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**COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2015**

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<b>COURSE TITLE:</b>	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
<b>COURSE CODE:</b>	GEOG 1120Y
<b>CREDITS:</b>	0.5 FCE – fall semester component
<b>WEEKLY HOURS:</b>	3.0 (2 lectures per week: mon & wed 17h30-19h00)
<b>ROOM:</b>	OA 1033
<b>REQUIRED TEXT:</b>	Dearden, P., and Mitchell, B. 2012. Environmental Change & Challenge 4 <sup>th</sup> edition, Oxford University Press, Don Mills, ON, 606 pp. ISBN: 978-0-19-544625-8
<b>PROFESSOR:</b>	DR. GERARDO REYES
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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	by appointment (e-mail's best)

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**1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to current environmental issues using an approach which stresses the interrelationships between environments and societies. The major environmental and societal components of the earth/atmosphere system will be examined to provide a base for the consideration of the nature and development of modern environmental problems. Potential solutions to the problems will be evaluated through consideration of such elements as technology, politics, economics and planning.

**2. COURSE GOALS:**

Inquiry-based learning is an essential component of present day education, while an interdisciplinary approach is now regarded as a fundamental tenet when managing environmental issues. Every effort is made to incorporate these two pedagogical practices into our GEOG 1120Y learning environment; ultimately, to help develop your understanding of the nature, functioning, and inter-connectedness of natural and anthropogenic ecosystems.



Upon completion of GEOG 1120Y you should: have gained understanding of key environmental issues that are impacting our society at various spatio-temporal scales, as well as gained knowledge of the strengths, weaknesses, and shortcomings of current policies used to manage our natural and built ecosystems here in Canada.

### 3. MODES OF INSTRUCTION:

Assigned readings, lectures, and group discussions are employed.

The material presented in all modes of instruction is introductory in nature but will be sufficient to allow continuation to higher level courses required for completion of your respective undergraduate degree programs. Students are expected to be prepared in advance prior to each lecture by completing assigned readings. Class time will build upon this base, focusing on important and/or more difficult concepts through *lecture and discussion*. Lectures will generally start with an introduction to the material by me, followed by a discussion and question period. Students should also take advantage of the lecture material accessed through the *desire2learn* site.

### 4. COURSE OUTLINE:

Again, all lectures will be interactive (lecture, discussion, question & answer), thus requiring students to read the assigned material prior to class. The course is designed to encourage active participation; thus, its success (& fun!) will depend on coming to class prepared and engaging one another in friendly discussion & debate; n.b., our discussion periods\* (beginning on week 4) will provide you an opportunity to apply knowledge gained through previous lectures and reading materials.

\*Topics that could be addressed during discussion periods include:

Managing environmental disasters, Invasive species, Assisted migration, Environmental refugees, Environmental racism, Gender issues, Aquaculture, Water security, etc.

#### The tentative schedule is as follows:

Week 1	sep 14	welcome back!
	16	introduction to GEOG 1120Y Environmental Issues history of the environmental movement
		Readings (R): Chapter 1
Week 2	sep 21	population growth / human footprint
	23	strengths & weaknesses in Canadian environmental law & policy
		R: Chapter 1, Chapter 2
Week 3	sep 28	biodiversity I - energy flow & ecosystems



	30	biodiversity II - invasive species
		R: Chapter 2, Chapter 3
Week 4	oct 5 oct 7	discussion period I <b>QUIZ A</b>
		R: Chapter 4, tba
Week 5	oct 12 14	thanksgiving ecosystems & matter cycling
		R: Chapter 4
Week 6	oct 19 21	planning & management I – protected areas <b>***MIDTERM – in class***</b>
		R: Chapter 5, Chapter 6
Week 7	oct 26 oct 28	planning & management II - EIA discussion period II
		R: Chapter 5, Chapter 6, tba
Week 8	nov 2 nov 4	climate change I climate change II - modelling
		R: Chapter 7
Week 9	nov 9 nov 11	climate change III – resilience & adaptation discussion period III
		R: Chapter 7
Week 10	nov 16 18	<b>QUIZ B</b> fisheries & oceans I
		R: Chapter 7
Week 11	nov 23 25	fisheries & oceans II discussion period IV
		R: Chapter 8
Week 12	nov 30 dec 2	problems & challenges final thoughts - review
		R: Chapter 8

