, the web project allows you to do your own basic research online to explore the modern global environmental issues of our time.

Due Date: By 6:00 p.m. Tuesday October 11th, 2011

Where to hand in: In Dr. Taylor's mail box (brown mail boxes for all geography faculty) are located just outside the main door to the Geography Professor's Offices, 2nd Floor of the Regional Centre).

Format: Your project should have your name, date and student number at the top of the page. The project should be well-written, in your own words, and should be typed and handed in as a printed hard-copy.

Web Project Protocols:

- Do not just pick the sites that you find first, but instead, examine a number of sites for each topic and record only what you think were the best and most informative sites (i.e. peer reviewed, academic, consistent and reliable information and organization). You need to explain why this site was good in your view
- Hand in a hard copy of the project (typed) with a sub-heading for each sphere followed by the web links for each site
- Below EACH link, write a concise paragraph (5-6 sentences) explaining the environmental issue and the type of information provided on the website (information content, purpose of site, organization responsible), This means you will have 6 paragraphs in total, 2 for each of the 3 'spheres' that you will be exploring modern global environmental issues for (i.e. the assignment is for current, not historical environmental issues).
- Full marks awarded for picking good sites that represent the global environmental issue well, provide links to peer reviewed or academically reliable white papers, good web site design (e.g., interactive), informative and balanced, etc.
- Find 6 (good) web pages on Global Environmental Issues related to the lithosphere (2 sites), the hydrosphere (2 sites) and the atmosphere (2 sites).

Paragraphs must be written in your own words and provide your independent interpretation (It is easy to check for 'copy and paste' approaches by just Googling the phrase). You will be marked for following these directions, spelling, grammar, and sentence structure; as well as your ability to concisely explain why the information on the site provides insight into contemporary environmental issues in the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere.

This assignment is worth 5% of your fall term mark. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Winter Term Library Project:

In order to provide you with other learning experiences besides just lectures, the library project allows you to do your own basic research in the library to explore scientific literature on the modern global environmental issues of our time.

Due Date: By 6:00 p.m. Tuesday February 7th, 2011.

Where to hand in: In Dr. Taylor's mail box (brown mail boxes for all geography faculty) are located just outside the main door to the Geography Professor's Offices, 2nd Floor of the Regional Centre).

Format: Your project should have your name, date and student number at the top of the page. The project should be well-written, in your own words, and should be typed and handed in as a printed hard-copy.

Scientific Literature Project Protocols:

Choose one of the Environmental Issues you identified in the Web Project and identify 6 good scientific papers, book chapters, or proceedings papers that deal with some aspect of it. Do not necessarily pick the sources that you find first, rather examine a number of sources on the topic you choose from among the ones you identified in your web survey of environmental issues. Review (read) each source and list them only if you think they were among the best and most informative scientific sources on your topic (i.e. peer reviewed articles published in good scientific journals, scholarly books, academic proceedings, containing consistent and reliable information based on citations or data). Explain why you selected the Environmental Issue as your topic, and explain why you identified the sources you choose as high quality.

Hand in a hard copy of the project (typed) with the title as the environmental issue. The sub-headings for the source you identified should be a proper and complete citation for each of the 6 sources you selected.

Below each citation (source selected), write a concise paragraph (5-6 sentences) explaining why you think the source is useful or superior to the others you looked at. This means you will have 6 paragraphs in total, 1 for each source.

Full marks awarded for identifying high quality scientific literature from good journals, respected publishers, and Proceedings from Scientific Societies.

You will be marked for following these directions; and for spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and using correct citation format. Please adopt the concise writing style used in scientific journals as part of the assignment.

This assignment is worth 5% of your winter term mark. Late assignments will not be accepted.

ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL (MARKS)

Fall Term (100%)

Web Project	5%
Class Quizzes	35%
Fall Term Final Exam	60%

Winter Term (100%)

Library Project	5%
Class Quizzes	35%
Winter Term Final Exam	60%

(no midterm examinations)

Course Mark = (Fall Term Mark + Winter Term Mark)/2

Practicum extra credit (up to 5% added to Course Mark)

Quizzes:

Frequently (usually once a week) there will be (T/F and multiple choice) quizzes given near the end of class. These quizzes will focus on material that was presented recently, but the quizzes are also comprehensive. You should attend every class and should bring a soft lead pencil (#2 is best) and a good quality eraser (white gum erasers work well) to every class. These quizzes are not announced, so please do not ask “will there be a quiz today?” The answer is always “possibly”.

Because of the size of the class, requests to write quizzes and exams outside the normally scheduled time cannot be considered. Students are allowed two 8 ½” X 11” reference papers (both sides) for the term final exams. These reference sheets must be original (not copied from someone else) and must be turned in with the exams, so make a copy if you want to retain these materials for future reference. All finals and all quizzes are comprehensive all the time, but generally finals and exams will emphasize recent material as a priority.

Laboratory Practicum (optional)

(5% extra credit possible)

The Department of Geography offers an optional practicum for those in GEOG 1120. The practicum is designed to give those interested in majoring in geography an opportunity to gain experience in some basic geographical methods, learn more about the scope and professional opportunities provided by a degree in geography, and become informed about what educational resources the Department of Geography can offer.

