

GEOGRAPHY ENVIRONMENTALSTUDIES 1120-YA (2014-2015)

Environmental Issues – A Geographical Approach

Time / Location: Monday-Wednesday at 5:30 – 7:00pm / RB 1042

Instructor: Dr. Mitchell Taylor, Department of Geography
>mktaylor@lakeheadu.ca<
Lakehead Office: (807) 343-8430
Home Office: (807) 964-2678

Office Hours: Office location: RC 2006E Thunder Bay Campus. If you wish to see me in person, please call first to be sure I am there, or make an appointment.

Communication: Please use the email address above for all digital communications. I will not monitor the D2L communication option because there is no need for two independent addresses. Please consult the reference materials before messaging me with a question. The Course Outline may be updated periodically, so please check it periodically. 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 usually 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 and Winter term: Dearden, P. and Mitchell, B. (2012). *Environmental Change and Challenge (4th Edition)*, Oxford University Press. (available in LU Bookstore).

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

Winter Supplementary Resource: Diamond, J. M. 1997. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies*. New York: Norton, 1997.

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

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 (peer-reviewed) literature (not web sites) on the contemporary global environmental issues of our time.

Due Date: By 7:00 p.m. Wednesday February 9th, 2015.

Where to hand in: Please use 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 a contemporary Environmental Issue (you may use the web to search for environmental issues and to 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 identify. 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 (see below for citation format) for each of the 6 sources you selected.

Below each citation (the source you 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 7 paragraphs in total, one paragraph to explain why you selected the environmental issue and one paragraph 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

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scientific journals as part of the assignment. Paragraphs must be written in your own words and provide your own 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 summarize the information on the site in relation to modern environmental issue you selected. Please print double-sided if possible, no title page, and no plastic or paper cover or binder. Just put the title of your Environmental Issue and your name and student number at the top of the first page.

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

How to cite references for Environmental Issues Library Project

Literature citations should follow the format used in your textbook. Cite all sources in the text, after the sentence or sentences where the information from that source is used. Also cite all sources in the Literature Cited section at the end of the paper. In scientific writing information comes only from three sources: the data and data analysis results, a logical argument, and the published literature. If you are presenting information that is not from your data, or the result of an argument you have presented ... you need to cite the source. Web sites are weak sources of information because they are typically argumentative and not peer reviewed, but you must still cite them if you use them.

In-Text Literature Citations

- Literature is cited in the text by the last name of the author or authors and the date of publication. For works with three or more authors, the last name of the senior author is followed by "et al."
- Use semicolons to separate multiple citations by different authors.
- Do not use commas to separate the author names and dates in in-text citations.

Literature Cited

- Entries in the Literature Cited section are listed in alphabetical order.
- The names of authors are in capital and lowercase letters, using last name and first and middle initials.
- For article titles, only the first letter of the first word is capitalized.
- For book titles and journal names, capitalize the first letter of all words (except words such as 'and', 'or', 'but', 'the', 'a', 'an', 'of', 'to', 'in', 'from', etc.)
- Do not abbreviate the names of journals or publishers.

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- Journal articles, books, and articles in books should be cited as shown below. (Note that different agencies, journals, and instructors, often have different preferences. These individual preferences may also vary from time to time. What I have provided is not some absolute convention for listing references, it is just the way this assignment should be completed.)

Journal article:

Author(s) name(s). Year. Title of journal article. Journal Name. volume number: page numbers.

Book:

Author(s) name(s), Year. Title of Book. City of publication, State. Publisher. total number of pages.

Article in book:

Author(s) name(s). Year. Title of article from the book. In Editor's name(s), ed(s). In: Title of Book. City of publication, State. Publisher. page numbers.

Example:

Although speciation has never been directly observed, gradual divergence in traits has been documented in greenish warblers (Irwin et al. 2001). Such divergence in traits may result in reproductive isolation (Wake 2001), the final stage of speciation (Freeman and Herron 2001; Wake 2001). Preventing gene exchange between two groups is essential for trait divergence and the evolution of reproductive isolation (Harrison 1998).

Literature Cited

Harrison, R. G. 1998. Linking evolutionary pattern and process: the relevance of species concepts for the study of speciation. In: D. J. Howard and S. H. Berlocher, eds. *Endless Forms: Species and Speciation*. New York, NY. Oxford University Press. 19-31.

Irwin, D. E., S. Bensch, and T. Price. 2001. Speciation in a ring. *Nature*. 409: 333-337.

Freeman, S., and J. C. Herron. 2001. *Evolutionary Analysis*. Upper Saddle River, NJ. Prentice Hall. 227pp.

Wake, D. B. 2001. Speciation in the round. *Nature*. 409: 299-300.

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ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL (MARKS)

Fall Term	45%
Winter Term	55%
Library Project	5%
Class Quizzes	15%
Final Exam (both fall and winter term)	35%

Winter Course Schedule: Any assigned readings (TBA) may be found on D2L.

Date	Topic	Chapter	Readings
January 05-07	Introduction and Orientation to Winter Term		
January 12	Forestry	9	
January 14	Agriculture and Rangelands	10	
January 19-21	Minerals and Energy /Peak Oil	12	
January 26	Climate Change: Issues/Concerns	7	
January 28	Ocean Acidification		
February 2-4	Urban Issues	12	
February 9-11	Guns, Germs and Steel (1&2) (video)		
February 16-20	Reading Week		
February 23	Guns, Germs and Steel (lecture)		
February 25	Intro to Collapse & Modern Montana	1	
March 2	Easter Island	2	
March 4	S. Pacific Islands	6,7	
March 9	New World Empires	8	
March 11	Mayans	9	
March 16	Norse Greenland	15	
March 18	Australia and China,	10,11	
March 23	Japan and Rwanda	12,13	
March 25	Conservation Case Studies (Peregrine Falcons)		
March 30	Conservation Case Studies (Polar Bears)		
April 1	Environmental Impact Assessment		
April 7	Review and Contingency		
Term Final	Time and date to be announced		
	Final Exam will be comprehensive (both terms)		

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Quizzes:

Frequently, there will be short (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.

Because of the size of the class, requests to write quizzes and exams outside the normally scheduled time cannot be considered. All finals and all quizzes are comprehensive all the time, but generally finals and quizzes will test recent material as a priority.

Deferred Examinations and Assignments:

You must take 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. 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 will be kept 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;

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- 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.

Attendance:

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. Please be considerate of other students around you. If you miss a quiz because you do not attend lecture for a reason that is not a University approved absence, you may not take it later.

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