\*dec 7 final day of classes

Exam period **Final Exam**

## 5. EVALUATION OF ACHIEVEMENT:

Quizzes, discussion periods, and exams will reinforce student understanding of the topics covered in GEOG 1120Y. The mid-term exam will consist of multiple choice questions, definitions, and/or short answer questions. The final exam will comprise of multiple choice questions, definitions, and a set of short answer questions on various topics. For the final, while focus will be on material presented after the midterm, students should be prepared to draw from lectures & assigned readings from the entire semester.

<b>QUIZZES*:</b>		<b>10 %</b>
<b>EXAMINATIONS*:</b>	midterm:	<b>25 %</b>
	final:	<b>45 %</b>

### DISCUSSION PERIODS\*:

- **ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING:** **20 %**

**Participation:** you will need to (a) read & prepare notes on the assigned article, (b) arrive to class with **one question (*with your answer*) or a critical comment** related to the assigned reading – this should be printed or written out so you have a copy in class. Additionally, one copy with your name & student ID# should be e-mailed to me [prior to the start of discussion](#) (nb., .doc is the only format accepted), and (c) actively participate.

*\* note that this fall semester represents 50% of your final grade in 1120Y*

### GRADING SCHEME:

A+	90 to 100%	Outstanding understanding of the course concepts including integration of materials and ideas, ability to apply knowledge to situations
A	80 to 89%	apply knowledge to situations
B	70 to 79%	Above average to excellent knowledge, ability to apply knowledge to situations
C	60 to 69%	Satisfactory knowledge including ability to recognise and apply major course concepts, and to progress to next level of course
D	50 to 59%	Some grasp of course concepts; will likely encounter difficulty with higher levels
E	40 to 49%	Failed to meet minimum requirements of the course



F	1 to 39%	Failure
F	0	Failure resulting from academic dishonesty

## 6. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students are expected to participate in all course activities and complete all assignments on time. Late assignments carry a 25% reduction in value per day, no exceptions. This may seem rather severe, but it's just not fair to those who hand assignments in on time.

### *General regulations*

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (Thunder Bay) and Student Affairs (Orillia) coordinate services and facilitates reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations are provided on the basis of documentation of a disability. Additional information is available at the following campus websites:

Thunder Bay: <http://learningassistance.lakeheadu.ca/>.  
Orillia: <http://orillia.lakeheadu.ca/about-us--orillia-student-affairs/>

### *Academic dishonesty (plagiarism):*

The most common offense under the Academic Code of Conduct is plagiarism.

This could be material copied word for word from books, journals, internet sites, professor's course notes, etc. It could be material that is paraphrased but closely resembles the original source. It could be the work of a fellow student, for example, an answer on a quiz, data for a lab report, a paper or assignment completed by another student. It might be a paper purchased through one of the many available sources. Plagiarism does not refer to words alone - it can also refer to copying images, graphs, tables, and ideas. "Presentation" is not limited to written work. It also includes oral presentations, computer assignments and artistic works. Finally, if you translate the work of another person into French or English and do not cite the source, this is also plagiarism.

**I.E., DO NOT COPY, PARAPHRASE OR TRANSLATE ANYTHING FROM ANYWHERE WITHOUT CITING WHERE YOU OBTAINED IT!**

### *University guidelines on the matter:*

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.



A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

(a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.

(b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

A listing of University Regulations can be found at:

<http://calendar.lakeheadu.ca/current/contents/regulations/univregsintro.html>

The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures can be found at:

<http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>