The practicum is completely optional, so those who choose not to enroll will not be penalized in any way. However, the practicum does involve a substantial time commitment. The modules are designed so that completion of a module usually results in full credit for that module. Satisfactory completion of all modules would usually result in full credit for the practicum. The practicum is worth an additional 5% of the final (Fall + Winter) course mark.

Attendance to all practicum modules is mandatory for those who chose to enroll in the 1120 practicum. Students absent from any session, aside from acceptable excuses defined in the LU Calendar, and may not receive any additional credit for the practicum.

Enrollment is space-limited to 60 students, with first priority given to geography and environmental science/studies majors, and then filled on a first-come first-serve basis. The practicum instructor (Jason Freeburn) will introduce the practicum and answer any questions at the end of the first class on September 10, 2012. The first practicum module is tentatively scheduled for the second week of class fall term. Additional information (including the sign-up form) can be found at the GEOG 1120 Environmental Issues practicum website: http://flash.lakeheadu.ca/~jtfreebu/1120_practicum.htm

Fall Course Schedule: Class meets M-W in UC 2011 from 4:00-5:30 PM. Any assigned readings (TBA) may be found on WebCT.

Date	Topic	Chapter	Readings
September 10	Introduction to Environmental Issues	1	
September 12	Earth Systems	2	
September 17	Lithosphere	3	
September 19	Hydrosphere	4	
September 24	Water and the Use of Water	11	
September 26	Atmosphere		
October 1	Air Pollution		
October 3	Biogeochemical Cycles		
October 10	The Biosphere and Soil		
October 15	Ecological Interactions		
October 17	Communities and Biogeography		
October 22	Protected Areas	14	
October 24	Conservation Governance		
October 29	Planning, Management, and Ideology	5 & 6	
October 31	Climate Change: Climatology	7	
November 5	Climate Change: Issues		
November 7	Ocean Ecosystems and Fisheries	8	
November 12	Forestry	9	
November 14	Agriculture and Rangelands	10	
November 19	Minerals and Energy	12	
November 21	Urban Issues	13	
November 26	Sustainable Development		
November 28	Peak Oil		
December 3	Global Perspectives	15	
Term Final	Time and date to be announced		

WINTER TERM 2012

Readings

Week 1	Human Values and the Human Environment	
Week 2	Tropical Deforestation & Desertification	
Week 3	Waste Disposal and Energy Production	
Week 4	Guns, Germs and Steel	
Week 5	Empire to Transnational Corporations and UNEP	
Week 6	Modern and Historical Case Studies	Collapse Introduction
Week 7	Modern Montana and Easter Island	Collapse Chapters 1-2
Week 8	Reading Week	Collapse Chapters 3-5
Week 8	S. Pacific Islands and New World Empires	Collapse Chapters 6-8
Week 9	Mayans and Norse Greenland	Collapse Chapters 9 & 15
Week 10	Australia, China, Japan, Rwanda	Collapse Chapters 10-13
Week 11	Case Study Lessons and Disease	Collapse Chapters 14&16
Week 12	Disease and Food Security	
Week 13	Contingency or Case Study	
Winter Term Final Exam		To be announced

Deferred Examinations and Assignments:

You must take all quizzes and examinations during their scheduled periods, and submit assignments on or before the day that they are due. Missed quizzes, missed exams, and late assignments will be counted as zero credit unless prior approval is provided (email message or hard copy) or appropriate documentation for University approved absence is provided. Approved absence includes illness (medical practitioner certificate), varsity sports (letter or email message from coach), or family emergency (documentation of circumstance). Scheduling conflicts with other courses are not considered an approved absence. Absence due to participation in scientific meetings or field trips associated with other courses will be considered on a case by case basis. Enrollment in GEOG 1120

should be regarded as a series of appointments for the dates and times identified by the course schedule. I will be there for all of them.

I am aware that some of you have to maintain a particular grade average to retain your scholarship, stay in the Honors program, and to graduate. Now is the time to decide what grade you need, budget the time to achieve that mark, and commit to doing the work necessary. Please don't come to me after the course is finished and ask what can be done to address a poor performance.

Special Circumstances or Disabilities:

Students with special circumstances or disabilities are encouraged to contact the Learning Assistance Center right away so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged. It is not necessary to get my permission or support. The Learning Assistance Center will notify me of any accommodations that are required, and this information is confidential.

Academic Honesty:

The Guidelines for Academic Conduct from Lakehead University (Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures) may be found at:

><http://vpacademic.lakeheadu.ca/?display=page&pageid=46><

Honesty and integrity are expected in class participation, examinations, assignments, and other academic work. Expectations include:

- Perform your own work unless specifically instructed otherwise;
- Use your own work to complete assignments and exams;
- Cite the source when quoting or paraphrasing someone else's work;
- Follow examination rules;
- Be truthful on all university forms;
- Discuss with your professor if you are using the same material for assignments in two different courses;
- Discuss with your professor if you have any questions about whether sources require citation;
- Use the same standard of honesty with fellow students, lab instructors, teaching assistants, sessional instructors and administrative staff as you do with faculty.

Appropriate Behavior in Class:

Attendance is optional. However, those that do choose to attend class must refrain from talking once the lecture has begun. Questions are welcome, but conversations with other students cannot be accommodated because of the large number of students and the acoustics of the lecture hall.

The course outline is an expression of intention, and can be modified by the instructor as required to meet course objectives and to accommodate contingencies.